

## **Both and 4. Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit's work is not simple to pin down, and some *both and* language applies to 'Pneumatology' more than most subjects. For example

**The Holy Spirit is both a Power and a Person Luke 24:49, Ephesians 4:30..** a powerful person. We should not separate those realities, treat Him as if were a 'power' without honouring or acknowledging his personhood (you can't grieve electricity!) nor treating him as a person but not recognising his power. His personality and wisdom will relate differently to different people, we don't get a uniform experience.

### **The Holy Spirit is both with us and in us. John 14:17**

We experience the Holy Spirit when we encounter believers, meeting in Jesus' name e.g. 1 Cor 14:25. We have a different personal relationship with the Spirit in us John 7:37-38. His symbol is the Dove as well as the spring of water. We can have both a personal and corporate experience of the Spirit.

### **The Holy Spirit is given as a permanent deposit and a transitory anointing or manifestation 2 Cor 5:5 1 Cor 12:7**

While it's true that God gives us the Spirit as an ongoing, secure reality in our lives, other dimensions of the Spirit's presence, or anointing may come and go.

### **The Holy Spirit gives both gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7) and fruit (Galatians 5:22)**

This relates to the *character* of Christ being formed in us as well as the *conduct* of Christ, the things he did, being done among us.

### **The Holy Spirit gives both power and authority, Luke 5:24 Luke 9:1, John 20 21:-23, Acts 1:8.**

Let us not settle for a powerless Christianity.

**Questions:** Are you afraid of the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you worried about being overwhelmed, or disappointed? Do you talk to the Holy Spirit?

Have you encountered the sense of God's presence being 'somewhere' perhaps in a gathering of Christians? Do you know his presence in you? How did this happen?

Is it possible to lose the presence of the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be anointed?

What has been your experience of receiving spiritual gifts? Are you, in Paul's words (1 Cor 14:1) eagerly desiring them? Are you aware of Spiritual fruit growing in you?

How did the early Christians 'receive power'? Have you received the power of the Holy Spirit, which Acts 1 describes as Baptism in the spirit?