THE PERSON OF

THE

HOLY SPIRIT

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LESSON #1
A STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
INTRODUCTION

Every study of a book or subject in the Bible must begin with an introduction. It is necessary to build a foundation, in order to build a full understanding of the subject and to be able to apply the truths of that study to the church, and to individual Christians. The study of the Holy Spirit is one of the most ignored subjects in the Bible, so we are going to move very slow and clearly.

Christians must have the correct understanding on this subject, or they will never understand how to have the correct application of the Holy Spirit in their life. The study of the Holy Spirit is one of, if not the most important, studies in the Bible. A biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit brings a lifestyle that will solve all problems in the life of a Christian and therefore solve all problems in a New Testament Church. Let's begin our study by learning more about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is one of the most neglected studies of all the people in the entire Bible. Christians today know less about the Holy Spirit than they do about most of the men mentioned in the Bible, like Moses, Joshua, Paul, Peter, and many others. However, the Holy Spirit is mentioned more than 225 times in the New Testament, in addition to being referred to many other times by His symbols and His works!

Most Christians don't know much about Him, and even most Christians do not have a close personally relationship with Him. I remember the question that Paul asked the church in Ephesus in Acts 19: 2: *"Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?* And they said to him: "*We have not even heard if there is the Holy Spirit."* We will develop all of the above statements as we proceed with this study. PLEASE keep in mind that this first section <u>is just an introduction</u>. Please do not get discouraged by this introduction, as we will build on it from lesson to lesson.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON!

<u>First</u>: <u>What the Holy Spirit IS NOT!</u> The Holy Spirit is not just a powerful influence. The Holy Spirit is not a strange power. The Holy Spirit is not just a driving force in the world. The Holy Spirit is not an "IT" as He is often referred to.

<u>Second:</u> <u>What IS the Holy Spirit</u>? The Holy Spirit is a person, a REAL person, just as real as you and me. Let's look at Jesus Christ and how so many times He referred to the Holy Spirit by a "male pronoun, like **he, him, himself**" and others.

1. *"And I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, so that **he** may remain with you forever ..."* (John 14:16)

2. *"But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he** will teach you all things, and will remind you of all things that I have said to you."* (John 14:26)

3. *"But when the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the*

Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, ***he*** *will bear witness of me ..."* (John 15:26)

4. *"However, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send* ***him*** *to you.* ***He*** *has come,* ***he*** *will rebuke the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:* (John 16: 7, 8)

5. *"But when the Spirit of truth comes,* ***he*** *will guide you into all truth; for* ***he*** *will not speak of himself, but will speak of everything* ***he*** *hears; and he will let you know what is to come.* ***He*** *will glorify me, because* ***he*** *will receive. of mine, and* ***he*** *will let you know." (John 16:13, 14)*

The Three Main and Essential Elements of a Real Person.

First: A real person, like you and me, has intellect. Therefore, the first of those three essentials is to prove that the Holy Spirit has intellect.

Romans 8:27 tells us that the Holy Spirit has a mind, *"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is* ***the mind of the Spirit****, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

John 14:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit is a real person, *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,* ***he shall teach you all things,*** *and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

John 16:13 tells us that the Holy Spirit can guide us to the truth, *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, h****e 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."*

The Holy Spirit has a mind, is able to teach us ALL THINGS, and to guide us to ALL truth. That clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit has great intellect.

Second: A real person like you and me has Emotions: The Holy Spirit has emotions.

Ephesians 4:30 tells us that the Holy Spirit can be grieved, "*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* The Greek word translated grieve, is Lupeo, which means he can be made sorrowful or made to have heaviness of heart. Both of those are emotions.

Thessalonians 5:19 tells us that The Holy Spirit can be quenched, ***"Quench no****t the Spirit."* The word quench means He can be extinguished. That is a feeling of emotion!

Acts 7: 5 1 tells us that the Holy Spirit can be resisted, *" Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist the Holy Ghost**: as your fathers did, so do ye."* This tells us that the Holy Spirit COULD overpower us, but because of His feelings of emotions and choice, He will not as long as we resist Him and do not want Him to control us

Romans 8:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit is a person and He hears our prayers and makes intercession for us. *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered."* It is clear that the Holy Spirit is a person and has emotions, feelings, and will pray with us any time we desire Him to do so.

Third: A real person, like you and me, has a will. The Holy Spirit has a "will." The Holy Spirit exercises his will in MANY ways.

I Corinthians 12:1-11 tells us that the Holy Spirit selects spiritual gifts to give to every Christian, *"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."*

Acts 13:1-4 tells us that the Holy Spirit exercises his will by calling certain men to the ministry, *"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said**, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. 4 So they, **being sent forth by the Holy Ghost,** departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.*

Acts 16:6-7 tells us that the Holy Spirit exercises his will concerning where those men go in the ministry, *"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: **but the Spirit suffered them not**."*

These verses tell us clearly that the Holy Spirit is not just a "strong influencer." The Holy Spirit is a real person, like you and me, and He uses His "perfect will" to direct us in all we do, as long as we are obedient and follow His will.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DEITY!
(Deity means that the Holy Spirit **IS** God.)

There are Four Main and Essential proofs of the Holy Spirit being Deity.

First: The Holy Spirit is Eternal. Deuteronomy 33:27 tells us that God the Father is Eternal, *"**The eternal God** is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them."*

John 1:1 tells us that God the Son is Eternal, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God."*** I feel sure most of the people reading this commentary are aware that the "Word of God" is talking about Jesus Christ. We have the WRITEN Word, but we also have the LIVING word.

Hebrews 9:14 tells us that God the Holy Spirit is Eternal, *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

God the father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are the three members of the trinity. As you will see, they all three work together and co-operate as ONE. A good example of that is found in Matthew 28:19, where the ministry of baptism is explained, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* II Corinthians 13:14 verifies this same truth, *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, **be with you all.** Amen."*

Second: The Holy Spirit is Omniscient. The English word "omni-scient" is translated from
two Greek words. Omni means "All" and "Scient" means "knowledge." Together the word "Omniscient" means the Holy Spirit is "all knowledgeable."

I Corinthians 2:11-12 explains this truth,*" For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.** 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, **but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.***

In John 14:26 Jesus Himself testified to the Holy Spirit being "all knowledgeable," "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

If you go back to the Old Testament, Isaiah 11:2 also verifies that the Holy Spirit is all knowledgeable, *"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, **the spirit of knowledge** and of the fear of the LORD;* In John 14:17, the Holy Spirit is called by the name, *"the Spirit of truth."*

Third: The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent, which means "the Holy Spirit is ALL powerful." The Word of God in Genesis 1:1 uses the Hebrew word "elohiym" for God. The Hebrews word "elohiym" means "three or more persons." Genesis 1:1 says, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* That means "In the beginning God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit created the heaven and the earth. All three persons of the Trinity had a part in the creation of the heaven and the earth.

The Father: Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning, **God** created the heaven and the earth.*

The Son: John 1:1-3, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things were made by him**; and without him was not any thing made that was made."* "The Word" in this verse is referring to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit: Genesis 1:2, *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit** of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

Fourth: The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent. Again, the word "omni" means ALL. The two words together mean TO BE PRESENT IN ALL PLACES AT ALL TIMES. This means that the Holy Spirit is present with us at ALL TIMES!

John 14:17 says, *"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**"* The Holy Spirit dwells in us, which means He is present with us at ALL times.

I Corinthians 3:16 verifies the same truth, *"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."*

I Corinthians 6:19-20 says, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

The names which are used for the Holy Spirit support His Deity. There are at least 12 different names used for the Holy Spirit in the Bible:

1. My Spirit (Genesis 6:3)
2. The Spirit of God (II Chronicles 15:1)
3. The Breath of the Almighty (Job 32:8)
4. The Holy Spirit (Psalms 51:11)
5. The Spirit of the Lord... wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might.(Isaiah 11:2)
6. The Spirit of the Lord God (Isaiah 61:1)
7. The Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2)
8. The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)
9. The Spirit of Power (Romans 15:13)
10. The Spirit of our God (I Corinthians 6:11)

11. The Spirit of the living God (II Corinthians 3:3)
12. The Spirit of the Lord (II Corinthians 3:18)

LESSON # 2
A STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY

In Lesson # 1, we studied the part the Holy Spirit had in the creation of the heaven and the earth, so we will not repeat that here. Let's pick up from the part the Holy Spirit had in the creation of the heaven and earth and continue His part in the ministry.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN THE CREATION OF MAN
Genesis 1:26-27

*"And God said, Let **US** …* (The word US, meaning, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit)*… make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."*

Again, I am repeating, but I want to make sure you understand. The word "God" is translated from the Hebrew word, "elohiym" and it means "three or more people."

The Holy Spirit was THERE when you were created. Job 33:4 says, *"The **Spirit of God hath made me,** and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."*

John 1:1-10 is a long portion, but it clearly states that your Lord Jesus was also there, *" In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."*

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN THE WORD OF GOD

II Peter 1:19-21 tells us very clearly that the inspired Word of God was written under the divine leadership of the Holy Spirit,"

*"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake **as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**."*

The work of the Holy Spirit in inspiration is a COMPLETE WORK. Revelation 22:18-19 tells us that NOTHING can be taken away from it and NOTHING can be added to it. NOTHING means NOTHING! Not one word can be taken away or added to what the Holy Spirit inspired men to write in the Bible from the beginning of Genesis to the closing verse in Revelation,

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN SALVATION

Without The Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the people of the world are without hope. There would not be salvation without these two. I Peter 1:23 tells us the part the Word of God has in Salvation, *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, **but of incorruptible, by the word of God,** which liveth and abideth for ever.*

John 3:5 tells us the part the Holy Spirit has in salvation, *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water **and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

The Holy Spirit's part in salvation is a CONTINUING work. It continues from the day of salvation, until the day God calls us home, or we are caught up in the rapture. Philippians 1:6 tells us that Biblical truth, "*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you **will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**:"* meaning, **YOU CANNOT LOSE YOUR SALVATION,** as many teach.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN SANCTIFICATION

The Person of the Holy Spirit has a part in **Positional** Sanctification. In this lesson, we are studying the believer's POSITIONAL sanctification, which means the Holy Spirit "positionally" set us aside in the Body of Christ. Positional sanctification does not include the moral behavior. There is **Progressive** Sanctification where the Holy Spirit has a major part in us growing more spiritual and makes us more like Jesus every day (Romans 8:29). We will study that in a later lesson.

As for “positional sanctification” the English word “Sanctify” is translated from the Greek word, "Hagiazo" and has a twofold meaning. It means to (1) **make holy**, AND (2) to **set apart**. Positional Sanctification takes place at the time of your salvation. Positional sanctification is illustrated in I Corinthians 12:13 and 18. *"**For by one Spirit** are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit …..18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him" When you are baptized by the Holy Spirit, you are made a part of the Body of Christ.*

At that time, all believers are (1) make holy, and all believers are (2) set apart for the glory of God.

I Corinthians 6:19 tells us that we are no longer our own, but we become a part of the Body of Christ, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

The Bible tells us that this work is done by the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:16, *"That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."* II Thessalonians 2:13 confirms that Bible truth. " *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"*

Because you are not your own, and you have been bought with a price, and made part of the body of Christ, I Corinthians 10:31 tells you how you should live EVERY DAY ALL DAY*! "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Again, we will study "progressive sanctification" in a later lesson and will explain the difference between "positional and progressive sanctification." They both are the work of the Holy Spirit but apply to us in a much different manner.

LESSON #3
THE HOLY SPIRIT ORGANIZES THE LOCAL CHURCH
I Corinthians 12:1-9

According to Acts 2:1-4, the Apostles were all filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the first time in the New Testament that all saved people were filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. "

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE TO MAKE THE CHURCH FUNCTION AS GOD PLANNED.

I Corinthians 12:1-9 teaches us that the Holy Spirit was given control of the organization of the church by giving EVERY person in the church a spiritual gift,

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, ***but by the Holy Ghost.*** *4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are*

diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 ***But the manifestation <u>of the Spirit</u> is given to every man to profit withal****.*

First, let me explain that "spiritual gifts" are not natural abilities you are born with. Spiritual gifts are "super-natural gifts" which are given to every believer by the Holy Spirit at the time of their salvation! What is the purpose of every member of a church being given a spiritual gift? EVERY believer in every church is given a spiritual gift that EVERY other member of the church will profit by when using their gift.

SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

First: Spiritual gifts are **Sovereign Gifts**! The Holy Spirit selects the gift which is given to each believer in each church.

Second: Spiritual gifts are "**Spiritual Gifts**." They are not natural abilities with which a person is born. They are given to every believer by the Holy Spirit.

Third: Spiritual gifts are "**Salvation Gifts**." Every believer is given a spiritual gift at the time the Holy Spirit baptizes them into the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:14)

Fourth: Spiritual gifts are "**Super-Natural Gifts**." They are to be used in the super-natural power of the Holy Spirit. We will study that in detail in the next lesson.

Fifth: Spiritual gives are "**Service Gifts**." They are not given to a believer in order for them to personally profit from the gift, nor to draw attention to themselves. Verse 7 above, tells us that the gifts are given that “every person in the church will profit from the gift of others.”

The Holy Spirit of God is continually "organizing the local church" by giving gifts to new members after they are saved and join a local church.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are found basically in two different places in the Bible. We will look at both of them. Please keep in mind that every believer has one of these gifts.

Romans 12:6-8

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

1. The Gift of prophecy. The gift of prophecy in this context is not the gift of "fore telling" the future as the prophets did in the Old Testament. The New Testament gift of prophecy is fore telling the things found in Scripture. It is more like preaching.

2. The Gift of Ministry. The gift of ministry is somewhat misunderstood. When we say, "He is in the ministry, we are thinking of a pastor, assistant pastor, or music director. Strong's Greek Concordance gives the following definition of the word ministry. "…attending, as a servant, etc.; figuratively – aiding in some manner, officially or manually, as a "diaconate or deacon." They give relief and serve in any manner in which they are asked to serve. This can be anything from filling in as a teacher to cutting the grass at the church. Those with this gift are to save the pastor as much time as possible for him to pray and prepare to teach and preach.

3. The Gift of Teaching. The person who has the spiritual gift of teaching is motivated by "giving you the truths from the Bible." They are not primarily trying to motivate you but rather have a burden to teach the Bible in cold, hard facts, and make you clearly understand those truths.

4. The Gift of Exhorting. The person who has the spiritual gift of exhorting generally has one goal. Their goal is to motivate the people they are peaching to or talking to, to motivate them to live the very best Christian life they can possibly live.

5. The Gift of Giving. A person who has the gift of "giving/distributing funds" has great ability in making wise purchases and decisions in the overall use of church funds. They are also determined to "get the most for the money." They seem to make a dollar go farther than normal. Their motive is to be sure the money they distribute will be invested wisely and there will be a good return on the investment on behalf of the church.

6. The Gift of Ruling. Again, there is a misunderstanding concerning what the word "ruleth" meant in 1611 and what it means today, in 2025. The gift of "ruleth" does not mean someone who is in the church will be ruling over the church. As you know, the pastor is the primary ruler or leader in the church. It means the pastor and/or biblical leaders in the church have asked or appointed someone in the church to "over-see, supervise or rule over" a particular project in the church. When appointed, that person will "rule, oversee, or supervise" that project. A pastor and leaders will always pick a person in whom they have seen the ability to "lead and supervise" such projects. The pastor sees that gift in people, and he then asks them to "lead, supervise or oversee" a certain project.

7. The Gift of Mercy. Some tend to think of this gift as a gift of weakness. It is not! Also, it is not a gift which is given only to women, as some think or tell us. This is the last gift in the list of seven. God no doubt put it last to illustrate that it is the gift which applies to all of the other six gifts. In my opinion, every Christian should have godly mercy in their life. We would be in serious trouble if every member of a church did not have mercy one for another. However, the scripture tells us that God has given a special gift of mercy to some members of every church. They are sometimes difficult to identify, because generally they prefer to use their gift of mercy to work "behind the scenes" and do not like to be recognized.

I Corinthians 12:7-11

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is ***given by the Spirit*** *the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge* ***by the same Spirit****; 9*

*To another faith **by the same Spirit;** to another the gifts of healing **by the same Spirit**; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But **all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit**, dividing to every man severally **as he will**."*

Before we list and briefly explain the gifts in these verses, let me call to your attention that some of the gifts listed in these verses CEASED when the apostles died, or have been covered in Romans 12:6-8, and the scriptures were complete. Those are: healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. Following is a list of spiritual gifts in these verses that continue until today. I will not comment or try to explain the gifts, as they vary too much to explain in a brief manner.

1. The Gift of Wisdom.
2. The Gift of Knowledge
3. The Gift of Faith
4. The Gift of Discerning of spirits

Brief Methods of Determining Which Gifts You Have.

First: You can generally determine which gift you have by "what motivates" you the strongest. What ministry do you truly enjoy doing in your church. I personally believe the Holy Spirit gives you a "WANT TO" in your heart that goes along with the gift He gave you.

Second: You can study and examine the "characteristics" of each of the gifts, pray and ask God for wisdom to know your gift.

I will not cover the characteristics here as it is a long study. However, if you have the true desire to study and know your gift, I have written a complete commentary on the subject, SPIRITUAL GIFTS. That commentary is posted on the website Fundamental Baptist World Wide Mission. These studies are free and can be easily downloaded and printed. I will give you directions below to locate the study, along with many other studies.

TEACHING MATERIALS, FREE DOWNLOADS SUNDAY SCHOOLS – AND DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS

These materials were developed and uploaded on the Mission website to fulfill II Timothy 2:2.

*"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, - - - **who shall be able to teach others also."***

These studies were developed by Dr. Ernest Gambrell who has over 55 years of experience in world missions.

The Following books and subjects are complete, uploaded, and available for use.

Subjects	Number of Lessons	Subjects	Number of Lessons
1. Ephesians	25	1. Calvinism	6
2. Philippians	18	2. Eschatology	18
3. Revelations	31	3. King James Bible	15
4. Romans	27	4. No, Nos for Christians	4
5. Jude (First 7 verses)	5	5. Security of the Believer	6
6. Nehemiah	17	6. Stewardship	4
7. Genesis (First 11 Cpts.)	14	7. Spiritual Gifts	9
8. Joshua	20	8. Marriage	13
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LESSON #4
THE POWER GIVEN TO BELIEVERS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
Matthew 28:18

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

In these verses Jesus said, *"ALL power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* That is UNLIMITED POWER! Now, I realize that Jesus Christ is GOD IN THE FLESH! No one can possibly have any more power than God the Father. ALSO, stay with me now, as I want to share a thought or two with you that no one can totally understand other than God. All of you know what the trinity is. The trinity is made up of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three of the persons that make up the trinity have ALL power. However, for a reason known only by the three members of the trinity, God the Father before the foundation of the world along with the other two members of the trinity, put together a plan that they would use concerning how they would bless and use man on the earth, and especially in the church. I am saying that to say this, each of the three members of the trinity are equal and have equal power, BUT their plan was that each of the three members of the trinity would have a certain responsibility. Why did they do that? They did that in order for each member to have part in my life and your life! PLEASE keep that in mind. Also, I am IN NO WAY EXALTING one member above or more powerful than the other. All I can say is that those three members of the trinity planned it that way. If you still want to know why, you will have to ask them when you get to heaven!

You saw in the verses above that Jesus said, *"All power **is given unto me** in heaven and in earth."* As you know, Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity. However, Jesus came to the earth and took on the form of a man. I have a question for us to think about. Who gave Jesus that power? He said in the verse above, that "*all power IS GIVEN unto me…"* You may never have thought about this, but the Bible is clear that God the Father gave Jesus the power to do all that He did while He was on the earth in the form of a man, **through the Holy Spirit.** Let's look at several verses from the Bible that strongly indicate that Jesus was GIVEN that power! He apparently did not use His power as the Son of God but rather was empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35 tells us that the Holy Spirit bequeathed Jesus, *"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."*

Acts 10:38 tells us that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."*

Luke 3:21-22 tells us that the Holy Ghost descended on Him at His baptism, *"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."*

Luke 4:1 tells us that Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and was **LED** by the Spirit, *"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,"*

Luke 4:14 tells us that after Jesus defeated the devil, He returned to Galilee in the power of the spirit, "*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about."*

Luke 4:18 tells us that Jesus preached in the power of the Spirit, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"*

Matthew 12:22-28 tells us that Jesus cast out devils by the Power of the Holy Spirit, *"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. 25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? 27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."*

Hebrews 9:14 tells us that Jesus offered Himself up by the power of the Spirit, *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

Romans 8:11 tells us that the Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead! *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."*

THE POWER THAT THE HOLLY SPIRIT GIVES TO BELIEVERS

First: The Holy Spirit gives believers the power to study God's Word. II Timothy 2:15 gives the statement, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*." Then John 16:13-14 tells us that as we study, the Holy Spirit will guide us and teach us all things, *"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. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."*

Second: The Holy Spirit gives believers the power to pray. Romans 8:26-27 tells us of that truth, *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Third: The Holy Spirit gives believers the power to witness. Acts 1:8 tells us that we have that power, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* I might mention this also, the Greek word which is translated "witness" is "Martus," which is also translated "Martyr," meaning "Willing to die for." Therefore, this verse means that because we have the power to witness, we also have the power of the Holy Spirit "and we should be willing to die in order to witness for Jesus Christ."

Fourth: The Holy Spirit gives the believers the power to Teach God's Word. In love! Ephesians 4:15 says, "*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"* John 14:26 tells us that is done by the power of the Spirit, *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

That is a pattern for believers to follow. II Timothy 2:2 gives believers a great responsibility. The Holy Spirit teaches us, and we have the responsibility to teach others, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" That means that ANY TIME we have the opportunity to share a truth from the Word of God, we should do that because God gave us the power of the Holy Spirit to do so.

Fifth: The Holy Spirits gives believers the power to Glorify God in ALL we do. I Corinthians 10:31 tells us to GLORIFY GOD in ALL we do, *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* Eating and drinking are the BASICS of life! If God's word tells us to glorify Him in the VERY basics of life, then we should glorify God in EVERYTHING we do that comes after eating and drinking!

Sixth: The Holy Spirit gives believers the power to have Victory in our daily life. Romans 15:13 tells us this truth, *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit has "unlimited" power. He uses that power to enable you and me to serve Jesus Christ. II Timothy 1:7 tells us this, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

AN OLD TESTAMENT PICTURE OF THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the Old Testament Tabernacle the "Candlestick" in the Holy Place, which is a picture of the New Testament church, **is a symbol or picture of the Holy Spirit**." As you think about the Holy Spirit, let me point out several things in the Candlestick.

Frist: The "Candlestick" was made of PURE GOLD! There was no wood in the candlestick, which means there was NO HUMANITY in the Candlestick. That means God does not need our help. The Candlestick is the only piece of furniture in the Holy Place that did not have any wood in it. The Table of Shewbread and the Brazan Altar both had wood in them. Why is this important? Wood in the other pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle pictures "humanity." There is NO HUMANITY in the Holy Spirit.

Second: The Candlestick is the one piece of furniture in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle which had "No measurements." That tells us that it had UNLIMITED power in every direction

As you know, the Holy Spirit dwells IN US, and the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit is available to every believer. Zechariah 4:6 tells us of the power, *"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit,** saith the LORD of hosts.*

The early disciples of Jesus Christ received that power in Acts 2:4a which tells us they received that power, *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost…"* That was about 33 AD. About 20 years later, about 53 AD, Acts 17:6 tells us how those early disciples used that power, *"And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, **These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;"*** You, as a believer, have that same power as the early disciples. Please think about and pray about letting God use you as He did those early disciples. The Holy Spirit HAS NOT CHANGED!

Who were those early disciples? They were Paul and Silas, a multitude, and many women. (Acts 17:4). They were *"filled with the Holy Spirit."* If that group turned the world upside down, you and your church have the same power. "If every member was filled with the Holy Spirit, and used it, you can still turn the church upside down."

I John 14:12, God gave us this promise, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."*

LESSON #5
THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Part #1
Ephesians 5:18

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Introduction: There are two types of believers. There are "spiritual Christians" who live, walk, and obey Jesus Christ. There are also "carnal Christians." They are saved and going to go heaven when they die, but they do not live their life to honor Jesus Christ. This is declared in I Corinthians 3:1, *"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal,*

even as unto babes in Christ." Some assume Paul was writing to some that were "lost and some that were saved" but according to the Scriptures, that is clearly not correct. Paul referred to them as "brethren" and also as "babes in Christ." In I Corinthians 1:2, Paul states that he is writing to *"...the church of God which is at Corinth, to* ***them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints..."***

The carnal Christian is saved, but he is controlled by his "flesh and by his own self-desires." A spiritual Christian is one who is "filled with and is controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. In Galatians 5:16-17, Paul gives us an example of those:

"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."

In Romans 7:13-25, Paul gives his testimony as an "example, *"Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24* ***O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."***

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit, being the most neglected Person in the New Testament, has caused a great deal of confusion and misunderstandings. Therefore, we will begin our study by looking at...

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST
What the "Filling of the Spirit" IS NOT!

The "filling of the Spirit" is not the same as "the baptism" of the Holy Spirit. The first mention of "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" is in Acts 1:5. The word "baptize" in the Greek is: Baptizo: meaning "to immerse." There is no record of anyone being "baptized by the Holy Spirit" until this verse. Acts 1:5 is a fulfillment of Matthew 3:11. The "baptism of the Holy Ghost" makes us "a part of the body of Christ." This has NOTHING to do with being "**filled"** and controlled by the Spirit.

The **baptism** of the Holy Ghost/Spirit takes place at the time of salvation. At that time the Holy Ghost does three things:

1. A new believer is "baptized" into the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:18 tells us this position, *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."*

2. A new believer is "indwelt" by the Holy Ghost. Romans 8:9 tells is we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

3. A new believer is "sealed" by the Holy Ghost. Ephesians 1:13 tells us that we are SEALED by the Holy Spirit, *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"*

NONE of these have been sought by any believer at the time of salvation. No one has ever been commanded to be indwelt, sealed, and baptized into the body of Christ. Receiving Christ is all that is needed to be indwelt, sealed, and baptized. The "baptism" of the Holy Spirit is our "**Position**" in Christ. This ministry of the Holy Spirit is "once - for all - forever!" It cannot be repeated! We become a part of the body of Christ.

There are "two results" of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: **First**, the baptizing establishes our union with Christ. Over 70 times it is said that a believer is "In Christ." (I Corinthians . 6:15 and Galatians 3:27). There is a unique "oneness" between Christ and a believer (John 14:20). **Second,** the baptism establishes the "unity" of all believers (I Corinthians 12:27), "*...are one body in Christ, and EVERY one members one of another"* (Romans 12:5). Believers had NO PART in making this amazing unity happen. However, every believer has A PART in "keeping that unity" (Ephesians 4:3). Nowhere in past dispensations is "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" mentioned!

OUR PRACTICE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 5:18

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

What the Filling of the Spirit REALLY IS!

The "filling" of the Holy Ghost is first mentioned in Acts 2:4, which says, *"And they were all **filled** with the Holy Ghost …"* The word "filled" in the Greek is "Pletro". It means "to be controlled by and dominated by the Spirit." Therefore, "filling of the Holy Spirit" means that the life of a Christian "is controlled and dominated" by the Holy Spirit.

The scripture gives us an analogy that I am sure most people can understand. It compares a person being "controlled by wine" to a person being controlled by the Holy Spirit. When a person is "drunk" they are **controlled** by what they are filled with, which the Bible say is "wine!" Wine would include beer, whiskey, or other intoxicating drinks.

When the Father sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, God had a "plan and a purpose." God's plan was that we would be **"controlled by the Spirit"** meaning every believer would be dominated by the Spirit and therefore would be obedient to God's purpose for us. God's primary

purpose for us is that we would "be a witness to Him." Acts 1:8 gives us God's primary purpose, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

A "Spirit-filled life" is simply the life of a Christian allowing the Holy Spirit to lead, control their mind, their feelings, and allowing Him to guide them in every decision they make. That person is "**controlled and dominated**" by the Holy Spirit who dwells in them. That person will **think like Christ thinks, act like Christ acts, and make decisions like Christ would make, and be** under the control of a PERSON who lives in them, the Holy Spirit!

Here is a daily illustration of allowing the Holy Spirit to control us. When you are out in the public, possibly Walmart, Lowes, or some other store, the Holy Spirit will "impress your heart" to give a gospel tract to a CERTAIN person. If you are IMPRESSED to do so, that means God has prepared the heart of the other person to receive the gospel tract. Your response may lead to that person's salvation. NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY. That is you, allowing the Holy Spirit to control and dominate you. If you do not follow His leading - you are in disobedience to God.

LESSON #6
THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Part #2
Ephesians 5:18

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

First: Let me start by saying the filling of the Holy Spirit **IS NOT A ONCE FOR ALL EXPERIENCE!** The verb "filled" in the verse above is in the present tense. The phrase literally means "being filled continuous" with the Spirit. The first group of disciples who were "filled" with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 was again filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 4:31, *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were **all filled** with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."*

The apostle Paul was "filled with the Holy Spirit" shortly after he was saved in Acts 9:17, *"And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be **filled** with the Holy Ghos*t." It is recorded in Acts 13:9 that Paul was filed with the Holy Spirit again, *"Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,)* ***filled with the Holy Ghost****, set his eyes on him,"*

The Bible strongly indicates that being "filled" with the Holy Spirit is a "daily need and transaction," and should be done EVERY morning before you start your day. In I Corinthians 15:31 Paul made this statement, *"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord,* **I die daily.**" Again, in Galatians 2:20 Paul strongly indicated that he died daily and was living in the power of the Holy Spirit each day, every day. Galatian 2:20 says, *"I am crucified with*

Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Please allow me to make a suggestion, one which I have tried to live by for over 60 years. Somewhere along in my life, I realized that I could be walking with Christ and He was on the throne of my heart **all day long** and I was rejoicing. However, the day came when I realized that I went to bed at night with Christ on the throne of my heart, but while I slept my old nature and flesh would wake up and "kick Christ off the throne of my heart," and my old flesh would sit back down on the throne. When I woke up, my old flesh was wanting to have everything it's way!

My suggestion is that each morning when you wake up, but BEFORE you get out of bed and start your day, you should take a few minutes to go to God in prayer. Ask Him to HELP you "die to self" BEFORE you get out of your bed that morning, and to "fill you with the Holy Spirit." Make the commitment to God the Father that you are going to allow the Holy Spirit to control your life for the entire day. Amen and Amen! I am not perfect or anything close to perfect but practicing that has GREATLY changed my life. Please try it!

Second: We must realize that because Jesus Christ died on the Cross in our place, we must realize that we are "dead to sin." Let me share three or four Bible verses that tell us that we should be "dead to sin."

Romans 6:1-2 says, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"*

Romans 6:6 says, *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."*

Romans 6:7 says, *"For he that is dead is freed from sin."*

Romans 6:11 says, *" Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Romans 6:14-15 says, *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."*

Third: You and I are to die to self daily. Romans 12:1-2 tells us this truth VERY clearly, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice,** holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Before moving on, I want to make a point of something that you already know. A person who presents his body as a living sacrifice has died. A person who has died to self, CAN NOT MAKE DECISIONS! I am repeating the verse, but this is the personal testimony of the Apostle Paul, who was one of THE BEST Christians recorded in the Bible. In Galatians 2:20 Paul gives us

his testimony, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* That should be my testimony. That should be your testimony. That SHOULD BE the testimony of EVERY Christian. Try to imagine what the world would be like today if that was the testimony of every Christian!!!

Fourth: You and I, as Christians, must be obedient to God and we must walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 gives us that commandment, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* God also gave us a commandment concerning how we should walk in I Peter 1:15 which says, *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"*

Fifth: A Christian must honestly desire to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. God has a goal for every Christian, and our goal should be exactly like God's goal. God's goal for you and me is found in Romans 8:29 which says, *"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."* Let me ask you a question. Is it your desire and goal to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ every day of your life? If it is, you should die to self every morning before you get out of bed and start your day.

LESSON #7
THE DANGERS OF LOSING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PART ONE
YOU CAN GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.
Ephesians 4:30

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

The Greek word from which the English word grieve is translated is: 'Lupeo.' It means when one person loves another person, and the other person does something which 'hurts' that person, the person who loves them is grieved. I said that to say, the Holy Spirit of God LOVES YOU WITH ALL HIS HEART. All of us need to remember that truth. He TRULY LOVES US WITH ALL HIS HEART! Therefore, the Holy Spirit IS GRIEVED when you commit some sin because He knows it is going to break your fellowship with him and with God. He knows you are going to lose the blessing of God on your life.

Any sin, be it large or small in the life of a Christian, will ALWAYS grieve the Holy Spirit. It hurts Him when He sees you sin against your Lord Jesus who loves you and died on the cross for you. Ephesians 4:23:32 has a list of things which will ALWAYS grieve the Holy Spirit who loves us.

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that

stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 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. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." These verses list at least ten sins that will grieve the Holy Spirit. As you read, please notice that most of these things have to do with the lips and the heart since this has to do with personal sins.

a. *"Wherefore putting away lying..."* (Verse 25).
b. *"Be ye angry and sin not..."* (Verse 26).
c. *"Neither give place to the devil"* (Verse 27).
d. *"Let him that stole steal no more"* (Verse 28).
e. *"Let him labour with his hands the thing which is good"* (Verse 28).
f. *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth"* (Verse 29).
g. "*Minister grace unto the hearers"* (Verse 29).
h. *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger...be put away"* (Verse 31).
i. *"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted..."* (Verse 32).
j. *"Forgiving one another..."* (Verse 32).

It is saying that a Christian should not do anything that would cause another Christian to be hurt. We should love our brethren in Christ just as Christ loves us. WE SHOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT OR OFFEND ANOTHER BROTHER!

If you do slip and hurt another brother, the Holy Spirit will convict you and will immediately do all possible to lead you to be sorry for the sin, repent, ask forgiveness, and go make it right with you brother.

Galatians 5:16-17 warns us to NEVER continue in our sin and not repent and seek God's forgiveness, *"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." This means that you cannot be used of God in any manner - unless you repent! You have grieved the Holy Spirit.*

THE DANGERS OF LOSING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PART TWO
YOU CAN QUENCH THE HOLY SPIRIT.
I Thessalonians 5:9

"Quench not the Spirit."

This is a VERY serious matter. The Greek word from which the English word quench is translated is, "Sbennumi." The original Greek word means "to **extinguish**." A simpler explanation might be to "throw a bucket of water on a fire!"

The Holy Spirit is quenched when there is the KNOWN PRACTICE OF SIN IN THE CHURCH, and it is tolerated and IS NOT dealt with. When that happens, the Holy Spirit is quenched, and the entire church is affected.

Revelation 2:1-5 gives us a picture of this type of sin in a church. *"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4* ***Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love****. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;* ***or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent***. Let me add one quick, but VERY IMPORTANT point before moving on and explaining the "quenching" of the Holy Spirit! In verse one, we see that God addressed this problem to *"the angel of the church at Ephesus."* I pointed that out to say that the Greek word for angel is "messenger." In our understanding today, the
"messenger" of the church is the pastor. The PASTOR is responsible for all that goes on in his church.

In the above scriptures God commended the church for their works. He commends them for eight things they were doing which were well pleasing to God. HOWEVER, following that He said, "*I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."* The one thing God had against the church was that **they had left their first love.** That was a VERY SERIOUS SIN!

What did God mean when He said, "you have left your first love?" Please notice that God DID NOT SAY they did not love Him. He said, you have left your "**first love**." What is "first love." First love is like when a young man meets a young lady. They court for a while, fall in love, and the young man asks the young lady to marry him. They are married and **the honeymoon** begins! At that time, which is the time of first love, there is NOT ANYTHING THAT YOUNG MAN WOULD NOT DO FOR HIS WIFE. He would give her anything she wanted and do anything for her that she asked him to do. He would give her "his very last dollar" if it would please her, and he would count it a blessing. That is the type of love God was referring to when He said, "first love."

When by faith you first trusted Christ as your savior, I feel sure each of you would do anything you could for Jesus Christ. You were on the "Honeymoon." However, as all of you know, many times "the honeymoon gets over!" That is what God had against the church at Ephesus. They did not love him like they did when they first got saved. They were A WORKING church, but WORK DOES NOT REPLACE "FIRST LOVE!" NEVER! When the believers in the church at Ephesus first started, they were on the HONEYMOON and would DO ANYTHING or GIVE ANYTHING, but sad to say if you study the book of Ephesians you will find that they failed and did not give Jesus first place in their life!

After they left their "first love" God said if you do not repent, confess your sin, and return to your first love, I will "REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK OUT OF HIS PLACE!" God was referring back to the Old Testament Tabernacle and the "candlestick" in the Holy Place which is a picture of the New Testament church. The "candlestick" is a symbol or picture of the Holy Spirit. It gave off light and had no measurements, which means UNLIMITED POWER! This is a picture of the Holy Spirit being extinguished or a "bucket of water being thrown on the fire" that at one time was a great power in the church at Ephesus. They did not repent! If you study the history of the church at Ephesus, the church died a short time later. Why? Because they quenched the Holy Spirit.

There is one more reason, which I personally believe is causing churches today to quench the Holy Spirit, and are losing His power. People in the ministry today, especially pastors, evangelist, and missionaries, and people who are in the full-time ministry, are "exalting themselves and exalting their church and their ministry." In II Corinthians 4:7 Paul declared this, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, **and not of us**.* "How many times have you heard a pastor, an evangelist, or a missionary in the ministry say something like this? "God used me in a great way." When they say that, what are they doing? **They are exalting themselves and are trying to draw attention TO THEMSELVES and THEIR ministry.**

We see in III John 1:9-11 that churches had that problem, AND we see how the apostle John told the church how he would deal with that problem when he visited them, *"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. 11 Beloved, **follow not** that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.*

I Corinthians 1:29-32 says, *"That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

No where that I know of in the Scripture do we hear Moses say, "God used me in a great way!" Joshua never said, "God used me in a great way!" Paul, in II Corinthians 4:7, referred to his ministry for God, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, **and not of us**."* Beware of taking ANY TYPE OF CREDIT for what God does through you!

Jesus even applied this to "praying long prayers for the praise of men. *"Matthew 6:5 says, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen of men**. Verily I say unto you, **They have their reward.**"* What was their reward" They were seen and praised by men! They were calling attention to themselves!

In John 15:5 Jesus said, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."* What does the verse

teach us? It teaches us that without Jesus you and I can do nothing --- ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! Let me ask you a question. If you and I can do absolutely nothing without Christ, why do we think we can take ANY credit for anything? You may receive many rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, but if you do what you do "to draw attention to yourself or your ministry," Jesus said you have your reward. What is that reward? It was the praise of man! What will you have in Heaven? NOTHING! God does not share His glory with ANY man for ANY reason. If you take credit or call attention to yourself you will **quench the Holy Spirit**!

I Corinthians 1:26-29 tells us the type of person God has chosen to serve Him. There are three types of men God does not use, and five categories of men in these verses that **God has chosen to use.** *"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the **(1) foolish things of the world** to confound the wise; and God hath chosen **the (2) weak things of the world** to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And **(3) base things of the world**, and (4) **things which are despised, hath God chosen**, yea, and (5) **things which are not,** to bring to nought things that are: 29 **That no flesh should glory in his presence."***

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
I Corinthians 10:31

LESSON #8
THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are at least two effects of a person being filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit. We will study both of those in this lesson.

THE RESULT OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
Ephesians 5:18-25

*"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to **yourselves** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"*

Before we begin with this first study, let me give you the true meaning of the word FILLED. The word filled comes from the Greek word "Pleroo." It is an imperative, which means it is in the command form. That means it is NOT our choice to make. Also, it is in the present tense which means it is a CONTINUING ACTION! That means that EVERY Christian should continue to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, EVERY day ALL day. If a Christian is under the control of the Holy Spirit, they will be a completely different person. You will find it easy to attempt and accomplish things you have never done before. Also, the change in your life will be

SEEN by others around you. II Corinthians 5:17 tells that truth, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* You will know it and others will see it in your life.

Four Major Results of Being Controlled by The Holy Spirit

First: A Christian who is controlled by the Holy Spirit will live a Victorious Christian life. Verse 19 pictures a "rejoicing Christian." The verse says, " *Speaking to **yourselves** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"* The word "*yourselves*" is plural, meaning there were numbers of Christians singing together and singing to each other. Also, they were singing hymns and spiritual songs in their hearts. In doing so, they were worshipping Christ in their hearts and lives. Please do not forget, God is a Spirit. The only true worship is done "in spirit and in truth." Every Christian should be memorizing some of the great hymns and songs and taking them with them everywhere we go, including to bed with you at night! You can sing yourself to sleep!

Second: A Christian who is controlled by the Holy Spirit will be continually giving thanks to God for all things. Verse 20 says, " *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;* " I Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to give thanks to God, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* Every Christian, if they are filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, will gladly give thanks to God in everything. We should give thanks for all things, based on a promise God made to us in Romans 8:28, *"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."*

Christians should "give thanks to God" even when we are going through a storm. PLEASE STOP and read Acts Chapter 27. Paul was put on board a ship headed to Rome and was expecting to possibly be put to death. Verse 14 says, *"But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon."* Euroclydon was the name for the worst storms ever recorded at that time. Paul spent 14 days going through that storm, plus the storm he was facing in Rome. However, if you go to Verse 35 you see that Paul gathered everyone on the ship together and he "Gave thanks to God." Why and how was Paul able to do that? He gave thanks to God because he knew that God was in charge of ALL things, and he believed the promise of God that "all things work together for good." You and I have that same promise, therefore we should be giving thanks to God in spite of the circumstances.

Third: A Christian who is controlled by the Holy Spirit, will always be a submitting Christian. Being controlled by the Holy Spirit and being a "submitting" Christian is further explained in Philippians 2:3, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than themselves.**"* This is God's plan for keeping unity in the church.

I know of several churches over the years that suffered greatly because the church had a few people who were proud and had a haughty spirit, instead of being filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit. I personally know of one man who was one of those who was proud and haughty. He always thought he knew better than anyone else. Every time he was in a class and someone else was teaching, HE would boldly say something to this effect, "I should be up on the platform

teaching in place of that person. I know much more about the subject than that man does." Today, he is still alive, but according to Proverbs 16:18 has been "bed-bound" and suffering for several years. *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."* God continued the matter of submitting ourselves one to another and applied it to marriage.

Fourth: Christian men and women who are controlled by the Holy Spirit will enjoy a happy and successful marriage. Please go back to the text and reread verses 22-25. Verse 22 says, "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."* PLEASE NOTICE that it says, "… AS UNTO THE LORD!" **God does not expect a wife to submit to her husband if he is lost or in the flesh and wants to go out and drink a beer, or any other thing, if it cannot be done for the glory of God**. I Corinthians 10:31 clearly tells a wife that she cannot or should not do anything her husband wants her to do, if it cannot be done for the glory of God, *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

God continues by telling a husband HOW he is to love his wife, "*Husbands, love your wives, even **as Christ also loved the church**, and gave himself for it;"* Through the years. I have heard men talking together and one of the men would say: "You need to be very careful about loving your wife. You can LOVE HER TOO MUCH and she will take advantage of you!" If ANY man thinks he can love his wife more that Jesus Christ loves the church, he is putting himself on a pretty high level. Jesus Christ hung on a cross, DIED "and gave himself for it, the "church." A husband who is filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit will be willing to die for his wife. Then, they will enjoy the most successful and happy marriage possible. If a husband will do everything he does for the glory of God, and if a wife will do everything she does for the glory of God, they will be happily married for a lifetime.

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ILLUSTRATED

According to Acts 2:4 the early disciples were filled, meaning they were controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, *"….And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost…*" That same day, Peter preached the first message preached after men had been filled with the Holy Spirit. The results are recorded in Acts 2:41, *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about **three thousand souls**."* A few days later Peter preached a second message. Those results are recorded in Acts 4:4, *"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was **about five thousand**.*

A short time later, in Acts 4:5-12 Peter and John preached the Gospel to the Sanhedrin. Verse 8 says Peter was filled with the Spirit. After Peter preached, the Sanhedrin COMMANDED the disciples not to ever preach in the name of Jesus again. Peter and John returned to the other disciples, shared what had happened and how they were commanded not to preach in Jesus' name. However, in Verse 31, Peter, John and the disciples prayed as a group. That verse gives us the results of them praying together, *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."* Today, we still serve the SAME GOD as they served. If God, through the power of the Holy Spirit did that for them, God will so the same for you and me today!

LESSON #9
THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Galatians 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."

Before we begin the study let me say, DO NOT get confused by thinking that the fruit of the Spirit is the same as the "gifts of the Spirit." They are not! They are TOTALLY different. The "gifts of the Spirit" is talking about "spiritual gifts" which the Holy Spirit gives us to serve. The "fruit of the Spirit" is talking about "spiritual graces" which flow from the Holy Spirit to conform us to be more and more like Jesus Christ. Please remember this as you see in the verse above, the word "fruit" is singular. Following that word, there are nine graces that the Holy Spirit gives us. PLEASE NOTE: The Holy Spirit is not NINE different persons. The Holy Spirit is "one person" who gives us "one fruit." There is but ONE fruit which the Holy Spirit gives us when we are filled with His presences, and we allow him to control our Christian life. The FRUIT of the Spirit is divided into three different categories which are attributes that he gives us to live our Christian life and to glorify God. Those three categories are:

1. Love, Joy and Peace - These are between us and God.
2. Longsuffering, Gentleness and Goodness - These are between us and others.
3. Faith, Meekness, and Temperance - These are attributes that apply to us personally.

When we are "filled and controlled "by the Holy Spirit, all nine of the nine attributes will show in our lives. These nine attributes daily make us more and more like Jesus Christ, which according to Romans 8:29 is God's purpose for us, *"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."* If you are "filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit" you will become more like Jesus Christ every day. If you are not "filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit" you WILL NEVER be like Jesus Christ! SAD!

THE FIRST THREE CATEGORIES OF THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Love - Joy - Peace
The Relationship Between Us and God

Love: This word "love" is not a common everyday word which people of the world use in common everyday life. Through the years I have heard people say, "I love my dog, or I love watermelon." True love, Agapa love can NEVER be applied to a dog or watermelon! The Greek word in Galatians 5:22 is the word "Agape." It means the exact same type of love God had and has for you and me when He gave his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and pay our sin debt so we could be saved and go to Heaven. This is a word that is VERY difficult for you and me to understand. I John 4:16 says, *"God **IS** Love!"* He proved that love for you and me, which is clearly stated in Romans 5:8, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Again, "Agape" love is something our finite minds cannot fully understand,

but WE SHOULD DAILY TRY TO HAVE THAT TYPE OF LOVE! Ephesians 3:19 says, *"And to know the love of Christ, **which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*

This type of love is possible, BUT it is only possible when you are willing to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, who is the true Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the only way possible for you or me to love and to show that type of love to others. I encourage you to present your body a living sacrifice and be filled with the Holy Spirit and live in the love of God which passeth knowledge!

Joy: The word "joy" is translated from the Greek word "Chara." The meaning of the word is "exceedingly cheerful, calmly delighted, and having gladness in all things." Having the "Joy of the Lord" in you, only comes from the Lord. John 15:11 says, *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."* We are commanded to rejoice in I Thessalonians 5:15-16, *"See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. 16 Rejoice evermore."*

There is a great benefit in having the "Joy of the Lord." Nehemiah 8:10 tells us, *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."* It is HIS joy that is OUR strength. I understand that this is difficult at times and especially in the world in which we live. As we serve the Lord and live for Him, there can be some very difficult times and circumstances. I assure you that I have been there, done that, and feel sure you have also. However, if we are under the control of the Holy Spirit, we know and believe the promise of God in Romans 8:28 where God promised us that, *"WE KNOW that all things work together for good…."* KNOWING that, we should be able to rejoice in the Lord and in return God will give us HIS strength. Psalms 5:11 tells us basically the same thing, *"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."*

Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us that JESUS did this and set the example and pattern for us to follow, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

The apostle Paul, in my opinion, went through more trials and tribulations than anyone in the New Testament, yet he continued to believe and trust in the promises of God. Acts 20:24 testifies to that truth in Paul's life, "*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course **with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."* Paul again gives testimony of the joy of the Lord in II Corinthians 7:4, "*Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding **joyfu**l in all our tribulation."* I am sharing this again, God said it, that settles it, and we should believe it, *"we know that all things work together for good…*" If you want "joy" you can have it! It is your choice! Die to self and be filled with the Holy Spirit and it is yours!

Peace: This "peace" IS NOT the same as the "peace WITH God!" Having peace WITH God is accomplished at the time of salvation. Romans 5:1 clearly tells us that the "peace with God" comes through being justified by faith in Jesus Christ by His dying on the cross and paying our sin debt, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"* That is the ONLY WAY a person can have peace WITH God. This study concerning "peace" is referring to the "Peace OF God." John declared this TREMENDOUSLY in John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

This peace is the "peace **of** God" that He gives you and me every day of our life as we live in a wicked and ungodly world but are controlled by the Holy Spirit. We are to keep our minds on the love, joy, and the peace each day, and trust the promises of God. In Philippians 4:5-7 Paul gives us a brief but clear explanation of the peace OF God. Those verses say, *"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*. 7 *And the **peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus***. We simply keep the promises God has given us in our heart and in our minds and God will give us peace which passeth ALL understanding! HUMANLY SPEAKING, THIS IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE that in a world such as we live in today, we can have PERFECT peace that passes ALL understating.

Colossians 3:12-17 gives us a pattern to follow in order to have the "peace OF God" in our life, every day, all day. Those verses say, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. {quarrel: or, complaint} 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 **And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,** to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. "*

Before closing and moving to the next three attributes of the fruit of the Spirit, let me share two other portions of scripture from the Old Testament which will help and encourage you to trust in God with all your heart.

First: Isaiah 26:3 says, *"Thou wilt **keep him in perfect peace,** whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."*

Second: Proverbs 2:5 and 6 says, *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

I remind you that you are IN CHRIST, and a part of HIS body. Now, knowing all these things from the Bible, let me ask you a question. Those things being true, **what do you have to worry about** if you truly present your body a living sacrifice, die to self and turn your life over to

God, enjoy the love of God, the joy of the Lord, and have the peace of God in your heart and your entire life?

THE SECOND THREE CATEGORIES OF THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Longsuffering - Gentleness - Goodness
This is the relationship between us and other people.

Longsuffering: The word "longsuffering" means to be patient, be calm, and to act slowly. Ephesians 4:2 tells us that we are to be "longsuffering" with one another, *"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"*

Longsuffering describes our Heavenly Father. He was "slow to anger" toward Israel when they refused to obey His commandments. Nehemiah 9:17 says, *"And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: <u>but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.</u>*

This means that every Christian should be longsuffering with every other Christian. Colossians 3:13 tells us to be longsuffering with one another, *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."* The word "forbearing" means to put up with what you do not like in another brother in Christ. This is particularly true of believers who are members of the same church as this is a major means of keeping unity in a church, which God has commanded us to do. Let me share a couple of verses from the Old Testament which have to do with unity. Proverbs 15:18 tells us, *"A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."* Another verse is Proverbs 19:11 that tells us that we glorify God when we are longsuffering and do all possible to keep unity in the church and in the body of Christ, *"The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and **it is his glory to pass over a transgression.**"*

Today, too many members in churches attack and criticize other members with whom they disagree. Forbearing one another is to be done with love. I AM EXTREMELY THANKFUL THAT GOD WAS FORBEARING AND LONGSUFFERING with me! If He had not been, I would not be here today serving Him. Are you thankful God was forbearing with you? Are you thankful that He was longsuffering with you? If you are, please follow the pattern God followed in loving and forbearing you, and then, in love, be forbearing and longsuffering with other brethren in your church. This is only possible when we are "filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit of God!" Let's be like God for other people so we can show the world what God is like.

<u>Gentleness</u>: The word "Gentleness" is translated from the Greek word "chrestotes" which is translated five different ways in the Bible. It is translated, good, goodness, kind, kindness, and gentleness. Again, we have God as a pattern of gentleness in the Old Testament. In Psalms 34:8 it tells us God is good, *"O taste and see that the **LORD** **is good:** (gentle) blessed is the man that trusteth in him."*

Luke 6:35 says, that God is good and gentle to all men and that we should be the same, *"But love ye your enemies, and <u>do good</u>, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and <u>your reward</u>*

shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." When we are good, not only to our brethren but also to our enemies, then we are following the pattern that God gave us, and we are showing to the world a picture of what God is like. Again, this is only possible for you and me to do when we are "filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit of God." Let's be like God and follow His pattern! Let the world see in us what God is like!

Goodness: Again and again, we see that God's love, longsuffering, and gentleness extends to all men. God has a special purpose in Him being good to all men, and we should have the same purpose. God's purpose in being good to all men is found in Romans 2:4 which says, *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*

Matthew 5:43-35 is a clear undeniable picture of God's love to all men, and that you and I as Christians should love all men, share the Gospel with all men, pray for all men, and should try to lead all men to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*
44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for ***he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.****"*

So many times, people want to exchange God's love and goodness for that which we prefer to do. In the Old Testament we find in Judges 17:16 that Israel did that, *"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* AT LEAST seven different times the nation of Israel did evil in the sight of God. If you would like to read those seven verses, they are found in Judges 2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6 and 13:1!

As you know, you and I have NO GOOD thing in our flesh. Therefore, we should be excited and anxious to avail ourselves of the power of the Holy Spirit to DO GOOD and show goodness to all men. Ephesians 5:8-10 says it this way, *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."* I challenge everyone reading this book to be filled with the Holy Spirit and give Him full control of your life. Then you will be able to live and show the world these three attributes of the Holy Spirit, the Longsuffering, the Gentleness, and the Goodness of God! If they see these three attributes in your life and my life, that may bring them to repentance and cause them to trust Christ as their Savior, JUST AS IT DID YOU AND ME.

THE THIRD OF THE THREE CATEGORIES OF THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Faith - Meekness - Temperance
These are attributes of the Fruit on the Spirit which apply to us personally.

Faith: The word "faith" is translated several ways in the King James Bible, but in this context it seems most likely that it is applying to "faithfulness." A person under the control of the Holy Spirit is ALWAYS faithful. Let's go to the Old Testament and we will find that our God is, has, and will always be faithful. Deuteronomy 7:9 says, *"Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments* ***to a thousand generations;****"*

God is found faithful in the New Testament many times. I will point out and include two or three of the strongest verses. I Corinthians 1:9 says, *"God* ***is*** *faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."* Jesus is an outstanding example of faithfulness again and again. Therefore, let's look at two or three verses that reference Jesus as faithful.

Jesus Christ is faithful from the beginning of the Old Testament through the entire Bible. Revelation 19:11, which records the return of Christ to the earth says, *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called* ***Faithful*** *and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

In Hebrews 2:17, of all the priest in the Old and New Testament, Jesus is CALLED the faithful and high priest, *"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."*

I rejoice and stand amazed that in Hebrews 5:14-16 OUR Great High Priest INVITES YOU AND ME, as His children, to come and visit with Him! *"Seeing then that* ***we have a great high priest,*** *that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16* ***Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace****, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* This is amazing to me; the GREAT HIGH PRIEST of the world and universe has invited me and you to come BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE. Please note that He has invited us to come to His throne of Grace, as often as we want and can stay as long as we want! No President has ever done that!

Following the patterns which Jesus Christ has set for us, and considering how important God considers faithfulness, it is said in I Corinthians 4:1-2 that you and I are required to be faithful, *"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover* ***it is required*** *in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*

Being faithful is so important that it is stated in I Corinthians 4:17, Ephesians 6:21, Colossians 1:7 and 4:9, and I Peter 5:12. Let me ask you a Question? Is God faithful to you in everything He does? As I am sure you agree, the answer is YES! ABSOLUTELY! Then please stop and go to God's throne of grace and let him know that He can count on you as His steward, to be "faithful to Him in all things!"

Meekness: Meekness is another word that is greatly misunderstood today. Many people associate meekness with weakness. The Lord Jesus in Matthew 11:29 said, *"I am meek and lowly in heart."* Jesus was certainly meek, but certainly not weak. Meekness in this verse is "humility and tender heartedness. Meekness also pictures "power under complete control." If you are meek, you will never "fly off the handle!"

Meekness is one of the attributes we are INSTRUCTED to PUT ON! Colossians 3:12-13 gives us those instructions, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness**, humbleness of mind, meekness**, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

Temperance: The Greek word from which the English word is translated is "egkrateia" which means we exercise self-control. It includes self-restraint, self-denial, and self-discipline. Paul gives us some guidelines in Titus 1:6-9. These verses are dealing with the qualifications of a bishop or a pastor. However, the pastor is a picture and a pattern that every member of the church should follow. Therefore, they apply to you and me and every other Christian.

"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

In these verses Paul points out several things you and I need to know to help us be "temperate" and keep our attitude and our life under control:

1. We are not to be self-willed!
2. We are not to be soon angry!
3. We are not to be given to wine!
4. We are not to be a striker!
5. We are not to be given to filthy lucre.

Then Paul changes from the negative to the positive:

1. We are to be a lover of hospitality!
2. We are to be a lover of good men!
3. We are to be just!
4. We are to be holy!
5. We are to be temperate!
6. We are to hold fast to the faithful word!
7. We are to be teachers of sound doctrine!

CONCLUSION

God has freely provided all nine of the benefits of the “fruit of the Spirit.” The “fruit of the Spirit” is available to all Christians. I feel sure you know this, but the “fruit of the Spirit” IS NOT AVAILABLE to anyone who is not a Christian. Once again, all nine of the blessings and attributes come from the Holy Spirit and are offered to us in "one package." They will come into your life as soon as you obey Romans 12:1 and die to self, you go to God in prayer and tell him that you are opening the door of your life and that your great desire is that the Holy Spirit "fill and take complete control of your life." If you do that from your heart, the Holy Spirit will immediately fill you and these nine attributes ARE YOURS! And immediately your life will change.

John 15:1-8 tells you that you will begin to bear fruit, more fruit and then much fruit, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch* ***that beareth fruit,*** *he purgeth it, that it may* ***bring forth more fruit****. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him,* ***the same bringeth forth much fruit:*** *for without me ye can do nothing****.*** *6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8* ***Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;*** *so shall ye be my disciples."*

LESSON #10
THE ENEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Galatians 5:17

"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."

This text is clear and totally transparent. The "Flesh" OUR FLESH, is the enemy of "the Holy Spirit of God." Your flesh and the Holy Spirit are in a continual warfare against each other. They are "contrary one to the other" on EVERY thing, and they do not agree with each other on even ONE minor point in the Bible, nor the teaching of your Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church in Galatia, he was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and he used himself as an illustration of his flesh waring against his spirit. No doubt as he wrote in Romans Chapter 7, he was thinking of his "warfare" with his flesh. This is a lengthy passage, but WELL WORTH READING because this identical same thing happens to you, AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil

is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

When did the warfare between OUR flesh and the Holy Spirit begin? You and I were born with the lust of the flesh. It is called a "sin nature." The day we were born into this world, we had a sin nature, and we sinned "by our choice." Later when you heard the Gospel, by faith you trusted in and received Christ as your Savior. On that day the Bible teaches us that we were "born again." We became a child of God.

When that happened, II Peter 1:4 tells us that we "received a divine nature." The divine nature is a picture of the Holy Spirit as He came to dwell in us at that second! Also, at that same second a war between our flesh and the devil began! Our carnal nature and our divine nature continue to be at war within us until this day, and will continue as long as we live here on earth in a body of flesh. That Warfare is between:

The Divine nature - vs - The sin nature.
The Nature of Holiness - vs - Unholy sinfulness.
The Christlikeness - vs - Fleshly selfishness.
The Holy Spirit - vs - Unholy fleshly lust.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As this is a study on the Person of the Holy Spirit, let's look at Divine Characteristics of the Holy Spirit. I will not go into detail as I am sure everyone reading this commentary is aware of what the Holy Spirit is like. I will just make a list of His major characteristics. These are recorded in the Bible, and I will include the Scripture reference in case any of you want to read them in the context where they are found. Following this section, we will deal a little more with the characteristics of our sinful flesh.

A. He is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17).
B. He is the Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4).
C. He is the Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2).
D. He is the Spirit of Adoption (legally) (Romans 8:15).
E. He is the Spirit of Faith (II Corinthians 4:13).
F. He is the Spirit of Promise (Ephesians 1:13).
G. He is the Spirit of Wisdom (Ephesians 1:17).
H. He is the Spirit of Revelation (Romans 1:17).
I. He is the Spirit of Power (II Timothy 1:7).
J. He is the Spirit of Love (II Timothy 1:7).
K. He is the Spirit of a Sound Mind (II Timothy 1:7).
L. He is the Spirit of Grace (I Peter 4:14).
M. He is the Spirit of Glory (I Peter 4:14).

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLESH

Many people do not clearly understand "The Lust of the Flesh". Therefore, I will briefly explain what the lust of the flesh is. The characteristics of the flesh are divided into several different categories. We will divide them and also add a list of the things listed on each category and give scripture where they are found.

Sensual Sins Are The Sins of the Flesh.

First: Adultery is a sin of the flesh. James 4:4 says, *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."*

Second: Fornication is a sin of the flesh. I Thessalonians 4:3 says, *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:"*

Third: Uncleanness and lasciviousness are sins of the flesh. Galatians 5:19 says, *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,"* Uncleanness is defined as “an impurity of our minds”. An example is found in Matthew 5:28, *"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* Lasciviousness speaks of lewdness. This is a person that has total disregard for decency. It speaks of a person having no restraint, they are without shame, and ready to engage is any sin of the flesh.

Religious Sins Are of The Flesh.

First: Idolatry is a sin on the flesh. Colossians 3:5 says, "*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and* ***covetousness, which is idolatry****:"* Most people think of "idolatry" as worshipping idols or images. However, this verse says, "*which is idolatry."*

A major example, covetousness which is idolatry and is very common in the world today, is found in I Timothy 6:10, "*For* ***the love of money*** *is the root of all evil: which while* ***some coveted after,*** *they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* Please note that it DOES NOT say "money" is the root of all evil. It says, THE LOVE OF MONEY is the root of all evil. Money is very necessary and there is no sin in making money and no sin in having a good sum of money.

Second: Witchcraft is a sin of the flesh. Galatians 5:20 says, *"Idolatry,* ***witchcraft,*** *hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,"* The word "pharmakeia" is the Greek word from which "witchcraft" is translated. The Greek word applies to "drugs." Also, in Revelation 9:21 the word "pharmakeia" is translated as "sorceries" which includes the use of drugs. This verse indicates that it will be widely practiced in the last days and as you know, drugs are VERY WIDELY used today, in 2025.

Vile Sins are of the Flesh.

First, Murder, drunkenness and revelling are sins of the flesh. Galatians 5:21 says, *"Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 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.* Galatians 5:12 lists "seventeen" sins which are called sins of the flesh."

Every Christian must remember that we, me and yo**u, "Live in a Body of Flesh."** The flesh is totally 100% depraved. When God saved us and made us a "new man" He did not do anything at all for our "flesh." Our flesh is as sinful as it was before we were saved. We are "capable" of committing "any and/or all the sins of the flesh." We have the responsibility of "mortifying" the flesh in order to protect ourselves from yielding to the flesh. Colossians 3:5 tells us to "mortify" which means TO DIE to our sinful flesh, *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: This can only be done by the "power of the Holy Spirit"* Galatians 5:16 says, ***"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh"***

A PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION GIVES A PICTURE OF A SPIRITUAL TRUTH.

This is a practical and an easily understood illustration of the war within you between the Holy Spirit and the unholy flesh, and how to win the war.

Picture the Holy Spirit as a white dog. Now picture the unholy flesh as a black dog. For the illustration, picture those two dogs living inside you. They are like "two dogs penned up in a doghouse" but in this case the doghouse is you!

This is a picture of the Holy Spirit and the unholy flesh who are "penned up" inside you. You were born with "the black dog" living in you. That black dog pictures the "flesh" in which you live. But since the day you received Christ as your savior, the Holy Spirit came to dwell in you. Now you have a "black dog and a white dog" living inside you.

Those two dogs DO NOT LIKE EACH OTHER! They begin fighting each other from the time you wake up in the morning until you go to sleep at night. Now, "Which one of them wins the war every day?"

The one you "feed the most!" If you feed the black dog more than you feed the white dog every day, which one do you think will win the fight that day? You are right! The black dog will win. If you feed the white dog more than you feed the black dog every day, which one do you think will win the fight that day? You are right again! The white dog will win the fight that day.

The same is true with the Holy Spirit (the white dog) and the unholy flesh (the black dog). If you will MAKE IT A POINT to "feed the Holy Spirit" you will be able to "Walk in the Spirit" and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. If you "feed your flesh" you will live a defeated life, and your life will end in disaster! The choice is yours! Please make the right one that will honor God, glorify His Son Jesus Christ, and lay up GREAT REWARDS FOR YOU IN HEAVEN!

LESSON #11
THE ENEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
TRY THE SPIRITS
I John 4:1-6

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but ***try the spirits whether they are of God:*** *because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

I am sure you are aware of this. Every spirit in this world in the church and in your life IS NOT the Holy Spirit. There are all types of evil spirits fighting God and His churches. John WARNS us about them. He did that by telling us to TRY THE SPIRITS whether they are of God. This means that there are "counterfeit spirits" in the world we live in. One of the things which the church needs to DILIGENTLY WATCH for today is counterfeit spirit. You may be asking "Why?" We need to diligently watch for false and counterfeit spirits because they come after us and the church in so many different ways. One of the most dangerous is because II Corinthians 11:14-15 tells us, *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is* ***transformed into an angel of light.*** *15 Therefore it is no great thing if* ***his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness****; whose end shall be according to their works.*

It is vitally important because Satan is behind and in control of these counterfeit spirits. Let me point out that Satan is attacking the church BUT he is not attacking the church from the outside. Rather many times his counterfeit spirits are JOINING THE CHURCH and they are attacking the church from the inside!

Jude was going to write to believers concerning "the common salvation" but was impressed by God and guided by God NOT to write about the common salvation, but rather to warn the church of false counterfeit teachers coming into the church. Jude 1:3-4 says, "*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4* ***For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***"

I John 2:18-19 says, *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19* ***They went out from us, but they were not of us****; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."* II Corinthians 11:3 warns us that it is Satan who is behind these lies and points us back to Eve and the serpent, *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."* You will see that Satan MADE IT LOOK GOOD TO EVE, and she was deceived.

Genesis 3:1-6 Satan deceived a woman named Eve, by working through a serpent who was Satan, " *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil…"* (Satan deceived Eve and gave her THREE REASONS which LOOKED good, and she believed Satan and fell into sin and violated God's commandment.) *6 And when the woman saw that* ***the tree was good for food****, and that* ***it was pleasant to the eyes****, and* ***a tree to be desired to make one wise****, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."*

In Matthew 4:1-11 we find that Satan has not changed. He tempted our Lord Jesus in the same manner. Let's look at that so you can see how Satan works. He was tempting Jesus with "three things that LOOKED good!"

" Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, ***command that these stones be made bread****…* (Satan knew that Jesus was hungred and tempted Him with food!) *4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone…"* (Satan tempted Jesus TO PROVE He was the Son of God. Christ was the Son God, but he refused to fall for Satan's temptation, as that was NOT scriptural. Still today we believe and accept Jesus BY FAITH that He is the Son of God - NOT by any miracle He does.) *7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."*

Once again, Satan tempted Jesus with something that looked good. Satan was offering Jesus the ENTIRE world. Do not think for a minute that Satan did not already KNOW that "all the kingdoms of the world" belonged to Jesus. He was tempting Jesus to "do something spectacular to draw a big crowd." Again, Satan KNEW that people were to be drawn to Jesus "by the preaching of the Gospel, and not by putting on a big show!" Note, ALL these things LOOKED GOOD, but were not according to the Scripture. We will deal with that shortly.

If these examples do not tell you how dangerous false, counterfeit spirits are to you and to your church, I will share a couple of other brief warnings with you. The Apostle Paul warned us of them in II Corinthians 11:13-15, which says, *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers,*

transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

If that is not enough to tell you how careful you should be concerning false teachers, in Matthew 7:15 the Lord Jesus Christ also warned us to, *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* If Jesus warns us, we BETTER beware and be careful!

DISCERNING AND TRYING COUNTERFEIT SPIRITS

First: In I Corinthians 12:19 the Bible tells us there is a 'Spiritual Gift' given by the Holy Spirit to certain men called 'discerner' of false counterfeit spirits. *"To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to **another discerning of spirits**; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues."*

Sad to say, this is one of the least utilized spiritual gifts of all. During my 60 years of being in the ministry, I have known several men who had this gift. As unreal as this may sound, but the men who I have known could walk into a room where people were discussing a matter, and after just a few minutes that man WOULD KNOW there was something wrong in the room. I personally think that God has given the gift to at least one man in every Bible believing church. I believe that because we know that God ALWAYS wants the church protected from men who are counterfeits who would start false doctrine in the church.

Second: God has given us clear instructions to help us identify a false teacher who has come in and even joined the church. I John 4:5-6 gives us a clear example, *"They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.* ***Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.***

Then John 10:1-5 tells us how to identify them, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4* ***And*** *when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and* ***the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*** *5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."*

One main key is that any and every "Counterfeit Spirit" will tell you why they do not agree with what the Bible says. They will listen as you explain the Word of God, and then say something to this effect, "I know what the Bible says, BUT…" Watch out for anyone who makes such a statement! Anyone who is not in agreement with the Word of God, IS FALSE!

THE END