

*I have some serious questions concerning the Holy Spirit. I always hear some Pentecostal Christians say someone has "caught" the Holy Spirit. I am just wondering what that actually means. I know I have the Holy Spirit in me. It seems like those people are just getting emotional, so does the Holy Spirit leave them and then come back and that's why people become emotional? Is it wrong to use the term "catch the Holy Spirit?" What should it actually be called? If it's not wrong, since I haven't caught the Holy Spirit should I be catching it? I got prayed over and felt the Holy Spirit moving in me, changing my heart, and I've cried, but the way I see people "catch" the Holy Spirit makes me think maybe what they are saying is something different. If it is something a Christian should experience, then I would like to know what it is.*

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would come upon a person and then leave again (Ps 51:11). Jesus spoke about his departing being a benefit for his followers (Jn 16:7) because the Holy Spirit would come and stay with them always (Mt 28:20).

Every believer is given the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9–11). One is not to look for experiences to prove his faith. The Spirit comes rather through faith (Eph. 3:14–19).

One cannot catch or receive God. God can catch (Mt 4:19) and receive him (Jn 20:22). God enables men to respond to him (Jn 15:16). Satan has blinded the minds of many (2 Co 4:4). Only when God draws men to himself are they able to respond (Lk 19:44).

The Spirit indwells a believer (Jn 20:22) and then continually infills him (Jer 2:13, Jn 4:10, 7:38). Jesus lives his life (Ga 2:20) and faith (Jn 6:30) through the believer. One's life is no longer his own—it is lived for God's plans and purposes after regeneration (2 Co 5:15).

No matter how many times a Christian was baptized or prayed over—if he is not producing fruits of righteousness, then he does not belong to God. The fruits of a righteous Spirit are: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Ga 5:22–23). Conversely, the fruits of a wicked spirit are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like (Ga 5:19–21). A man's works reveal his spirit (Mt 7:17). He is a child of wrath (Eph 2:3–5, Jn 8:44) or he has received the new nature (Jn 3:7) of a child of God (1 Jn 3:14, Mt 18:3).

We are warned not to be deceived by signs and lying wonders (2 Thess 2:9). Many believe that they are hearing from God when; in fact, they are hearing from demons (1 Tim. 4:1). The demonic world is all too happy to deceive church-goers. Every Christian is given all he needs to live the Christian life (1 Cor. 12:11, 28). Spiritual gifts are counterfeited by Satan (2 Cor. 11:13–15); therefore, one must be grounded in God's word to sort out truth from error (Ga 5:9). Love is the greatest of all gifts (1 Cor. 13:1–13) so if one is loving his brethren in the Lord (1 Jn 3:14), he can rest assured that he is God's heaven-bound, beloved child (1 Jn 5:13).

Jesus said that his follower will do greater work than he, himself did: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father (Jn 14:12)." When we point to God, others may glorify him, as well. Jesus said that heaven rejoices when one sinner repents (Lk 15:7).