



WILLINGDON
CHURCH

The background of the cover is a teal color. At the top and bottom, there are decorative borders with a colorful geometric pattern of overlapping circles and shapes in shades of orange, red, green, and blue. In the center, a white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, set against a lighter teal background with some white clouds.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit Today

Willingdon Church Position Papers

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit Today

Willingdon Church Elders
(Reaffirmed February 15, 2012)

WE BELIEVE...

1. The term “Baptism by the Spirit” best describes the initial conversion experience of an individual rather than a post conversion experience.
 - a. All the Pre-Pentecost passages that use the words “baptize you with the Holy Spirit” speak of that which happened to those on the Day of Pentecost, who heard the Word, who repented and who were baptized (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:37-39).
 - b. The term “baptized by (the) Spirit” following the Day of Pentecost, is only used to describe how believers were initiated into the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:3-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13).
2. It is God’s will that Christians keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit through obedience to His Word and to the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-20). The infilling of the Holy Spirit may come subsequent to conversion and may be accompanied by various manifestations of the Spirit. We should avoid making any one manifestation “normative.”
 - a. Every Christian’s response must be a response of faith in Jesus Christ and in obedience to His eternal Word (John 7:37-39; Galatians 3:1-5).
 - b. Obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit will lead to spiritual freedom and victory over the flesh (Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 5:16-18).
 - c. Disobedience to the Word of God and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit grieves the Holy Spirit and results in carnality and spiritual defeat (Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 5:17-21).

3. The gifts of the Spirit are sovereignly given by the Spirit of God to enable the members of His Body to minister in the power of the spirit. It is further evident from Scripture that no one gift is complete in itself and on the other hand no gift should be despised as unnecessary (1 Corinthians 12:14-31).
 - a. Gifts of the Spirit are given for the good of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7).
 - b. Gifts are given for doing the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:7-16).
 - c. Gifts are given as a trust and therefore we are accountable to God and to the body of believers regarding our use of them (1 Peter 4:7-11).
 - d. Gifts are to be exercised in the context of sensitivity and orderliness (1 Corinthians 13; 1 Corinthians 14:26-39).
4. We commit ourselves to be open to the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to lead our congregation in a greater understanding of these truths. We will seek to do this by being good examples, by faithfully preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God and by encouraging individuals in their discovery and exercise of the spiritual gifts which God has given to them.

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