

Receiving The Spirit

When a discussion of the Holy Spirit is entered into, folks often become "mystical." This is true of various points about the Spirit, including receiving the Spirit. What does it mean to "receive the Spirit?"

John wrote, "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes...does not receive us" (3 John 9). To reject John's teaching was to not receive him. Thus, to accept his teaching would be to receive him. Paul told the Colossians, "As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Colossians 2:6). Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (John 13:20). Therefore, to receive the teaching of an inspired man is to receive the inspired man. To receive the inspired man is to receive the Lord. To receive the Lord is to receive the Father.

Question: Who inspired John? Answer: The Holy Spirit. Question: Who did Jesus send to inspire men? Answer: The Holy Spirit. Is it too difficult to see that when men received the apostles and prophets, they not only received the Lord, but the Spirit sent by the Lord to guide those men into all truth?

Friends, we receive the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by submitting to the gospel. It is that simple!

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