

# Holy Spirit, Belief, Awakening

## Teaching concerning the Holy Spirit (It's about God in us)

John 7:37-39 On that last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit, had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

In this portion of Scripture Jesus explains that the one who believes not only gets satisfied but also that person becomes a channel of blessing to others. This indwelling blessing would be available through the Holy Spirit after Christ ascended to heaven. The Spirit in the Old Testament came upon people, but Christ promised that the Spirit would come to live in people.

## Teaching concerning unbelief (It's about knowing and believing)

John 7:40-43 On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” Others said, “He is the Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Christ's invitation is responded to in different ways some people thought he was a prophet, some thought he was the Messiah and then other people said he could not be the Messiah because he was predicted to come from Bethlehem. They were correct about this but they assumed Christ was born in Galilee. The people want to respond but they are confused about who Jesus really is. (Luke 2:1-7)

## Awakening (It's about taking action)

George Whitefield was an English evangelist whose preaching in America climaxed the Christian revival known as the Great Awakening. He visited America for the first time in 1738 and would be largely responsible for the Great Awakening that would sweep through the colonies during the 1740's.

The Great Awakening was a watershed event in the life of the American people. Before it was over, it had swept the colonies of the Eastern Seaboard, transforming the social and religious life of the land. The revival was several revivals in a variety of locations. Up and down the Eastern Seaboard the landscape was littered with unchurched people, all that was needed was a spark of revival to set the landscape on fire with God's Word. And when that spark ignited, those who led the revival were so surprised by what was taking place, they “attributed it entirely to God's grace.” George Whitefield reduced Christianity to it's lowest common denominator – those sinners who loved Jesus will go to heaven. Different religions were downplayed, and it was about focusing on who Jesus is. Where ever each of us are today we can be that “spark” for God. We too can be a channel of blessing to others but we must know that it is about God in us, we must know and believe what Scripture says about Jesus and we must take action, just as George Whitefield and others did in the Great Awakening.

