

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Nick Hand** - Jerry's cousin's husband in Dumas, Texas. Cancer
- Kevin Brewer** - Tumor was removed from his bladder July 24, and he is recovering. Prognosis is good.
- Danny Vaughan** - Jerry's cousin in Ada, Okla., cancer (Multiple Myeoloma)
- Danny Douglas** - Faithful preacher in Tennessee. Prostate cancer surgery.
- Paul Brantley** - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart damage and constant pain.
- Earlene Holley** - Sherlene's mother. On hospice care In Elkwood Assisted Living.
- Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.
- Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla., Heart problems.
- Paul Marble** - Glenda Marble's son. Recurrence of cancer, now doing well.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure. Charles having dizzy spells. Linda, BP issues
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Don Smith** - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**OUR GOSPEL MEETING** - Our gospel meeting begins next Lord's Day Aug. 5, and closes Thursday, Aug. 9. Next Sunday, we will have a dinner immediately following morning worship and meet for the afternoon worship at 12:45. Meeting time, Monday through Thursday, is 7 p.m. Ron Cosby is an excellent preacher and we have full confidence that he will present the sole, soul-saving gospel in its purity and simplicity. This affords an opportunity for the lost to be taught and the church to be edified, so please take at least three flyers from the table in the foyer and mail them to friends and loved ones who are lost. Have you shared the announcement on the church's Face Book page, or indicated an interest?.

**KENYA REPORT** - Benard is scheduled to be in the U. S. again in August. This time he will visit the church in Munford, Alabama. Classes are in session at the Thomas Musick School of Preaching at Kalamindi.

Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

**Weekly Meeting Times**


Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....	9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:30
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....	5:00

**Visit Us on The Web**

**You Tube** - [www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ)

**Website** - [www.necocelkc.com](http://www.necocelkc.com)

**Face Book** - [www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok](http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok)



# Sound Doctrine

**“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)**

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## Examples Of Receiving The Spirit

**Ron Cosby**

In McGarvey's commentary on Acts, he demonstrates the value of examples when seeking to establish Bible truth. By studying the divine models of conversion, the sinner can know Heaven's plan of salvation. Calling attention to the various divine models of conversion has exposed the error of false teachers in debate after debate. No doubt, examples enlighten Bible students. The value of examples should not be underestimated. This same mode of learning will aid us in studying a modern controversy which has stirred passions within the church. Bible students want to know what it means to *receive the Spirit*. Is it a miraculous reception or not? To find the answer we shall simply examine the examples of those that received the Spirit and ask whether the reception was miraculous or non-miraculous.

**The first example** of receiving the Holy Spirit is the apostles' reception (Acts 1:8; 2:4). As Jesus promised (Acts 1:8), the apostles received the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), which empowered them to speak in a foreign language which they had not studied. The apostles' reception of the Spirit was certainly miraculous.

**The second example** of receiving the Holy Spirit is the Samaritans' reception (Acts 8:15-17). It, too, was miraculous. Herein we observe two significant facts: 1) None of the Samaritans had received the Spirit until an apostle laid hands upon him (Acts 8:16). 2) This example also clearly shows that *Christians* in the first century received the Spirit only through the laying on of the hands of the apostles (Acts 8:17-19).

**The third example** of receiving the Holy Spirit is in the household of Cornelius, *non-Christians*.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost

as well as we? (Acts 10:45-47).

Again, the reception of the Spirit was miraculous. The giving of the Spirit to the household of Cornelius was not for the purpose of proving that he was a Christian. It revealed to the Jews that God had granted unto the Gentiles repentance unto life and that God had cleansed their hearts by faith.

**The fourth example** of receiving the Holy Spirit is the Ephesians' reception.

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost....And when Paul had laid [his] hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied (Acts 19:2, 6).

Since speaking in tongues is miraculous, this reception of the Spirit is miraculous.

This exhausts the examples in Acts. What example of reception shows as clearly as these that the reception of the Spirit promised on Pentecost was non-miraculous? None! (Such giving of the Spirit ceased in the first century (Acts 8; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 4).

## “Equipping The Saints” (Eph. 4:11)

**Jerry C. Brewer**

Preachers often say—especially those who preach for apostate “mainstream churches of Christ”—that the gifts Paul enumerates in Ephesians 4:11 are the miraculous of the first century and the non-miraculous of today. That is false. Within this context, they are all miraculous.

Paul had just written of Christ's ascension following His resurrection, saying, “Wherefore, he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” (Eph. 4:8). That is a quote from the Messianic prophecy in Psalms 68:18 which says, “Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men...” The figure in these passages is of a conqueror returning from his conquest. In Rome, the conqueror would lead a triumphal parade in his chariot, with his captives trailing behind it, and he would distribute gifts to celebrate his conquest.

Paul makes a spiritual application of that practice in Ephesians 4. By His resurrection, Christ conquered death which held mankind in captivity, and in His triumphal ascension He led death captive. David wrote of His triumphal entry into heaven in Psalms 24: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. ...Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory” (Psa. 24:7, 10). Thus, when the Lord ascended and was crowned, He, “gave gifts unto men” by the apostles' baptism in the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4) and their laying on of hands to impart spiritual gifts to others (cf. Acts 8:14-17; 19:6).

The gifts that the triumphant Christ gave to men are then listed: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...” (Eph. 4:11). That these are *all miraculous gifts* is clearly explained by their purpose in the verses following: “...for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of

Christ” (Eph. 4:12). That *all* are miraculous is further explained by their duration: “...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

The above, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, refer to those in the first century who were miraculously endowed. It is true that the church today has evangelists, pastors (elders), and teachers, but none today is miraculously endowed. *All* of those that Paul lists above were. For instance, when Paul and Barnabas reached the end of their first evangelistic tour at Derbe, “...they returned to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed” (Acts 14:21-23). Paul and Barnabas retraced the course over which they had just passed and converted men to Christ, but the amount of time between their conversion and their ordination as elders (pastors) would not have been sufficient for them to grow into the qualifications for the eldership as men today must. They were miraculously endowed as elders. The same, then, is true with evangelists, and teachers.

That all of these gifts were miraculous is further evidenced by their purpose:

**1.** “For the perfecting of the saints.” The completion of divine revelation provides us everything we need for perfection in God's service. The word “perfecting” means “completing” and Paul said, “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). When *the faith* was “once delivered” (Jude 3), everything man needed to be perfect (complete) was made available through the scriptures.

**2.** “Till we all come in the unity of the faith.” Notice—“the unity of *the* faith.” That refers to the completion of divine revelation. Paul said he preached *the* faith (Gal. 1:23), which meant he preached the gospel—the same thing he preached at Corinth (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

**3.** “And of the knowledge of the Son of God.” That refers to the same thing—the completion of divine revelation and full knowledge of all things necessary to our salvation, and Peter said that has been done: “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Pet. 1:3).

The word “till” in Ephesians 4:13 expresses the point of termination of those miraculous gifts. When divine revelation was completed, they ceased, as Paul said in First Corinthians 13:9-10: “For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect (complete, JCB) is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. “That which is in part” referred to the miraculous gifts bestowed upon men in the first century for the purposes enumerated by Paul in Ephesians 4. There is not a man on earth today who fits the description of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, or teachers as Paul described in that chapter. Nor is any man today charged with “the perfecting of the saints,” as many churches of Christ say on their websites. To claim such is to falsely claim miraculous gifts today.