

The Holy Spirit

The Friend We Need To Get To Know

June 2012



June 2012 Series

Christ E Free Church Pulpit Ministry

Index

Introduction

Pentecost The Promise and Pouring Out

Sin and Salvation

The Life of The Unbeliever

The Trinity Working Together

Baptism and Filling

Entering Into The Church

Controlling and Ruling

Indwelling and Leading

Living On the Inside

Our True Spirit Guide

Gifts and Fruit

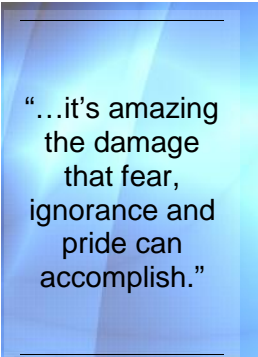
Equipped for Service to Christ

What God Meant for Good

** Unless otherwise noted, passages of Scripture are in the ESV.*

INTRODUCTION

Having grown up and born again in a Southern Baptist Church, I can recall people in my church thinking that people who raised their hands were either Charismatics, or Pentecostals, and were deceived by the devil. Years later having been exposed to the Charismatic perspective, I realized that Charismatics and Pentecostals often thought just as harshly and inaccurately towards the Southern Baptists, thinking them to be void of anything resembling the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. I found that this divisiveness had the power to reach into and split not only churches, but families.



“...it’s amazing
the damage
that fear,
ignorance and
pride can
accomplish.”

After a church split over this very issue, I set out to determine for myself, what the Bible really taught about these issues that I was seeing cause such animosity and division among Christians. As I set out, I prayed and asked God to clear my mind and my beliefs of any and all misinformation on this subject, to protect me from any of the devil’s lies, but to make me willing to believe and accept whatever I discovered Holy Scripture to teach.

I can recall coming to this conclusion, “*it is amazing the damage that fear, ignorance and pride can accomplish.*”

As we consider the person and work of the Holy Spirit, it is an unfortunate impossibility to do so, without taking note of the divisive nature of this subject. We must also take note that this division does not come from the Holy Spirit Himself, but from believers who misunderstand this wonderful, divine Friend who is living inside each and every true believer in Jesus Christ.

The division seems to occur, as Christians take differing positions on the various teachings on the Holy Spirit, place greater emphasis on some manifestations of the Holy Spirit, higher importance on

some ministries of the Holy Spirit and place deeper spirituality on themselves, over those who differ from their own beliefs on the Holy Spirit.

As a result, the topic of the Holy Spirit has become a topic of Christian division, rather than one of Christian unity. Rather than a topic of building one another up, it has become a tool of demolition of Christian unity, peace and fellowship.

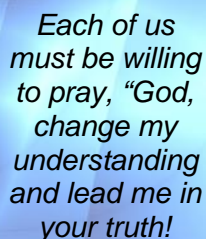
What God Meant for Good

Notice these verses connecting the Holy Spirit with peace and unity.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. -Ephesians 4:1-3

We are urged(v1) to conduct ourselves in a manner which is appropriate to our Christian calling, and to be eager (v3) or give due diligence to keep the peace in Christian unity. This passage alone, is enough to convict any honest Bible student and sincere Christ follower of their own willing division pertaining to the Holy Spirit.

What God meant for good, our adversary the Devil has perverted for evil. And each time a Christian is enticed towards divisiveness due to the topic of the Holy Spirit, they or *we* have allowed the enemy to pervert *our* own understanding and ensnare *us* in his own trap of creating divisions among the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. And if you are not prepared to include yourself in the “*we*”, “*our*” and “*us*” references in this paragraph, you are not ready to learn the truth, taught from Holy Scripture about



Each of us must be willing to pray, “God, change my understanding and lead me in your truth!”

the Holy Spirit.

We are commanded to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”. Obviously since this is a command, it is something the church has had problems with for some time and has had need of rebuke, long before what we experience today. As we are all far too aware, the devil is a pro in breeding strife.

Peace is Proof

In His video series, *Soul Care*, Christian counselor Larry Crabb, addresses Christians and the Holy Spirit. He makes the observation that since each Christian has the Holy Spirit of God living in us, then Christians have the ability to work out our problems in peace, because each of us, as true believers, have the Holy Spirit living in us and working through us.

“...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...” -Galatians 5:22

When the Bible speaks of the “fruit of the Spirit”, it is a reference to evidence of the Believer’s life being affected and transformed by the Holy Spirit of God.

Just as you can look at an apple tree and if there are apples on it, you can see proof that it is indeed an apple tree. And while everyone who is a peaceful type of person, is not necessarily evidence that they full of the Holy Spirit, yet for the Christian, growth and transformation from divisiveness towards peace and unity is an unmistakable proof that the Holy Spirit is working and changing them.

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” -Romans 14:17


The Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary states it this way. "...a beautiful and comprehensive division of living Christianity. The first - "righteousness" - has respect to *God*, denoting here "rectitude," in its widest sense (as in Mat 6:33); the second - "peace" - has respect to *our neighbors*, denoting "concord" among brethren (as is plain from Rom 14:19; compare Eph 4:3; Col 3:14, Col 3:15); the third - "joy in the Holy Ghost" - has respect to *ourselves*. This phrase, "joy in the Holy Ghost," represents Christians as so thinking and feeling under the workings of the Holy Ghost, that their joy may be viewed rather as that of the blessed Agent who inspires it than their own (compare 1Th 1:6).




“God and the Holy Spirit”

Text: Jn.14:15-17 / Jn.16:5-11

June 3, 2012



John 14:15-17 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."



INTRODUCTION

The story goes, that an American family took an eleven year old girl from India to church for the first time. After the service she wanted to know why the west coast wasn't included. When they asked her what she meant she said, "You know what the preacher said, 'in the name of the Father, the Son and the *whole east coast*'."

As much as we use Apostle's Creed, to declare what we believe as a New Testament church, when referring to the Holy Spirit The Apostles' Creed declares, "*I believe in the Holy Spirit*", and that is all said concerning the Holy Spirit.

One theologian states it "appears that The Holy Spirit has a public relations problem. Some Christians tend to say so little about Him that we tend to forget there is a Holy Spirit. Other Christians say so much so badly that sensitive people become uncomfortable even at the mention of His name."

THE PROMISE FORETOLD

Many of us may not be aware of this, but The Holy Spirit is God's Provision of Ever present Help. In fact, the Holy Spirit is the ever present God, giving us the perfect help we need, as just the right time.

Anyone here ever need help? Every hand should be raised!

When Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit in John chapters 14, 15 & 16, He uses the terms Comforter, Counselor, Spirit of Truth and *Helper* repeatedly.

Another Helper

The word for Helper or Comforter is *paraklete* which refers to one called along side.

John 14:16 he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever.

This word for the Holy Spirit which John uses in his writing can be a friend, a companion, a comforter, encourager or a helper.

With all these words, descriptions and titles we need to remember that the Holy Spirit can be translated Spirit of Holiness. This reflects not so much a title, but the character of a divine person.

The Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of Holiness, is a Helper who helps us in our Christian obedience and righteous living. He is also our Helper in understanding Truth.

John 14:17 even the *Spirit of truth*, whom the world cannot receive,

He is our Helper by residing in us.

John 14:17 "...even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and ***will be in you.***

He is our Helper by praying for us.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit *helps* us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself *intercedes for us* with groanings too deep for words.

We know according to Romans 8:34 that Jesus prays for us, but also that the Spirit of Holiness prays for us. How many times have we been in troubling circumstances and in need of prayer and not really known what to do or how to pray? How many times have we known that we are in need of help, but do not know exactly how we need that help applied to our need?

Because the Holy Spirit is God, He knows our hearts, our needs and our situation – perfectly, and because He knows perfectly, He also is able to most effectively offer the help we need at just the right time. This Helper is the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus.

The Old Testament Jewish Pentecost celebrating God giving the 10 Commandments is fulfilled in the New Testament Pentecost of the giving of the Holy Spirit

THE PENTECOST FULFILLMENT

From the Old Testament, *Pentecost* was the Jewish Celebration of God giving the 10 commandments to Moses on Mt Sinai. This is celebrated as being 50 days following the Jewish Passover.

In the New Testament, Pentecost marked the 50th day after the resurrection of Christ from the dead, at which time the Holy Spirit descended or was poured out upon the disciples in the Upper Room.

Act 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This often being described as the birth of the Church. So that after

Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was no longer simply *with* us, He now resides *within* us or indwells every believing Christian.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Question: Who is the Holy Spirit and why is He important?

First consider the question, “Why is God important?” Answer that and you answer the question, “why is the HS important?”, because the Holy Spirit is God.

“God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Three in One.” A statement of childlike simplicity, yet an attempt to convey the incredible theological Truth of the Divine Trinity.

“And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.” (*Council of Constantinople, 381AD.*)

The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

In the OT the word for God is Elohim – plural form. Yet while the Hebrew word for god is plural in its form, when it comes to referring to Elohim by a pronoun or referring to his actions by a verb, both the pronouns and verbs are singular. So when referring to the Lord God, the word is translated *God*, singular. So in the grammar of the Bible, we see that God is not plural but singular. There are not many gods but one True and Living God.

While we refer to God as singular God, we refer to God as a Triune God or Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, three in ONE – one God.

Psalms 100:3 Know that the LORD [singular Proper noun], he [singular pronoun] is God [Elohim -plural form]! It is He [singular

pronoun] who [singular pronoun] made [singular verb] us, and we are His [singular]; we are His [singular] people, and the sheep of His [singular] pasture.

Johnny was a Christian Native American friend of mine who worked with me on a construction job. He would often share his Native American insights, philosophies, as well as theology. He would say, “there was a time when God did His thing, then Jesus did His thing, now the Holy Spirit is doing His thing.”

While it is true that they each certainly have varying and specific ministries they perform, nevertheless, each one works together in perfect, divine harmony.

*“God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit
Three in One”*

While God is plural in form, it refers to the One True and Living God in the 3 persons of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Throughout Scripture we see God the Father, Son and HS all three make up the Holy Trinity or the 3 persons of the Godhead. All 3 persons of the Holy Trinity are involved in all aspects of creation, humanity, salvation, and accomplishing the workings of the Kingdom

of Heaven. They work together past, present and future in perfect, divine unity.

So **Why is the Holy Spirit so important?** Because God is important to us, therefore the Holy Spirit as God is important in His person and in His workings in our lives.

Therefore it is correct to refer to the Holy Spirit as ***He***, rather than ***it***. **He is The Friend We Need To Get To Know.**

The Ministries of the HS

We know that the Holy Spirit is...

The Spirit of Truth –

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father,

he will bear witness about me.”

When we pray for help in understanding the Bible, it is the Holy Spirit who opens our minds to understand God’s Truth. When you read the Bible for the 10th time and still find something new and fresh, it is the Holy Spirit who is at work, sensitizing your spirit and opening your understanding to the imperishable and powerful Truth of God’s Holy Word, the Bible.

We know that one ministry of the Holy Spirit is to **glorify Jesus** –

John 16:14 “He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

In addition to participating in the act of salvation He also has a follow up ministry of *Sealing* us.

Eph. 1:13-14 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were *sealed* with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

I believe His sealing us, is at least part of the assurance we can receive as believers. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom.8:16), thus bringing about assurance. But He also seals us as believers, something we have to receive and take by faith, which also contributes to the believer’s assurance.

The Holy Spirit Indwells

John 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be *in* you.

Once we trust Christ and are truly saved, the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside the believing Christian. Theology refers to this as the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit.

1Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the

Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Remember – if you are a true believing Christian, God the Holy Spirit lives in you. We should be thankful of that.

We should live reverently and soberly, knowing God, the Spirit of Holiness is living in you.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ME

So how does the Holy Spirit, the Helper, really help us in areas of sin and salvation?

The Holy Spirit and Sin

John 16:7-11 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (8) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

As the Holy Spirit brings assurance to the believer that he or she is truly a child of God He also convicts us of our sin.

The Spirit of Holiness will never lead anyone to commit any sin or to live or make any choices that would break God's law or commandments. God's Spirit never leads anyone to live or act in any way that is outside His prescribed will in Holy Scripture.

It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit which begins convincing (conviction) a person about their sin, their lacking in righteousness and the coming eternal judgment. It is the Holy Spirit that begins to cause a person to think about these things and become concerned about eternity.

The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin righteousness and judgment (Jn.16:8).

He will convict the world of sin. v.9 states the world will be convicted of sin, because it does not believe in Jesus. The world here refers to those of the kingdom of this world, unbelievers and those who aren't destined for God's eternal dwelling.

If anyone would only trust in Jesus, their sins will be forgiven and will eventually follow Christ to His Father's mansion (John 14:2). However, because other personal sinfulness, not God's lack of love, they are separated from Him forever.

He will also convict the world of Righteousness, because Jesus has gone to the Father (v10). All who are still in their sins and refused God's death blood sacrifice for their sins by Jesus Christ, will likewise, be unable to follow Jesus to the Father's dwelling and will eternally be left behind to pay for their own sins.

Finally, v11 says they are convicted of Judgment. As a result of personal sin, and lack of righteousness, they are refused entrance into God's eternal home and kingdom and the ultimate result is eternal judgment. And just as the devil is surely condemned to his eternal dwelling place (Rev.20), so will every unbeliever who refused God's way and Christ's salvation and chose to remain under the condemnation of Satan himself.

The Holy Spirit and Salvation

The Father Draws us to a point of repentance and faith in Christ (Jn.6:44) Jesus dies and makes the sin payment for our sins. (1Cor.15:3) And the Holy Spirit convicts of sin. Once a person actually believes on the Lord Jesus Christ and is saved, the Holy Spirit washes, cleanses and regenerates us – or brings about the spiritual rebirth of the true believer into the family of God.

Lest you think that there is some contradiction here, because you know that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1Jn.1:7), allow me to remind you, it is the Holy Trinity that works *together* in perfect *unity* from the creation of all that is, even to the salvation of all who believe toward the repentant sinner who

*“God the Father
- draws -*

*God the Son
- dies -*

*God the Holy Spirit
- convicts -*

truly believes. In all things, all the Holy Trinity work together – perfectly - to accomplish all that the Holy Godhead desires.

The Holy Spirit regenerates or gives new birth to believers.
Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (through Jesus Christ Himself).

What an incredible example of God's unwavering love. In our sinfulness, God, the Holy Spirit convicts us in order to draw us toward repentance and faith in Christ. In our own sinfulness, the love of God is demonstrated to us, in that while we were still in our sins, Christ, God the Son, died for us. (Rom.5:8).

In the love of the Divine Trinity, God in 3 persons ordains, provides and personally participates in the salvation process and event.

The old Hymn, "What Wonderous Love Is This" addresses this unimaginable love.

"What wondrous love is this?"

Words: Attributed to Alexander Means. *Music:* From *The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion*, by [William Walker](#) (New York: Hastings House, 1835);

arranged by [William J. Reynolds](#) (1920-)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

What wondrous love is this!

It is the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit who work in perfect unity in bringing a person from their sinful state, to the state of personal conviction over sin and prepares them to trust in Jesus as God's sin sacrifice.

Indeed what wondrous love is this?

Thank God for His work in your life. Thank God for the life and death of the Lord Jesus and the shedding of His blood and for His glorious resurrection.

Thank the Holy Spirit for His work, His conviction, His part in our eternal salvation, cleansing us and giving us the new birth in Christ.

Praise God for the Divine Trinity who work together, perfectly accomplishing the divine eternal plan in creation and in your life.

Thank God today for the fullness of the work of God The Holy Spirit. He is The Friend We Need To Get To Know"

Doxlogy

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. --Amen

HighLife Heart and Soul

(Words by Jeff and Faith Wilson; Melody: traditional "Heart and Soul")

God the Father is the One who gave His one and only Son.

Jesus is the way the truth, the breath of life the vine the Light.

The Holy Spirit Gives us strength to walk the straight
and narrow way.

Come lets love the Lord our God with all our mind and strength,
with all our mind with all our Heart and Soul.

Lets love Him more each day.

Holy Spirit Quiz ChristianGiftandBible.com

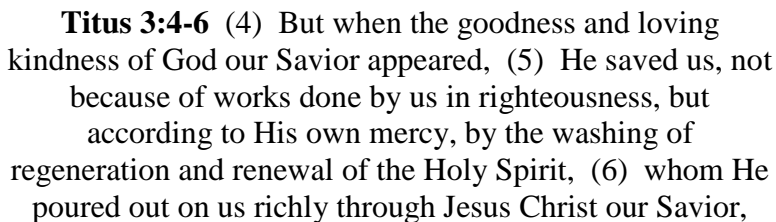
1. THERE IS A PERSON CALLED THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS GOD. T OR F (ACTS 5:3-4; HEB. 9:14; 2 COR.13:14; MARK 3:20-30; 1 COR. 3:16-17)
2. THERE ARE THREE DISTINCT PERSONS BUT ONLY ONE GOD. T OR F (IS. 44:6-8, 24; MARK 12:29; MAT. 28:19; LUKE 3:21-22)
3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNIPRESENT (EVERYWHERE PRESENT). T OR F (PSALM 139:7-10)
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNIPOTENT (ALL POWERFUL) AND IS INVOLVED IN CREATION. T OR F (GEN. 1:1-2; JOB 33:4; 1 PET 3:18)
5. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OMNISCIENT (ALL KNOWING) AND HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE THINGS GOD HAS GIVEN US. T OR F (1 COR. 2:9-16; EPH. 1:13-19; 2 PET.1:20-21; 2 TIM. 3:16-17; 1 JOHN 4:1)
6. UNLESS A PERSON IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT HE OR SHE CANNOT SEE OR ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD. T OR F (JOHN 3:1-8; 6:63-65; EPHESIANS 2:1-10; TITUS 3:3-8)
7. WE RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH. T OR F (GAL 3:2-5, 14; (1 COR 15:1-8; EPH 2:8-10)
8. ALL BELIEVERS ARE _____ IN ONE SPIRIT INTO ONE BODY. (1 COR. 12:13; JOHN 1:33)
9. EVERY BELIEVER'S BODY IS A TEMPLE OF _____ . (1 COR. 6:18-20)
10. IF ANYONE DOES NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE DOES NOT BELONG TO CHRIST. T OR F (ROM. 8:1-15)
11. THE SPIRIT HIMSELF TESTIFIES WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE _____. (ROMANS 8:16-18)



“Entering Into the Family”

Text: Romans 6:3-4

June 10, 2012



Titus 3:4-6 (4) But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Spirit is the Friend We Need To Get To Know. He is a behind the scenes worker. His focus is not on Himself, but His ministry is to spotlight and glorify God the Son. (Jn.16:14)

The Holy Spirit is also a team player. He does not work alone. All three persons of the Holy Trinity are God and all 3 participate together in perfect unity in the creation, salvation, keeping, helping, sustaining and accomplishing of all the divine purposes of the kingdom work.

As a painter takes the brush and dipping it into the paint bucket, he begins applying the paint to the wall. Our Divine Helper, the Holy Spirit works together with the fullness of the Godhead to work salvation in us.

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn.1:7) Also, the Holy Spirit works in us through the washing of regeneration and renewal (Titus 3:5). It is also God the Father who saves us, by His sovereign grace (Eph.2:8).

All three divine persons of the Holy Trinity work together in perfect unity, and those are brought out in Titus 3:4-6.

Titus 3:4-6 (4) But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

And remember, while the word for God is in the plural form, when referring to the God of creation, it always refers to a single, and distinct being.

When Moses addresses the Israelites, in Deuteronomy 6:4, he states...

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD [singular proper noun] our God [plural form], the LORD is [singular verb form] *one*..."

Another point is brought out by Peter.

1Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has *caused us to be born again* to a living hope ***through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*** from the dead,

1Pet. 1:23 since *you have been born again*, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, ***through the living and abiding word of God***;

Here we are told we are born again through the Living and imperishable word of God. Someone might say, "aren't these contradictions? Doesn't this show we can't believe the Bible?"

Of course not. We are all very familiar with this kind of participation.

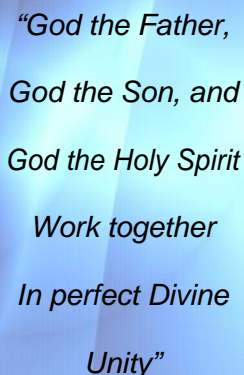
Consider this illustration. You are going on a trip to visit a family member in Timbuktu. You arrive there safe and sound. Uncle Harry asks, "how did you get here?". Little Tommy says, "Dad brought us." Dad says, "We came in the car." Mom says, "If it weren't for the map, we'd still be driving around lost."

Is someone confused or telling a lie, or was their trip actually the result of several contributing factors? Obviously, the trip was the result of several contributing factors working together to get them to their destination. (By the way, you really can't drive to Timbuktu).

Similarly, our salvation is a result of God's purpose, grace, and saving power, together with the sacrifice of Jesus and the shedding of His blood, plus the regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, the life and power of the imperishable word of God, as well as the faith of the one who believed.

No contradictions here. There is only one way to have your sins forgiven. However, there are several divine, contributing factors and all the persons of the Godhead participating in perfect harmony to accomplish the overall divine kingdom purpose.

Though we may not be able to fully understand and properly explain it, it is the Holy Spirit who takes God's Holy Word, applies it to our lives, teaching us the Truth, Convicting us of sin, applying God's word, that we might believe in Jesus and be saved. Then the Holy Spirit is still busy, baptizing us into the body of Christ, sealing us until the day of redemptions, and is busy purging us from our old self and filling us with the likeness and holiness of Christ Himself. The Holy Spirit truly is the Friend We Need To Get To Know.



*"God the Father,
God the Son, and
God the Holy Spirit
Work together
In perfect Divine
Unity"*

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now, let's talk about a very important theological concept, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It's my thought that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an unclear concept to many people. This is not written to place a blaming finger on anyone or any group. This is only intended to look to Scripture to clear up any misunderstanding and to ask the Spirit of Truth to teach us concerning this topic.

An Unclear Concept

Because the concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is often an unclear concept, we must attempt to define it according to Scripture, rather than from the teachings of individuals of religious groups.

Act 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

How do we define the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Baptism is often defined as "to dip", "submerge", or "to cleanse". Literally, it may refer to dipping. Practically speaking it is a work of the Holy Spirit and refers to being "placed" by the Holy Spirit, specifically, into the body of Christ.

Pertaining to the work of salvation, the gospel of John, in chapters 1 and 3 teaches that by faith, we are born again into the family of God. Working together with Christ's sacrifice and our faith, the Holy Spirit places us positionally "in Christ" or "into the body of Christ".

An Unseen Experience

With all the advanced technology we have at our fingertips today, there is no camera or meter or indicator that can record or register the baptism of the Holy Spirit of the believer into the body of Jesus Christ. It is unseen and undetectable. We only know it happens because God's word tells us about it.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not just for a few who sought it. It is not for those who wait long enough and pray hard enough for it. It is not a sign of those who are more spiritual or at a different spiritual level than other believers.

1Co 12:13 For in one Spirit we were *all* baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of God teaches that **all** believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit, or place by the Holy Spirit into Christ or into the body of Christ. It is an unseen experience and it is an unintentional event, at least from the believer's perspective.

While we cannot see or even feel this event, it is very real. It is experienced by faith and occurs as a purposeful act of God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is of utmost significance in the life of the believer.

Rom 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into his death**? (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

When the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer or places us into Christ, it is what Paul refers to as being "in Christ". It is a term intended to illustrate the work of Christ on our behalf and applied to us personally, by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, when we are placed positionally "in Christ", what is His is communicated as being ours. What Christ experienced is said to be our experience. When you are placed "in Christ", His death blood sacrifice for sin, became your own sacrifice for sin and it becomes as though you, yourself died for your own sins. His burial, becomes as though you, yourself were placed in the tomb. And it becomes as though His resurrection becomes as though you, yourself rose from the dead to live in newness of life.

*Water baptism
should be an
illustration of
Spirit baptism of
the true believing
Christian*

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What Christ did for us, the Holy Spirit applies to our own personal lives, like a painter would apply paint to the wall of a room. So many are unfamiliar with the work of the Holy Spirit and His combined ministry with the full Godhead in all areas of creation, salvation, life, sustaining, keeping, helping and maturing us.

An Unexpected Symbol

Water baptism is commanded by Holy Scripture. It is intended to be the very first step of believer's obedience, immediately after saving faith in Christ is expressed. Unfortunately water baptism is often the first step of disobedience for the believing Christian. For various reasons, people often delay and postpone water baptism because they don't feel they are ready or because their children have not fully grasped the meaning of baptism or even because the person who has expressed faith in Christ does not evidence enough maturity. None of these are reasons for failing to take that very first step of believers obedience by following Christ in believers' baptism.

I have personally discovered that once a person postpones baptism, its is gone forever. I don't know how many people I have baptized who have actually been saved many years, and just never got around to being baptized. Its like never getting around to obeying Jesus Christ. A poor start to the new Christian life.

Eph 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Water baptism represents Spirit baptism into the body of Christ. We are lowered into the waters, signifying our death and we are raised to up out of the waters, signifying the newness of life we have received through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1Pet.1:3)

While water baptismal is very visual and experiential, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an unfelt, unseen, and undetected placement of the true believer, into Christ or into the body of Christ and the family of God.

We are never commanded to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is something that happens outside of our own desires of volition. It comes through faith in Christ.

THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

While we are never commanded to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit is not merely the Holy Spirit living in you, but living in you to change you. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Holiness as He reside within us, His goal is to fill and control us in the ways of holiness of life and character.

Full of the Holy Spirit

Act 6:5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man *full of* faith and of *the Holy Spirit*, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

Act 7:55 But he, *full of the Holy Spirit*, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Act 11:24 for he was a good man, *full of the Holy Spirit* and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Act 2:4 And they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In Acts 10:45, a very similar experience came upon the gentiles.

Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was with believers but not living within them. When Pentecost occurred in Acts chs 2 and 10, it was the Holy coming to indwell the believers, both Jew and Gentile alike. In other words, now every believer has the Holy Spirit residing in them. The manifestation of tongues was evidence that the Holy Spirit had been poured out, filled them and in filling them, ultimately was controlling them. This was crucial in taking 2 groups and making them one in Christ. For the Jew and Gentile to experience the same manifestations of the Holy Spirit was crucial in bringing about spiritual unity in the body of Christ.

Filled & Surrendered

The disciples were gathered together in the upper room (Acts 1:13), awaiting the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4) praying together (Acts 1:14) and seeking the Kingdom of Heaven together.

<p>Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.</p>
--

As the believers were submitted and surrendered to God, the Holy Spirit was poured out and *filled* every believer there.

Paul wrote to address this kind of surrender in Romans.

<p>Rom 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship</p>
--

While Romans 12:1 is not a direct reference to the filling of the Holy Spirit, it is a reference to submission to God or personal surrender to His will.

What we must be clear on is the believers were not seeking any specific manifestation, other than they were in extended fervent prayer, they were in full unity and accord, at it appears they were indeed awaiting the fulfillment of the promised Holy Spirit. But beyond that, we have no indication they knew or were seeking

tongues or any other sign or manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

** More will be address on the topic of tongues and spiritual gifts in a later chapter.*

Filled & Controlled

When the early believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, it was the first time the Holy Spirit had permanently indwelt anyone. When they spoke in other tongues, it was evidence that they were indeed being controlled by the Holy Spirit of God.

Now when it occurs in the life of an

Eph. 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. We know that because of the comparison with being drunk with wine. Drunkenness changes the character and behavior of the person who is under its influence. Alcohol changes our judgment, our vision and our actions. As alcohol enters the body, it controls the person in a most negative way.

Paul says we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit or be dramatically affected, to have our judgment changed and our vision altered. Being filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit means we walk differently, think differently and act differently. It means we are to be transformed in our lifestyle of holiness or lack of holiness, because the Holy Spirit living in us, and now working through us in the Spirit of Holiness and when He works, He brings about transformation to holiness of life and righteous living, after the example of Jesus Christ Himself.

As alcohol affects the individual in every way, so the filling of the Holy Spirit will affect the believer in every aspect of life, judgment and behavior.

Filled and Changed

The Christian is said to have experience a new birth (Jn.1 , 3). We also become new creatures in Christ (2Cor.5:17). These are inner works that take place in our lives, but at some point these inner works must take on outer evidence of God's Spirit of Holiness living within us.

Under the Influence.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit means being under the influence of the Holy Spirit. And when that occurs, things change – Christians change. We begin to be convicted by our sin. We begin struggling with sins that we never struggled with before. This is not because the Holy Spirit brings those things on us, but He brings these things to our attention and He makes our lives miserable until we are convicted enough to begin to repent from those sins and to fight against the kind of lifestyle any longer.

If you want to manifest the Holy Spirit in your life, its not tongues that you need to seek, but a transformed inner life. Change and life transformation are genuine signs of fullness of the Holy Spirit in the life of a true believer.

** We will further consider the evidence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer in a chapter to follow.*

The Holy Spirit is truly the Friend We Need To Strive To Get To Know.

OFF THE PAGES AND INTO MY LIFE

Am I living under the influence of the Spirit today?

Am I being obedient to God's Word and His will for your life?

Am I living like the people around you or are you living like Christ among the people around you?

How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? Some people are controlled by alcohol or drugs, some by the economy, others are

controlled by their own dreams or life pursuits. Some are controlled by anger, lust, greed and even their work. Different things control different people.

How can we as Christians, be controlled by the Holy Spirit?

1) Realize that being filled with the Spirit is a command. Eph. 5:18, says, “be filled with the Holy Spirit”. We must realize this is a responsibility each Christian has before them.

2) Realize it is an act of our human will. We can choose to surrender our will to God or not. We can choose to submit to the controlling work of the Holy Spirit or not. We can choose to yield to the life transforming process of the Holy Spirit or not.

3) Realize it is the will of God for your life. “...but understand what the will of the Lord is....*be filled with the Spirit...*”. Some people are genuinely concerned about God’s will for their lives, but they are too focused on looking years into the future, that they live as though they are unconcerned with the fact that God’s will for them NOW, is to be filled with or controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Are you living under the influence of the Spirit” today?

4) Being filled with the Holy Spirit goes against all we ever wanted and everything we have lived for, up to this point. The Bible says the Spirit wars against the flesh and the flesh against the Spirit. (Gal.5:17). Our fallen, broken sinful nature desires that which repulses the Spirit and the Spirit desires that which the flesh rejects. All we ever longed for, planned for our dreamed about is mostly self focused and goes against all the Spirit intends for us. Likewise, all the Spirit desires for us, goes against everything we ever wanted, dreamed of or planned for in our human understanding.

Being filled with the Spirit means saying “goodbye” to our own desires, dreams and ambitions and saying, “yes” and even “please” to God for what He wants to do in our lives.

5) Being filled with the Spirit requires a personal resolve. Each of us must come to a point of personal resolve which prays...

*“Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done”...*

- now forget about “*on earth*”. We must resolve to pray...

“...Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done...

In my life, as it is in heaven!”

There is the resolve. There is the evidence of living under the influence of the Holy Spirit today – being willing and making the resolution to whole heartedly pray this prayer of surrender, submission, of relinquishment and self denial for the sake of the work of the Spirit of God.

Living under the influence of the Holy Spirit necessitates this kind of personal surrender and selfless resolve.

Are you living under the influence of the Spirit today?

Perhaps this old hymn could be your heart prayer to God today.

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

Words: George Croly, *Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship* (London: 1854)

Music: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art;
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.

I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling:
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The kindling of the heaven descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

Oh Spirit of God, descend upon my heart today!



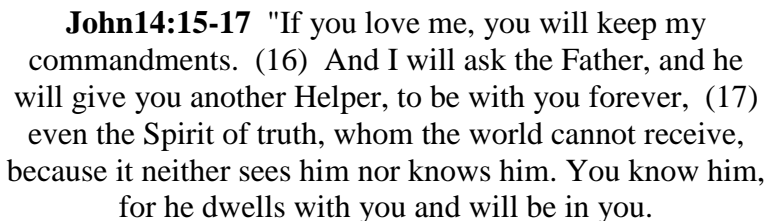
“Our Resident Helper”

Text: Romans 6:3-4

June 17, 2012

Father's Day

Theme: *Indwelling and Leading of the Holy Spirit*



John 14:15-17 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

INTRODUCTION

Whether you are young or old, the lessons on the Holy Spirit are for you. Each of us need to get to know our Friend, the Holy Spirit.

He Will Carry You

By Scott Wesley Brow, ©1982 Birdwing Music/BMG Songs, Inc.

There is no problem so big, God cannot solve it
There is no mountain so tall, He cannot move it
There is no storm so dark, God cannot calm it
There is no sorrow so deep, God cannot soothe it

If He carried the weight of the world
Upon His shoulders
I know my brother, that He will carry you
If He carried the weight of the world
Upon His shoulders
I know, my sister, that He will carry you

I like the translation of paraklet as “helper”. The Holy Spirit is not merely a counselor, but a Helper in every way. He helps us in our problems, our mountains, our storms and our sorrow. He is able to help us in any and all situations. One of the references John gives to the Holy Spirit is *Spirit of Life*.

Rom 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the *Spirit of Life* in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

REVIEW:

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Spirit Baptism is The Holy Spirit placing the believing Christian into the body of Christ – the family of God.

Baptism of the HS is a 1 time event and is not repeated

Baptism of the HS is part of our assurance as believers that we belong to God.

Filling of the Holy Spirit

Filling of the Spirit happened first at Pentecost.

Is not the same as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

It is a result of the believing Christian denying one's self, and surrendering to God

It results in the Holy Spirit influencing and controlling our thoughts, our will and our behavior.

And unlike the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Filling of the Holy Spirit is something that must take place repeatedly.

Suppose you are eating at a restaurant and the waitress comes by offering refills on your morning coffee. She asks if you'd like a refill and you say, “yes thank you.” Without a word, the person you are having breakfast with, continues talking and without ever making eye contact with the waitress simply places his hand over the coffee cup. And without a word, the waitress notices his

gesture and simply passes him by. A hand over your coffee cup is a cultural, non-verbal gesture that says “*no thanks*”. No refills.

It seems many Christians live their lives with their hands over their “coffee cups”, saying to the Holy Spirit, non-verbally of course, ‘No thanks’ to the filling of the Holy Spirit.

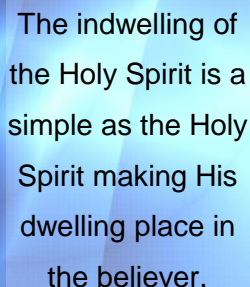
The Holy Spirit is the Friend We Need To Get To Know.

2 points today. The Indwelling and the Leading of the Holy Spirit.

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

* What does “the indwelling of the Holy Spirit” mean?

Here is the best theologically accurate explanation I could find. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit refers to the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. I guess it took someone with a PhD to come up with that.



The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a simple as the Holy Spirit making His dwelling place in the believer.

It means God’s Spirit of Holiness sets up His dwelling place, inside you as a believing Christian. Thus Indwelling you. And it is from there, that He fills the surrendered Christian and controls them to fulfill His perfect will for their lives – if they allow Him to, that is.

2 terms with near synonymous effects are the *Filling* of the Holy Spirit and the *Lordship* of Jesus Christ. Both are bowing the knee and submitting one’s own will and volition to God.

Both are ultimately a result of the Christian yielding our will to God, praying... “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in My Life, as it is in heaven.”

Terms are a bit different, but the outcome is nearly the same. Before that can occur in a Christian’s life, God’s Holy Spirit must indwell us.

Living on the Inside

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, means God is living on the inside. Jesus promises He will send the Holy Spirit and when He

comes, He will not be *around* you, but will take up residence *in* you.

John 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

We do not become God. But the Spirit of Holiness does make His home inside every believing Christian and it is from there, He performs His cleaning, purifying, assuring, and helping ministry in the fullness of His divine wisdom, in our own personal life situation.

When The Spirit is a resident, It is His purpose, not to trash the place, but to purify, fumigate, and renew and if necessary, remodel the place.

Rom 8:9-10 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God *dwells in you*. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

But be warned, the Holy Spirit is God and if God's Spirit is living in you, that means you belong to God. That means God has plans for you, that you never intended to pursue. It means God is going to change you into what He wants you to be.

1Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? ***You are not your own,***

So what happens is the Holy Spirit begins renovating His new home. He looks at the décor and says, "this will never do" and goes to work on that. He notices the furniture and begins to refurbish all the furnishings, He begins updating all the appliances. Along with that comes a new furnace, and Air conditioner. He changes the heart, the attitude, the desires, direction and perspectives. He begins a complete home makeover and His

makeover does not end, until our spirit leaves this body and goes to our heavenly dwelling place.

Our Permanent Resident

When the Holy Spirit indwells us He becomes our permanent Resident.

In the OT, the Spirit of God “came upon” people and performed many life transforming projects, but it seems the Holy Spirit would sort of come and go at the will and needs of God for that person. In the case of the Prophets or the judges, the Spirit of God would come upon them, then leave them.

Jdg 6:34 But the spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon

Jdg 11:29 Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah

Jdg 15:14 Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon [Lehi]

But in the NT, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believing Christian and remains inside or indwells the believer.

When that happens, He comes to stay – there are no evictions. You can’t evict the Holy Spirit. He will not leave you, even if you don’t appreciate what He is doing in your life. This does not mean you can live as you please, because as He lives in you, He is busy changing you from the inside out. He will not allow you to live as you please.

Eph 4:29-30 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (30) And **grieve not** the holy Spirit of God.....

To Grieve the Holy Spirit is to cause distress or to make sorrowful.

We let things into our lives and the Indwelling Holy Spirit says, “*What were they thinking*” orange and black shag carpet, - “*Its time for that to go*”. Pink and chartreuse wall paper, “*rip that out today!*”

Garbage cans are overflowing with putrid stuff – “*that must be*

emptied NOW” - sanitize and sanctify this place beginning immediately.

The Holy Spirit often works without us even realizing it. People begin coming to your house and saying things like, “I see you fixed that ole broken down fence in the back. Nice Touch”. You think – “I don’t recall fixing the fence.” “Hey, I see you finally trashed that old troll statue on the front lawn.” – you kind of smile as you work your way to the window and look out, noticing that ole eyesore is gone.”

You begin to realize, that something is changing on the inside. One day someone comments that you seem a bit more mellow and you realize that old enemy anger, is calming down a lot. You realize the Holy Spirit is working on your house and renovating things from the inside.

*The Holy Spirit
works from the
inside out, in ways
that we may
personally be
unaware of.*

The Sealing of the Holy Spirit

The Bible also refers to the Christian as being “sealed” by the Holy Spirit.

Eph 4:29-30 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye **are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

Signed means marked, reserved, authenticated, or secured.

Eph 1:13-14 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,** (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Now can you see the part the Holy Spirit plays in what we might

believe to be the eternal security of the true believer? Sealed – until the day of redemption. Sealed – as a guarantee of our eternal inheritance. Sealed – until we acquire full possession of our eternal inheritance.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is crucial to the believer's assurance and security in Christ.

The Holy Spirit truly is the Friend We Need To Strive To Get To Know.

The 2nd point this morning is...

THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

* God never leaves us alone nor does He ever leave us aimless. God Gives Direction to His own.

As the Holy Spirit fills the Christian, and the Christian submits and surrender his or her will to God the Holy Spirit begins to fill or control the believer more and more through out the Christian life.

Consider a glove. A glove has no life in itself. An empty glove will never roof a house or paint a barn. An empty glove can do nothing on it's own. But fill the glove with a hand and the glove begins doing exactly what the hand does, because when the hand fills the glove, it can control the glove.

How many want to find God's will for your life?

God's will for our lives is all about the Holy Spirit's leading today and our response to that leading.¹

The Holy Spirit always leads us in the paths of righteousness.²

The Holy Spirit never leads us to violate what is already revealed to us in His Holy Word, the Bible.

<p>Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.</p>

¹ Read Eph.5:17-18 again

² Psalm 23:3

AS we are being led by the HS, the possibility for error is always present. That is why we can use God's word to help us navigate as we are looking to be led by the HS.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.³ He leads in Truth and that Truth will align with the Truth from God's Holy written Word in Scripture.

The HS does not lead you to lie. The HS will never lead you to drop your husband for a nicer version. The Holy Spirit does not lead us in a manner that fulfills our earthly desires or interests. The HS always leads God's children to carry out the ultimate plan and good will of the Father.

And as we are being led by the HS and purposefully living the by the Spirit, it is evidence that we are indeed children of God.

<p>Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.</p>
--

True Spirit Guide

The Holy Spirit is our true Spirit guide. In some religious groups, spirit guides are sought after. The problem with any spirit guide that is not the Holy Spirit, is an unholy spirit, or a spirit provided by the devil.

And when Christians have the HS, but seek input, help, direction, filling, elsewhere, - they are looking for trouble and will conflict with the Holy Spirit of God.

The Indwelling Holy Spirit, takes God's word and applies it to you, like a painter applying paint in order to lead you in God's perfect will for your life.

The Path's of Righteousness

* The Spirit of Holiness always leads in the way of holiness and path of righteousness.

³ Jn.14:17; 15:26; 16:13

Psalms 23:3 ... He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Jesus came to give abundant and eternal life. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Life. They work together and in perfect unity and harmony, in order to bring about the fulfillment of God's kingdom plan, as it affects all areas of life.

The Holy Spirit truly is the Friend We Need To Get To Know.

OFF THE PAGES AND INTO MY LIFE

How do we get this off the pages and into our lives?

Ask these questions: How am I living? A life of holiness? Behaving in purity? Dealing honestly?

How is my spiritual house? Am I in need of renovation or makeover?

Am I living in a manner which grieves the indwelling Spirit of Holiness or invites Him to perform His work in me?

How is the Holy Spirit leading me? Am I seeking His will? Am I following His leading and direction for my life? Is the way I am living, appropriate according to Scripture?

Are you being led by the Spirit of God? This is evidence I truly belong to God.

I believe one of the most evident signs of the Holy Spirit's filling, indwelling, leading and changing, is one no one wants to talk about. That is *our struggle against sin*. We think that struggling against sin shows we are weak and impure and not fully matured – Exactly.

Struggling against sin, shows we are all growing along our journey and grappling with our own faith formation.

If you are not struggling against personal sin, either the Holy Spirit is not in you or else He is, but you are disobeying, squelching, grieving, resisting or rejecting His leading and purifying work in your life.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. He converts the believer. He purges and purifies every child of God. He reveals our weaknesses and transforms us from what we are into what He wants us to be.

Dads – What if we were committed to being led by the Holy Spirit of God – If we all left here this morning with that new commitment, what might be some of the changes that would begin taking place in my life?

Today....

- 1) Thank God for His Holy Spirit which is in you.
- 2) Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit and to help you to be led by the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Pray sincerely, “I want to know your will for my life.”
- 4) I want to have victory over the sin in my life.

Spirit of Holiness, fill me, cleanse me, guide me and I will follow.

-Amen

Spirit of the living God

Daniel Iverson (1926) st. 1 © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (ASCAP); st. 2 © 1982, Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us,

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

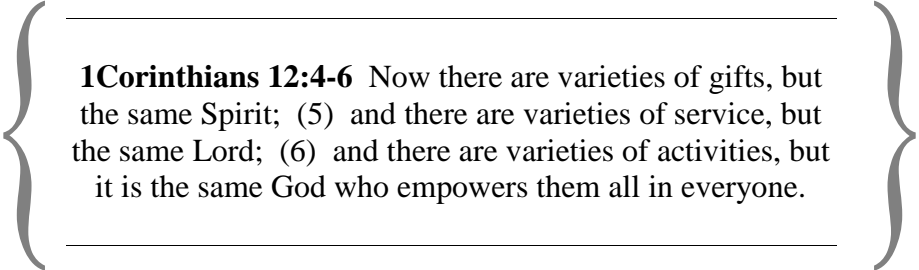


“Evidence of the Spirit: God’s Purpose in You”

Text: 1 Cor.12, Rom.12, Eph.4

June 24, 2012

Theme: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



1Corinthians 12:4-6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; (5) and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; (6) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

INTRODUCTION

Review:

The Baptism of the HS typically occurs regularly. T or F

The Filling of the HS tends to make us fully mature in our faith and frees us from any possibility of future sin. T or F

The Indwelling of the HS is as simple as the dwelling of the HS inside the true believer. T or F

The Leading of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life is a pretty good indication that person is a child of God. T or F (Rom.8:14)

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, typically act independently on most matters, so as not to confuse us. T or F

The Holy Spirit is the Friend We Need to Get To Know. T or F

The Holy Spirit, the Friend We Need To Get To Know.

Today our subject matter is very controversial among Christians. Yet we cannot afford to ignore or omit this subject. Too often Christians allow the topic of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts to divide and bring strife, when His purpose is the build up and bring unity.

If you have a question about the lesson today, please don't hesitate to let me know. I'll be glad to hear you out. But in order to get our answers, we will go to the Scriptures to see what God says and how He answers your question.

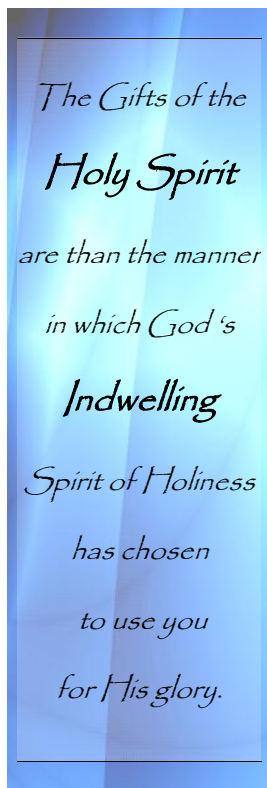
THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit or the Spiritual Gifts are simply the ways in which the Indwelling HS chooses to use those whom He indwells.

In that perspective, the focus is not on the gift, but on the Giver of the gift. It's not how others perceive my abilities or spiritual depth, but how they see the work of God in and through our lives. And I believe, that anything beyond that is an inaccurate view, an improper perspective and an unbiblical focus.

The Gifts

Some believe these are all the gifts, while others believe these were enough for Paul to make his point.



1 Cor. 12:8-11 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, (9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, (10) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish

between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (11) All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

*The Gifts of the Holy Spirit or the Spiritual Gifts
are the various ways the indwelling Holy Spirit of
God chooses to work through you.*

1Co 12:28-31 And God has appointed in the church first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, **helping**, **administrating**, and various kinds of **tongues**. (29) Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? (30) Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? (31) But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Christians probably have several gifts, or the indwelling Holy Spirit chooses to use every believer in a variety of ways. And like the Trinity, all gifts are intended to work together in perfect unity for the overall divine purposes of God.

Eph 4:8-14 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (9) (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? (10) He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) (11) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (14) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

The Danger of the Gifts

These dangers can come from fear, ignorance of Scripture or pride.

Blasphemy

Some consider the miraculous gifts or the sign gifts as they have been called, to be out of date and not for our time, and as a result, attribute such manifestations to be the work of the devil.

And the Bible teaches that when we attribute the work of God to be the work of the devil, that is blasphemy.⁴

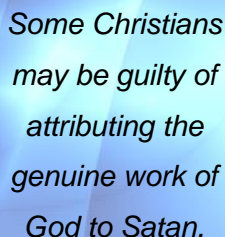
More Important

Some believe certain gifts are more important than others. I can recall several years ago, a woman coming into our church and came up to me and asked, “are the gifts of the Spirit in operation here?” and I knew what she meant, she was referring to gifts like healings, miracles, tongues, etc. I said, “they certainly are. We have some gifts of encouragement being evidenced, we have the gift of faith and even of giving taking place. We even have the gifts of service and mercy being manifested.” Her eyes kind of glazed over and she walked out.

The danger with the gifts of the Holy Spirit is that Christians tend to make certain gifts more important than others – or more honorable or more desirable than others.

Dirty Jobs: Some jobs are undesirable jobs, so dirty that most people consider them unwanted or dishonorable jobs. Some do that with the gifts of the Spirit. Some feel some gifts are more important or more honorable than others. Those are the ones which are typically desired or sought.

Once we begin to make certain spiritual gifts more valuable than others, or some more worthy of being sought after than others, we



*Some Christians
may be guilty of
attributing the
genuine work of
God to Satan.*

⁴ Mat.12:31

begin reversing the purpose of why God's Holy Spirit gives gifts in the first place.

Rom 12:3-9 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; (7) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; (8) the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (9) Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

In the body there are parts and in the body of Christ there are a variety of gifts and all are important.

The foot or the bowels are not as popular parts of the body, but without them the body could not function properly and would actually be disabled.

Some feel the most important gifts are tongues, and miracles, and that anything less than that is of less significance. Others believe that gifts of service and giving are of higher importance, while miracles, healings, tongues and demonstration of faith, is of lesser important or even not for our day.

I would urge any reader to carefully and prayerfully read the passages on the gifts of the Spirit.⁵ See if you honestly come up with any categorization in Scripture that places some of the more “miraculous” gifts in one category and the “non-miraculous” gifts in a different category. It seems to me that when spiritual gifts are mentioned and or listed, they are done so, indiscriminately and

⁵ 1 Corinthians chap.12; Romans chap.12; Ephesians chap.4; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

almost like shuffling a deck of cards and there they all lie as they come out of the deck, tongues and helps, miracles and administrative, healing and mercy all together, one with the other and none categorized so as to separate the miraculous from the non-miraculous.

The misunderstanding

Cessation

Some believe the miraculous sign gifts have ceased. There is no Biblical evidence this is the case or that it was intended to be so. In fact, the Bible makes no distinction between the “miraculous gifts” and the non-miraculous gifts.

Enjoyment

Some believe they have a spiritual gift because it is something they enjoy and are good at. There is no Biblical evidence for that. We cannot assume that God would only give us a gift for something we enjoy.

God may have given you a personality that makes it easy for you to talk and relate to people. That can be a great ability that allows you to use your gift of encouragement. God may have given you the ability to repair things. That can be a great ability that allows you to express your gifts of helps, service or mercy.

As good and responsible students of God’s holy word, we must not be guilty of going to Scripture, and looking up verses simply to prove our point. We must be responsible students of God’s word, who value the truth of God’s word above any of our own interpretations. We must come to view the word of God as our source – Sola Scriptura – of truth for life and faith.

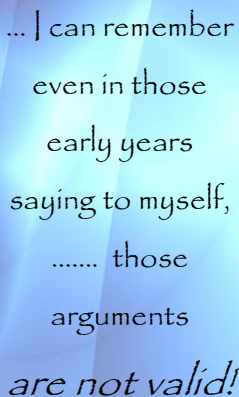
2Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

As good and responsible students of God’s holy word, we must not be guilty of going to Scripture, and looking up verses simply to prove our point. We must be responsible students of God’s word, who value the truth of God’s word above any of our own

interpretations. We must come to view the word of God as our source – Sola Scriptura – of truth for life and faith.

John Piper, <http://www.soundofgrace.com/piper81/030881m.htm>

I want to stress here though, that I do not reject the validity of the gift of tongues for our own day. It is wrong to insist that they are a necessary part of the baptism of the Spirit; it is not wrong to insist that they are a possible part of that experience today. When I was in high school I listened to Mr. DeHaan on the radio.



... | can remember
even in those
early years
saying to myself,
..... those
arguments
are not valid!

I was standing in my bedroom one morning listening to him try to argue from the New Testament that the so-called sign gifts like tongues and miracles and healing were intended by God to come to an end at the close of the apostolic age, so that they are no longer valid today. And I can remember even in those early years saying to myself, "Mr. DeHaan, those arguments are not valid.

All you are able to show is that if there are no tongues today you can see some possible reasons for it. But nothing that you have said proves that God intends for these gifts to end before this age closes." And now after 20 years of Bible study and friendships with charismatic

believers I will say with even more assurance: Let us not reject or despise any of God's gifts, including tongues.

There is a very real fear that there are things we don't fully understand about the gifts of the Spirit. We are often afraid of things we don't fully understand.

There is also a fear of the gifts of the Sp because we can't control or govern them. As a result, some attempt to deny their existence or explain them away. ("..forbid not..." any of the gifts)⁶

We don't have to be fearful of any of the gifts of the HS. If we are indwelt, and filled with and controlled and led by the Holy Spirit

⁶ 1Cor.14:39

of God, then as we express our God given gifts, we will bringing glory to God and will be building up the church.

The Abuse of the Gifts

Measuring points

Attempting to make gifts that we have, as measuring points for the spirituality of others. Correcting that kind of abuse is one reason Paul writes to the church in Corinth – to correct their understanding of the gifts and to correct their behavior.

Imitation

Attempting to imitate other gifts, that we feel are more important. Having grown up in a very conservative, non-charismatic church. In my mid twenties, I attended a moderately Charismatic congregation. I began to see, study and understand a different and unknown side of the working of the Holy Spirit that I had before.

With my new interest, I began attending Holy Spirit conferences, Healing services, and listening to those who believed in “signs and wonders”.

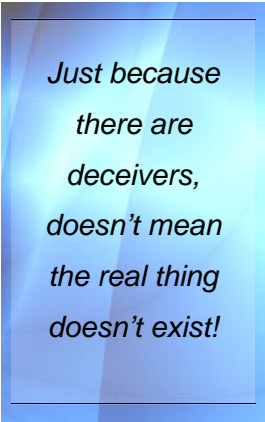
I can recall visiting a few healing services in some local coliseums. The place would be filled with people and down in the very front, was the area they would bring people who wanted to experience healing. I would arrive early and walk down front and sit with the people who had arrived to be healed. And being a novice, I would talk to the people there and ask them, “What are you hoping to be healed of?” I remember a veteran with no legs, blind people, physically and mentally retarded people – people with muscular dystrophy and other clear physical afflictions. The “faith healer” was to me, a flippant man in his referencing to the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit. I recall his gaudy jewelry and alligator boots and his cavalier attitude about the crippled people and the ministry of healing. There were many people who had gal bladders healed, cancer healed, even a tooth was miraculously filled, according to the man on the stage. But the ones I had interviewed all went home, just like they came – crippled, afflicted and in need of healing.

Once the faith healer even asked a woman with a short leg, “which would you rather me do – shorten the long leg, or lengthen the short leg?” Then he said, I’ll just lengthen the short leg – its easier.”

I thought, “easier for who!” I wanted to scream. I left there hating all those who claimed to be “faith healers”. I was so upset and so disillusioned with the moving of the “Holy Spirit” I began to think all I was learning about the Holy Spirit was a big hoax.

One dear patient pastor, Brother Ted, hearing of my experience shared some very valuable insight with me.

“Just because there are fakes, phonies, liars, imitators, deceivers and charlatans does not mean the real thing doesn’t exist.”



*Just because
there are
deceivers,
doesn't mean
the real thing
doesn't exist!*

There will always be those who use or consider the spiritual gifts as a means of glorifying themselves, perceiving they have certain true gifts, when in fact they don’t, or if they do, they use that gift or place improper focus and self aggrandizement upon them. A focus on a person is not the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit.

The Purpose of the Gifts

The purpose of the spiritual gifts is to glorify God and build up the church. Please take careful note of the focus these verses regarding the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit.

1Cor. 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1Cor. 14:1-4 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. (2) For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. (3) On the other hand, the

one who prophesies speaks to people **for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation**. (4) The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies **builds up the church**.

1Co 14:6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, **how will I benefit you** unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

A most all-important question. “*How can I benefit **You**?*”

1 Cor. 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive **to excel in building up the church**.

“*How can I excel in building up the church?*”

1 Cor. 14:26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. **Let all things be done for building up**.

“*How can I build others up?*”

Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

“*How can I encourage others?*”

Eph 4:11-16 (11) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up the body** of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (14) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. (15) **Rather, speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with

which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the ***body grow so that it builds itself up in love.***

So you see, neither the church nor the Gifts are about what you or I get out of it. Both Church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit is all about what we contribute to it. Our perspective and our participation in both, are evidence of our own personal spiritual maturity, as well as evidence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, living on the inside and hard at work in us.

Spiritual gifts are not about exalting a person. They are about building up the church.

*Those who are bought with the blood,
are indwelled by the Spirit.*

OFF THE PAGES AND INTO MY LIFE

1) What is your view of the Church? A place you go? Something you do? Is it the people you know?

What is the purpose of your attending church?

2) What are your spiritual gifts? Do you know? Are you interested in knowing what they are and developing them?

3) Are you actively serving in a local church? Are you trusting God's Holy Spirit to lead you in ways that He has gifted you?

The Holy Spirit truly is the Friend We Need To Strive To Get To Know.




“Spiritual Fruit: Evidence of the Holy Spirit

Text: Galatians 5:16-26


July 1, 2012

Theme: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Title: “Fruit: Evidence of the Spirit”



Gal. 5:19-21 (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.



*“So what about Holiness?” “We’re not that kind of church”
- a sadly uninformed Christian*

INTRODUCTION

As we near the end of our series, we come to the portion that does in fact, seem to be an area which is intended to be an indicator as to the spiritual depth and maturity of the true believer in Jesus Christ. *Gifts of the Spirit* are ways in which the Holy Spirit chooses to use those whom He indwells. But the Fruit of the Spirit are clearly indicators that help us to see just how much or how little the Holy Spirit is maturing us. So much of this area of the Christian life is dependent upon our attitude and openness to God to really move in our lives and to bring about in us, a depth of faith and lifestyle obedience that truly evidences our maturity and genuine devotion to God.

Review: HS Quiz

- 1) Gifts of the Spirit represent the level of spiritual maturity of the believing Christian. T / F
- 2) Speaking in tongues is the most conclusive evidence that a person has been filled with the Holy Spirit. T / F
- 3) In order to keep us on track, Paul clearly distinguishes between the “miraculous” gifts and the “non-miraculous” gifts of the Spirit. T / F
- 4) Since there are so many frauds, fakes, and deceivers in the area of spiritual gifts, it is a safe rule of thumb to discount the miraculous gifts altogether. T / F
- 5) The purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God and build up the body of Christ for the common good. T / F
- 6) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are the ways in which the Holy Spirit chooses to use those whom He indwells T / F
- 7) Special Christians may have one or more spiritual gifts, while others who have none, are just flat out of luck. T / F

Christian Holiness is not something we talk about a lot. When we hear the word “holiness” we often think of some strange people we have been around. But holiness is not for just a few people in a religious organization it is intended to be part of every Christian’s life.

The Holy Spirit, the Friend We Need To Get To Know.

Let's see what the Apostle Paul writes.

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

The Works of the flesh are evidence of the fallen, broken, sinful human nature governing and controlling a person's life. ^{Gal.5:19}

This is not the case with only a few people, this is how each of us were born.

Our Broken Sinful Propensity

"Works of the Flesh" refers to the evidence of our being controlled by our fallen, broken sinful human desires and passions. It refers to that self focused driving force that governs our thoughts, our attitudes, our choices, our life style and our personal pursuits.

The works of the flesh are evidences that we are not being controlled by the Holy Spirit and most likely, that we are not true believers in Jesus Christ.

When we think of the characterization of sin, we typically think first of others. *Others* are the sinners. *Others* are the broken people. But everyone is in need of healing and cleansing.

<p>Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?</p>

Once we begin looking at everyone else as the broken sinful person, we are already deceived. We tend to think only the very best about ourselves and that is most often an inaccurate perspective, due to the fact that we are easily deceived about our own character. Each of us are in need of the Truth about who we are.

Because we are broken and deceived, we are also in need of being reconciled to God.

<p>Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.</p>

The Bible teaches that we are all guilty of sin and our sins have separated us from God. As a result of this separation, we are in need of reconciliation with God.

God has graciously and lovingly sent His only Son Jesus, that through faith in Him alone, our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God.⁷

The Works of the Flesh (Gal.5:19-21)

Paul lists some of the works of the flesh or behavior which is evidence of our sinful nature.

In v.19, he first lists some sexual sins like adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness.

He then refers to some more direct God rejecting sins, such as Idolatry and witchcraft.^{Gal.5:20a}

Verse 20b – 21a are others focused sins and appear to involve inappropriate dealings or treatment in our personal relationships. These are listed as hatred, variance, emulation, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, and murders,

The final group given here in v.21 are more self focused. They are drunkenness and reveling. All of these indicate activity that is running wild, out of control and under the influence of the broken sinful human self-focused interests and passions.

Ultimately Paul informs us that these works of the flesh are indicators of the absence of true spiritual life in Christ.

Evidence of Eternal destination (5:21)

People who are characterized with the works of the flesh in their lives, are evidence of being an unconverted, unregenerate, unbeliever.

⁷ Jn.3:16; 2 Cor.5:20

These people do not fail to inherit the kingdom of God because they do not have better works or religious deeds. They fail to inherit the kingdom of God because they are evidently not true believers and these sinful works are evidence of an unbeliever, and therefore an indicator as to their true eternal destination.

For the true child of God, these works of the flesh should characterize our lives less and less, as the Holy Spirit is working in us more and more.^{Eph.5:18}

Now Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Gen.5:22-23)

The Fruit of the Spirit is evidence of the spiritual depth, life transformation, and being changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Fruit of the Spirit are traits of Christian holiness, being worked out in us by the indwelling Spirit of Holiness or Holy Spirit.

<p>Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.</p>

Some view these traits as undesirable because they view them as signs of weakness. But God views these as character traits of spiritual strength and maturity and evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the true believer.

Evidence of the Indwelling and Filling

Remember the Holy Spirit indwells the believing Christian and is the new resident living inside us. He is the unseen purifying Factor in our lives. As He takes up His residence in us as His dwelling place, He begins house cleaning and purifying his new residence. Some of the things that have to go, are the works of the flesh.

As our new Master begins ruling and reigning in our lives, we begin submitting more and more to His will and to His holy leading. As a result of our personal submission and surrender to

Him, He is free to control us and direct our thoughts and lifestyle in a manner in which is pleasing to God.

As a result of our new Resident and the work of our new Master, we begin to evidence new attitudes, more holy actions, different

and God pleasing thought patterns and new purposes. This is ultimately a different life style than our life before Christ. This new life style is one that demonstrates who we are, what we truly believe and who it is we represent.

Fruit = Maturity

The Fruit of the Spirit are identifying markers as to the Spirit and controlling influence within us as Christians.

While the *Gifts of the Spirit* are ways in which the Holy Spirit chooses to use those whom He indwells.

The *Fruit of the Spirit* are evidences of the spiritual depth, life transformation, and being changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

When we see apples, we can be sure they came from or are hanging on an apple tree. Apples don't make the tree and apple tree, but the do offer verifiable evidence that the tree is an apple tree.

Therefore, unlike the gifts of the Spirit, fruit of the Spirit can be evidence of the growing maturity and Christ like character of a true believer and ardent follower of Christ.



Rom 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **(29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son,** that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

It is God's desire and purpose to transform every believer into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. This is God's way of gradually restoring those important spiritual traits that have been broken and removed by sin.

Thank God He does not give up working in us.

Not Under law (vs.18, 23)

It is interesting that in discussing the fruit of the Spirit, he tells us that in this kind of lifestyle *there is no law*. In other words, if we are being led by the Spirit (v18) and if we are walking in the Spirit (v25), there is not law against us.

Its like driving along the interstate and coming into a construction zone. When this happens, the speed limits are lowered and signs are often posted that read, "fines doubled". That means that within construction zones where speed limits are lowered, the fines for speeding are doubled. This is due to the presence of highway machinery which is often very close to passing motorists, as well as the presence of construction personnel, who have to work close to traffic patterns and dangerously close to the moving vehicles. As a result, speed limit is lowered and fines are doubled.



You are driving along, see the signs and you lower your speed to 45mph, as the sign says. After a few minutes, one of your passengers, notices a policeman on the side of the road and mentions to you that the speeding fines are doubled along this area. You respond confidently, "*it doesn't affect me!*" This is true, because at that point, you are acting according to the speed limit law, therefore, under these conditions, the law pertaining to speeding *fines* does not apply to you.

In other words, you are not under the law of doubled fines, or the law of speeding fines are not *against* you, because you are driving according to the posted speed limits.

As Christian, when we are led by and living according to the Spirit, there are no laws against us, because the Spirit always leads

according to God's Holy Word and His Holy purposes. However, step out of the influence of the Spirit and you may find yourself living according to the works of the flesh and when that happens, you have violated God's rules for living and His law regarding your sin is now against you.

This is what it means to live by the Spirit and evidence the fruit of the Spirit. Now we have identified the works of the flesh which is our broken, sinful human nature. We have also identified the fruit of the Spirit which is evidence of the maturing traits of a Christian.

But this is not enough! We must be aware of something else very important.

The War (Gal. 5:16-18 / 24-26)

WARNING: The broken, sin nature is not eliminated when you become a Christian.

We receive a new spiritual nature, when we are born again. This is the working of the Holy Spirit.

Now our spiritual and sin natures are at war.

Sin nature is our old desires, and behavior as imperfect broken people, due to the effect of sin on all humans.



Sin nature draws us away and leads us astray from God's way, and from the leading and controlling influence of the Holy Spirit. Paul describes this as a battle.

Sin is like a great magnet. Before coming to Christ, the sin magnet attracts us and we gladly yield to its attraction. However, after trusting Christ and being indwelt by the Spirit of Holiness, the sin magnet still often attempts to draw us back into our sinful way. But now, instead of yielding to the temptation of sin, we fight against its power to lead us away into sin.

I believe the battle against sin is a sure sign that you have a true believer with the Holy Spirit of God living and working in you – not the sin, but the struggle *against* sin.

Fighting The Good Fight (516-18)

The Good fight of faith is the purpose of our Christian resolve, to do the will of God, be led by the power of the Holy Spirit and to resist the devil, all the while, striving to fight against the attraction of the sin magnet.

Gal 5:16-18 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

the desires of the flesh

These are the attitudes and actions that come natural to the unbelieving non-Christian. One fights against the other. Each with a power and attraction all their own.

the purposes of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit desires passionately to draw us away from the practices of the sinful nature. The works of the flesh, desire passionately to draw us away from the new purposes and will of the Spirit led believer.

choosing right over desires or interests

The Holy Spirit fights against the desires of the sinful flesh and the sinful flesh fights against the desires of the Holy Spirit. It is crucial for the Christian to realize that our sin propensity is still alive.

We Belong to Christ (v24)

Because we belong to Christ, a transformation has taken place.

Gal 5:24-26 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Crucified the sinful nature (v24)

In Christ we have crucified our sinful nature.^{Gal.2:20} We have positionally in Christ and willfully as a Christian, said no to ourselves and to our sinful ways and yes to God and His Holy Spirit ways. Luke records Jesus' instruction that as disciples of Christ, we must take up our cross daily and follow Him.^{Lk.9:23} It is an on going battle.

Keep in Step with the Spirit (v25)

AS the Spirit leads, so the Christian is to obey. Keeping in step is a military term that reflects the marching orders of the military person in charge of a platoon. His orders are to be obeyed. His commands are to be carried out. At the sound of "about face!", all are to move as one in a precision like movement.

And as the Holy Spirit leads or moves us, we are to obey, carry out and move in harmony with the leading of the Spirit. If we do not, then we are not walking by the Spirit and the Spirit is obviously not controlling us.

Self focused and agitating others (v26)

Our relationships will prove to be the greatest challenges of all, regarding the flesh and the Holy Spirit. God uses people and relationships to challenge, reveal and strengthen our Christian character and form in us, Spiritual fruit and maturity.

* If we say we belong to Christ and if we consider ourselves to be walking in the Spirit and living by the Spirit, we must be knowingly and intentionally taking steps to obey God's Holy Word and be led by His Holy Spirit in our day to day lives and in our person to person relationships. We must do what is with in our

ability, in order to take the steps to live according to the Holy Spirit, trusting Him to empower us, help us, strengthen us as we are attempting to live obedient Christian lives.

I believe all the Christian life is a mix of us doing all we can in order to be obedient followers of Christ. Likewise, we must trust God to be doing all He has promised in order to help us be victorious in our steps of obedience.

The challenge here is not how to handle people who are agitating us, but that we are careful not to allow our selves to become the agitator. In our stress, frustrations and even in the disappointments we experience in some relationships, our sinful flesh can easily take control of our attitudes and our actions. When that happens, it is easier than we care to admit, for the believing Christian to resort back into our old way of life and our old practices of relational responses. We tend to treat others as we are treated.

Jesus tells us to treat others as we would like to be treated. That means we do not take on an adversarial role of firing back insult for insult or offense for offense. Instead, we are to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, respond in obedience to what we know is right and resist the temptation to agitate others.

We simply are to live and respond *differently*.

OFF THE PAGES AND INTO MY LIFE

The list of the fruit of the Spirit is a list of Character traits of Holiness, that God wants to characterize our lives as His children.

We are imperfect Christians. We are God's work in progress. The truth is, while the Holy Spirit is leading us, we are not always following His leading. We may not be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. When we cannot sense the Holy Spirit subjectively, we must choose to obey God's word objectively. We can be assured that the Holy Spirit always leads in a manner with what is revealed in God's Holy Word.

Every Christian should make getting to Know the HS an ongoing endeavor for your life journey.

- 1) Ask God to identify strongholds of your sinful nature. If you are unable to think of any, you may want to do what one preacher said: “Get on your knees and guess at it.” We all have these areas, we only need God’s help in identifying them.
- 2) Ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit of Holiness, as part of your regular daily devotions.
- 3) When the HS convicts you of sinful traits in your life, pray for an appropriate fruit of the Spirit to take its place.
- 4) Think about one of the fruit. Consider ways you can personally take obedient steps to practice that fruit. God is faithful. As we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.

The Holy Spirit is responsible for getting the Word of God, from the heart and voice of God to the written form we have today.

2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. (21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

He is also responsible for getting God’s Word from our minds to our heart.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

For the true believing Christian, there is no alternative to living the Holy Spirit filled life.

The Holy Spirit truly is the Friend We Need To Strive To Get To Know.



Don't close this booklet yet

without considering this all important question.

Is Jesus Christ the Savior of your soul and the Lord of your life?

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
--Romans 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God, - John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your
sins and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*

The ABCs

A - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

B - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

C - Confess your sins to God. *He already knows.*
- also Confess Jesus as you LORD.

Prayer: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

Connect with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

Commit yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Act 2:41-42 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, www.christefca.org

We have a free booklet on:

Water Baptism: *The First Step of Believer's Obedience.*
and also

A New Creation: *Beginning Your New Life In Christ*

It is our prayer that you find Jesus Christ to be, your greatest purpose, your highest calling, your soul's source and joy, and your all-consuming passion.

Other Free Booklets downloadable at www.ChristEFCA.org

1 PETER, pt. 1-2 (2Vol): *Suffering in Sojourning*

1 PETER, pt. 3-5 (3Vol): *The Church God Always Wanted*

A NEW CREATION: *Beginning Your New Life In Christ*

ADVENT: *The Submission of Christ*

AMERICA ADRIFT: *A Culture in Crisis and the Challenges Before the Church*

BALANCING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: (2VOLS) *Growing together in the Basics*

CHALLENGES OF FAITH *From Characters in the Bible*

CHRIST'S COMING KINGDOM: *What Will Be Will Be*

CPR Evangelism: *Helping others Step from Death to Life*

DIRTY DISCIPLESHIP: *Preparing the Soil of the Heart for the Seed of the Word.*

ETERNITY: *What Will It Really Be Like?*

GIFTS AND FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *A Match Made in Heaven*

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE FAMILY: *The Intelligent Divine Design*

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF: *When Pain Won't End and Hope Seems Lost*

HOLY WEEK 2011: *Questions About Christ and His Resurrection?*

HOLY WEEK 2012: *Questions about Life and Death?*

HOLY WEEK 2016: *Events Surrounding the Passion Week*

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ALMIGHTY: *Life Transforming Prayer & Communion*

IN THE SHADOW OF THE SHEPHERD: *Sheep Becoming Like the Servant Shepherd*

INTERESTS AND INQUIRIES: *Curious Cultural Concerns for The Future*

JAMES (4Vol): *Faith That Makes A Difference*

JUDE: (2Vol) *STANDING FIRM, When the Rest of the World is Falling Away.*

KINGDOM VISION: *Seeing the World and God's Kingdom as God does*

LIFE MATTERS: *What It Means for Others To See Jesus In You*

MAKING LIFE WORK (2Vol): *Discovering Your God Focused Purpose in Living*

MISSIONS 2016: *THE MINISTRY OF JONAH and God's Heart for the Nations.*

MISSIONS: *100 Years, So Where Are We Now?*

PRAYERS OF DESPERATION: *Prayer God Answers But No One Wants To Pray*

Ruth: *Our Unmerited Blessedness in the LORD.*

SURVIVING THE STORMS OF THE SOUL: *The Presence of God in Times of Trouble*

THE 12: *OUR SPIRITUAL ANCESTORS – Their faith and failures*

THE HOLY SPIRIT: *The Friend You Need To Get To Know*

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: *Seeing and Living the Kingdom of Heaven*

THE WONDER OF IT ALL: *The End Times of Trials, from Mark 13*

TRAGEDIES OF LIFE: *Things God Allows & Blessings from Heaven's Perspective*

WATER BAPTISM: *The First Step of Believer's Obedience or Disobedience.*

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER: *A Handbook for Pre-Marriage Considerations*

YOUR LIFE IS LIKE...: *The Challenge to Disciple A Community*



May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.