

THE HOLY SPIRIT



Compiled Outlines
Taught by
Pastor Brad Montsion
Fountaingate Christian Assembly
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THE HOLY SPIRIT

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OUR TREMENDOUS INHERITANCE

TEXT: Galatians 4:1-7

Key Word: Inheritance

Key Thought: We need to be understanding of our historical doctrines

Church history proves to me that we have a tremendous inheritance as the Church of Christ. The early Church knew what it believed and took a stand to promote those beliefs in the face of strong persecution.

We can choose to become silent on what we believe but much of our freedom will get eroded. It's like a rock that loses its cutting edge because the tides of time have beaten it smooth. As long as we take on the pattern of the world we seemingly find little opposition. As soon as we become a voice, we are condemned as religious fundamentalists or fanatics.

The Only Way for Us to Know What We Should Be Is to Go Back to Our Birthplace.

I. OUR BIRTHPLACE

II. OUR BELIEFS

III. THE BENEFICIARIES

I. OUR BIRTHPLACE

The Church of Jesus Christ was born in the year 33 A.D. The death of our Lord and His resurrection brought about the birth of Christianity. The Early Church was the only thing in the N.T. that was born mature. It was not an infant church.

No infant church . . .

- 1) sees 3,000 new believers in a day - Acts 2
- 2) witnesses the lame walking, the dumb talking and the deaf hearing.
- 3) stands up with such boldness - Acts 4ff
- 4) preaches with such great anointing- Acts 3ff
- 5) has such great missionary endeavors - Acts 13ff
- 6) crosses so many cultures.

It's not infants who are willing to die for what they believe. But this was the kind of church that Jesus Christ birthed into existence. This was the church He empowered to carry on proclaiming the Gospel.

I. OUR BIRTHPLACE (Contd.)

The teachings of Christianity began in the little town of Bethlehem and matured in Nazareth and seemed like a premature death was taking place in Jerusalem.

“Jesus spoke to His disciples saying ‘the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.’”

John 12:23,24

That pattern of dying to bring forth life was instilled in the early church. Stephen died at the hands of an angry mob of religious leaders. It was at the time of his death that the church began to spread out over the nations of the world.

II. OUR BELIEFS

Shortly before the year 160 A.D., the outstanding apologist Tertullian was born. He became a proficient lawyer. Later in his life he wrote the "Apologeticum" arguing that the church was being persecuted only because of its associations, doctrines and morals that were above reproach to their pagan neighbors. Great persecution broke out because the Church was a shining light in a very corrupt society.

It was during this time that the church clearly formulated its beliefs. These beliefs had now been passed on for a little over 100 years. These were the doctrines of the apostles. Tertullian's words were quite evident . . .

"the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the Church."

The early church knew what they believed. **No person is foolish enough to die for something that they don't believe.** All kinds of accusations came forth to weaken the Church. In the early stages all it did was strengthen the Church. The first generation of Christianity preached to the whole known world.

They didn't just speak to be heard. They had a powerful message to proclaim. They knew what they believed.

Due to the unforeseeable growth of the church, the devil cleaned off an old weapon he had used effectively in the past in order to thwart the growth.

II. OUR BELIEFS (Contd.)

In 312 A.D., Constantine, the Roman emperor was used totally different then Diocletian, his predecessor. While Constantine was suffering defeat in a battle he looked up to the sky and had a vision of the cross with the Latin words "*in this sign conquer*" written across it. He thought it was an omen and went on to defeat his enemies at the battle of Milvian Bridge that spanned the Tiber River.

In 313, he granted freedom of worship to all Christians under the **Edict of Milan**. He returned all confiscated property to the Church, subsidized the Church, exempted the clergy from public service, banned soothsaying, re-instituted Sunday as a day of rest and worship. With all this favor toward the church you would think it would grow rapidly. But just the opposite took place.

Unfortunately, the main beliefs of the early church soon disappeared. This generation soon shunned the doctrines of their forefathers.

The Doctrines of the Forefathers . . .

- 1) **The Imminent Return of Christ.**
- 2) **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**
- 3) **Living a Sanctified Life as a Priest.**
- 4) **The Authority of the Local Church**
- 5) **The Sovereignty of God.**
- 6) **The Authority of the Bible as the Final and Infallible Rule for Faith and Practice.**
- 7) **Baptism of Believers by Full Immersion.**
- 8) **A Person is Justified by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Between 313 and 590 A.D., the Roman Catholic Church became the leading authority of Christianity. The Bishop at Rome won the supremacy over all other bishops. This began the time period known as the **Dark Ages**. It continued until the year 1517 A.D.

All of the doctrines of the early church were quenched through a brutal inquisition. There is no way to account for the number of Christians who were martyred during this time.

A stirring began to take place in the mid 1300's lead by John Wycliffe, John Huss. These forerunners of the reformation began to question the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and its doctrines.

II. OUR BELIEFS (Contd.)

A. The Reformation:

1. Justification by Faith - Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany, and was raised in a very strict family. He became well-educated receiving a Doctorate of Theology in Wittenberg, Germany

Comparing the doctrines of the church with the Bible, he gradually had his eyes opened to the truth. One verse of Scripture that came alive to his soul was . . .

*"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith, from first to last, just as it is written: **'The just will live by faith.'**"*

Romans 1:17

People were being taught that you could buy your way into heaven through indulgences. On October 31, 1517, Luther posted his Ninety-five thesis on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. **He became the leading voice of the protestant reformation.**

The last truth that the church lost became the first truth that the church regained.
A person is justified only by their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ apart from good works.

2. Believers' Baptism by Full Immersion - (Anabaptists) at this same time another reformer by the name of Balthasar Hubmaier (1481-1528), insisted on the **separation of Church and state, the authority of the Bible, and the baptism of believers (not infants) by full immersion was the second last doctrine that the church lost and the second one regained.**

3. Authority of the Bible - (Mennonite Brethren) Menno Simmons (1496-1561) came to the forefront in the Netherlands accepting the doctrine of Luther and Anabaptists but also added a new truth. **They insisted on the authority of the Bible as their final and infallible rule for faith and practice.** They rejected the state church.

II. OUR BELIEFS (Contd.)

A. The Reformation (Contd.):

4. The Sovereignty of God - (John Calvin 1509-1564) John Calvin became a leading citizen in Geneva, Switzerland. He not only led the way with another lost truth but also a new system of church government called "**Presbyterianism.**" He was known as the leader of the second generation of Reformers. **The Biblical truth that he added was the sovereignty of God.** This is continued in the Christian Reformed Church.

T - total depravity of all men.

U - unconditional election apart from human merit.

L - limited atonement.

I - irresistible grace.

P - perseverance of the saints.

5. The Authority of the Local Church - (John Knox 1513-1578) carried on the teaching and established the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. This gave us another important doctrinal truth that **the authority church was to be placed in the hands of the people.**

6a. Living a Sanctified Life - (John Wesley 1703-1791) stressed justification by faith through an instantaneous experience of conversion. He taught that once someone gives their life to Christ that God's love within **the new believer would promote an absolute holiness of life.** He saw the changes as immediate yet progressive based upon an initial act of faith.

6b. Priesthood of Believers - (John Darby 1800-1882) began a group that later became known as Plymouth Brethren. **They emphasize the truth of the priesthood of believers** in Dublin, Ireland.

7. Baptism of the Holy Spirit - (Edwin Irwin 1792-1834) about the same time this Scottish Presbyterian minister believed that **the church should accept the gifts of the Holy Spirit emphasizing "speaking in tongues" along with the imminent return of Christ.** This teaching led to a phenomenal time known as **The Great Awakening.**

Our Pentecostal churches became birthed from this final teaching.

II. OUR BELIEFS (Contd.)

B. PENTECOSTALS BELIEVE . . .

1. A person is justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

"The just shall live by faith"

Romans 1:17

2. Baptism of Believers by Full Immersion

"Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19,20

3. The Authority of the Bible as the Final and Infallible Rule for Faith and Practice

*"All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,
17. So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

II Timothy 3:16,17

4. The Sovereignty of God

"He does what he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Daniel 4:5

5. The Authority of the Local Church

The Book of Acts clearly shows that the Believers gathered in local assemblies for fellowship and service. Believers were added to the local church; discipline was exercised; officers were appointed; missionary workers were sent out and were responsible to return and bring back an update the local church. Benevolent needs were taken care of from the local assemblies.

II. OUR BELIEFS (Contd.)

B. PENTECOSTALS BELIEVE . . .

6. Living a Sanctified Life as a Priest

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ Jesus."

I Peter 2:5

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

*"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost
39. For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all who are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."*

Acts 2:38,39 KJV

8. The Imminent Return of Christ.

*"For the **Lord Himself** shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;
17. then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

I Thessalonians 4:16,17

III. THE BENEFICIARIES (Galatians 4:1-7)

Our Lord has given back to the church everything it needs for faith and practice. The only thing we are waiting on is His soon return. It is the eighth and final event to take place. **Eight in the Bible is the beginning of new things.**

1). **The only thing the Church needs to do before Christ's return is to accept what we've been given.** It can only be received through those who wish to be mature. If we remain as children in the faith of our forefathers by our immaturity or disobedience, we will delay the receiving of our whole inheritance.

2). **It's not that we won't own our rich inheritance but rather that it won't be beneficial to us because it will have to be kept in trust.** The only way to earn our inheritance in the natural is to prove that we are who we are and that we have reached a specific age level of maturity. God wants us to go beyond a level of a child or even a servant in Christ.

3). **It is a form of bondage not to achieve our level of expected maturity.** God knows that those who are immature cannot handle His resources properly. Let's remember that God's resources are not necessarily financial. They are rather principles of truth that are found in His unchanging Word.

4). **Those who decide to live in God's Truth receive the Key to God's Treasury of Greater Truth.**

5). **It should not make us boastfully proud but rather sincerely humble.** To think that Almighty God would open up His inheritance to us is humble thought.

If you've received these truths I've mentioned today, you have basically accepted the major doctrines of the early church. It is now your responsibility to live them.

OUR TREMENDOUS INHERITANCE

TEXT: Galatians 4:1-7

Key Word: Inheritance

Key Thought: We need to be understanding of our historical doctrines

The Only Way for Us to Know What We Should Be Is to Go Back to Our Birthplace.

I. OUR BIRTHPLACE - *John 12:23,24*

II. OUR BELIEFS

The Doctrines of the Forefathers . . .

- 1) **The Imminent Return of Christ**
- 2) **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
- 3) **Living a Sanctified Life as a Priest**
- 4) **The Authority of the Local Church**
- 5) **The Sovereignty of God**
- 6) **The Authority of the Bible as the Final and Infallible Rule for Faith and Practice**
- 7) **Baptism of Believers by Full Immersion**
- 8) **A Person is Justified by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**

A. The Reformation:

1. **Justification by Faith** - *Romans 1:17*
2. **Believers' Baptism by Full Immersion** - (Anabaptists)
3. **Authority of the Bible** - (Mennonite Brethren)
4. **The Sovereignty of God** - (John Calvin 1509-1564)
 - T - otal depravity of all men.
 - U - nconditional election apart from human merit.
 - L - imited atonement.
 - I - rrisistable grace.
 - P - erservance of the saints.
5. **The Authority of the Local Church** - (John Knox 1513-1578)
- 6a. **Living a Sanctified Life** - (John Wesley 1703-1791)
- 6b. **Priesthood of Believers** - (John Darby 1800-1882)
7. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** - (Edwin Irwin 1792-1834)

II. OUR BELIEFS (Contd.)

B. PENTECOSTALS BELIEVE . . .

- 1. A person is Justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ - *Romans 1:17***
- 2. Baptism of Believers by Full Immersion - *Matthew 28:19,20***
- 3. The Authority of the Bible as the Final and Infallible Rule for Faith and Practice - *II Timothy 3:16,17***
- 4. The Sovereignty of God - *Daniel 4:5***
- 5. The Authority of the Local Church - The Book of Acts**
- 6. Living a Sanctified Life as a Priest - *I Peter 2:5***
- 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit - *Acts 2:38,39 KJV***
- 8. The Imminent Return of Christ - *I Thessalonians 4:16,17***

III. THE BENEFICIARIES (Galatians 4:1-7)

1. The only thing the Church needs to do before Christ's return is to accept what we've been given.

2. It's not that we won't own our rich inheritance but rather that it won't be beneficial to us because it will have to be kept in trust.

3. It is a form of bondage not to achieve our level of expected maturity

4. Those who decide to live in God's Truth receive the Key to God's Treasury of Greater Truth.

5. It should not make us boastfully proud but rather sincerely humble.

THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Romans 8:11

Key Word: Deity

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity

A life-changing truth which is being reemphasised in the Church is that the Holy Spirit is God.

Scriptures make it very clear that God is a Trinity. He is One God who exists in 3 Persons; not 3 Gods, not one Person, but One God in 3 Persons. The children of Israel were told of this about 3,500 ago as the Scriptures record,

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one."

Deuteronomy 6:4

I recognize that this is very hard to understand. I've come to accept that there are a few things in life that I can't understand. I don't believe that it is unusual for us as "the creature" to be unable to understand our "Creator."

We know that our God has 3 names for His 3 Persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We must accept not just in our minds but also in our daily Christian life that the Holy Spirit is God.

As the early church was growing Ananias and Sapphira lied against the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3). The Bible made it very clear who the Holy Spirit was and is.

"What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

Acts 5:4

There Are Many Things We Could Consider to Offer Other Convincing Proof but Lets Limit Our Thoughts to 3 Things

I. THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

II. THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

III. THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is an old saying that goes,

"Bad company corrupts good morals"

This same thought is true in the positive sense. We take on the nature of those we choose to associate with. When it comes to God, He only had Himself to associate with until He chose to create the heavens and the earth and populate it. The Bible speaks of the Trinity in association with water baptism.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

Also when we simply consider the names given to the Holy Spirit it is very evident that He is God.

A. The Spirit of God - Numbers 24:2

B. The Spirit of the Lord - Isaiah 11:2

C. The Lord, who is the Spirit - II Corinthians 3:18

D. The Spirit of Christ - I Peter 1:11

There is an abundance of Scriptures which indicate that the Holy Spirit is definitely God. No other name is used in this manner in Scripture. We must accept the fact that **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.** If the Lord is One God as Deuteronomy declares, then the Lord who is "*the Spirit*" must be God.

When I was a child, my teachers used to describe The Trinity by using the example of an egg, water (liquid, ice, steam), and an apple. These all show the intertwining of things in the physical realm. **How much more detailed is the association of God!**

Once we accept this truth we can move onto the next truth.

II. THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

If the Holy Spirit is God, He has to possess the attributes of God. The "attributes" of God are His divine characteristics. These are the things that distinguish Him from others.

A. Omnipotence

1. Incarnation

If the Holy Spirit is God, He must be able to do things which would distinguish Him as being All-powerful. There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is capable of doing things that none of us are able to do.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:35

Only God can bring forth a child from a virgin. This was an act of God - plain and simple.

2. Miracles

Many miracles were attributed to the Holy Spirit in Scripture. As Jesus travelled throughout the Judean and Galilean countryside He performed great miracles. The demons were cast out, the blind were restored their sight, the mute spoke and the deaf heard. It caused the townspeople to stand in amazement. It also caused the Pharisees to misjudge Him. Jesus made it very clear how He was able to perform such miraculous works.

"But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

Matthew 12:28

II. THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Contd.)

B. Omniscience

Another attribute which is reserved for God is that He is All-knowing. He understands everything that has been done, is being done, or is planning to be done as clearly as He understands what will be done. He is never taken by surprise.

"However, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.'

10. but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

11. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

I Corinthians 2:9-11

No person is capable of searching out the "**depths of God**" unless He is God Himself. That is why we know the Holy Spirit is God.

Often when we speak of the All-knowing God, we think of the Father. **The truth is we can never differentiate between the Godhead when it comes to His attributes.** They are all equal in every aspect of the attributes.

C. Omnipresent

When the heavens and the earth were created, the Triune God was actively involved. To do so He had to be at all places at the same time. If not, something would have got out of hand. Planets do not circle in a given orbit and a given atmosphere unless limited by a Divine hand. **The Holy Spirit was actively involved in the creation of the world.**

"In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.

2. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the face of the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2

III. THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It seems like the area that we emphasize the most about God is what He did among us. **"The Acts of the Apostles"** would be better titled **"The Acts of the Holy Spirit"**. There are many records of what the Holy did in the Scriptures. In fact, the Scriptures themselves are a living testimony of His existence.

A. Prophecy

There has never and will never be anyone who can predict the future like the Holy Spirit. He has been 100% correct to date. The book of Acts shows how the Holy Spirit prepared the Church for difficult times.

"One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world."

Acts 11:28

"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

II Peter 1:21

B. Revelation

When man speaks from God's Word he receives an inspiration from God. When God wrote His Word through the prophets and disciples, it was given by revelation. There is no other way that we could have received such inspired writings.

"All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

II Timothy 3:15

III. THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Contd.)

C. Gives Eternal Life

No one but God can give life - life eternal. Even the magicians in Pharaoh's day could not produce lice or gnats (Exodus 8:16-18). They could not offer life to a grain of sand. The Spirit of God can transfer death to life.

*"And if **the Spirit** of him who raised up Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit**, who lives in you."*

Romans 8:11

The early Church met many times to hammer out the common doctrines that would serve us for centuries. At the **Council of Nicene the Nicene Creed** was adopted which stated,

"I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets."

The Westminster Confession declares,

"In the Unity of the Godhead there be three persons of one substance, power, and eternity; God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Ghost."

What an awesome privilege we have been given to have Him choose to live within us. God the Holy Spirit can change our life. LET HIM!

THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Romans 8:11

Key Word: Deity

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity

INTRODUCTION: *Deuteronomy 6:4; Acts 5:4*

There Are Many Things We Could Consider to Offer Other Convincing Proof but Lets Limit Our Thoughts to 3 Things

I. THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - *Matthew 28:19*

- A. **The Spirit of God** - *Numbers 24:2*
- B. **The Spirit of the Lord** - *Isaiah 11:2*
- C. **The Lord, who is the Spirit** - *II Corinthians 3:18*
- D. **The Spirit of Christ** - *I Peter 1:11*

II. THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Omnipotence

- 1. **Incarnation** - *Luke 1:35*
- 2. **Miracles** - *Matthew 12:28*

B. Omniscience - *I Corinthians 2:9-11*

C. Omnipresent - *Genesis 1:1-2*

III. THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. **Prophecy** - *Acts 11:28; II Peter 1:21*
- B. **Revelation** - *II Timothy 3:15*
- C. **Gives Eternal Life** - *Exodus 8:16-18; Romans 8:11*

The early Church met many times to hammer out the common doctrines that would serve us for centuries. At the Council of Nicene the Nicene Creed was adopted which stated,

"I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who, with the Father and Son together, is worshipped and glorified."

The Westminster Confession declares,

"In the Unity of the Godhead there be three persons of one substance, power, and eternity; God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Ghost."

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 14:26

Key Word: Person

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Clearly the Third Person of the Trinity

The Church is going to have to understand the third person of the Trinity in a real way in the closing days of time. I believe that the Church is about to be ushered into a new dimension of Spiritual maturity to prepare us for the Lord's Return. In doing so, the Holy Spirit will be front and centre in what will take place.

Some people have become confused by references in the KJV about “**the Holy Ghost.**” In our day and age a ghost conjures up negative connotations. **The term does not encourage us to get to know Him and much less invite Him into our lives.**

The word “*Ghost*” has changed its meaning since the translation of 1611. At that time, the word was much closer to the German word, “*geist*” which translated into English means “*spirit.*”

It is probably because the Holy Spirit does not have a body that people find it hard to believe that He is a Person. The strange thing is that most people have no difficulty accepting the Father as a Person even though He also does not have a body. Perhaps it is because we have plenty of examples of real to life human fathers in their physical form.

The Scriptures show us that the Holy Spirit is definitely a Person. Next to His deity, this is very important to understand and accept. **We cannot flow with the Spirit if we do not know Him.**

The Evidence That Proves That the Holy Spirit Is a Person Is Set Forth in at Least Three Ways in Scripture.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES THE QUALITIES OF A PERSON

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS ACTIVITIES OF A PERSON

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRIVILEGED WITH THE POSITION OF A PERSON

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES THE QUALITIES OF A PERSON

We need to ask ourselves the question, "What makes us a person?" The answer is simple. **A person has an INTELLECT or the ability to know and think; a person has EMOTIONS or the ability to feel; a person has a WILL or the ability to make decisions.**

A. Intellect - The ability to know or think

Lets again probe the Scriptures to see what is stated about God.

*"And he who searches our hearts **knows the mind of the Spirit**, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."*

Romans 8:27

The Holy Spirit is also recognized as a teacher. No one can teach unless they have the ability to know and to think.

*"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**"*

John 14:26

No one can teach us "***all things***" unless He is capable of knowing "***all things.***"

*"**The Spirit searches all things**, even the deep things of God.
11. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way **no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**"*

I Corinthians 2:10,11

The Holy Spirit knows everything that God the Father and God the Son knows.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES THE QUALITIES OF A PERSON (Contd.)

B. Emotions - The ability to feel

The Holy Spirit has the personal capacity to feel and to lovingly express His feelings.

"I urge you, brothers by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in struggle by praying to God for me."

Romans 15:30

The Holy Spirit also has the ability to grieve.

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Ephesians 4:30

The Holy Spirit longs for our devotion to Him in a manner that is in true harmony with God's Word.

C. Will - The ability to make decisions

"When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to."

Acts 16:7

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS ACTIVITIES OF A PERSON

There are many things that God the Holy Spirit does that proves to me that He is a Person

A. He Speaks

"The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Acts 8:29

Notice the quotation marks around what the Holy Spirit said. Only people can speak.

B. He Guides

*"But when he, The Spirit of Truth, comes, **he will guide you in all truth.** He will not speak of his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*

John 16:13

*"Because those who are **led by the Spirit of God** are the sons of God."*

Romans 8:14

C. He Prays

*"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what to pray for, **but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.***

*27. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, **because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."***

Romans 8:26,27

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS ACTIVITIES OF A PERSON (Contd.)

D. He Convicts

*"But when he (the Counsellor) comes, **he will convict the world of guilt** in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement:"*

John 16:8

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRIVILEGED WITH THE POSITION OF A PERSON

The Bible gives us many indications that the Holy Spirit is a person.

A. The Masculine Pronoun

Throughout the Bible the Holy Spirit is acknowledged with a masculine pronoun (He or Him). This is very noticeable especially when the Greek word for "*Spirit*" (*Gr. pneuma*) is a neuter word (neither masculine nor feminine). **The rules of grammar normally would require neuter pronouns to be used.** Yet we find the opposite occurring.

*"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, **I will send HIM to you.***
*8. When **HE** comes, **HE** will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement:"*

John 16:7,8

B. His Equality

The Holy Spirit is recognized as being equal with the other Persons of the Trinity in several important passages.

1. In Salvation/Sanctification

"who having been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and the sprinkling by his blood."

1 Peter 1:2

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRIVILEGED WITH THE POSITION OF A PERSON (Contd.)

B. His Equality (Contd.)

2. In Baptism

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Matthew 28:19

3. In Blessing

*"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the
love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all."*

II Corinthians 13:14

C. How we can Relate to Him

1. We Can Insult Him, Resist Him or Obey Him

*"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts
and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always
resist the Holy Spirit!"*

Acts 7:51

2. We Can Have Fellowship with Him

*"If you have any encouragement from being united
with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any
fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and
compassion,
2. Then make my joy complete by being like-minded,
having the same love, being one in spirit and
purpose "*

Philippians 2:1

There is no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit is God. He is the third Person of the Trinity. This means that we have a decision to make about Him. **Do we want to allow Him to rule over our lives? Do we want to build a relationship with Him? (talking, listening, giving our time to Him).**

Jesus wanted to leave this earth in order that we could build a loving and strong relationship with the Holy Spirit.

DO you KNOW this third PERSON of the Trinity? I mean do you REALLY KNOW HIM? You can!

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 14:26

Key Word: Person

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Clearly the Third Person of the Trinity

The Evidence That Proves That the Holy Spirit Is a Person Is Set Forth in at Least Three Ways in Scripture.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES THE QUALITIES OF A PERSON

A. Intellect - The ability to know or think - *Romans 8:27; John 14:26;*

I Corinthians 2:10,11

B. Emotions - The ability to feel - *Romans 15:30; Ephesians 4:30*

C. Will - The ability to make decisions- *Acts 16:7*

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS ACTIVITIES OF A PERSON

A. He Speaks - *Acts 8:29*

B. He Guides - *John 16:13; Romans 8:14*

C. He Prays - *Romans 8:26,27*

D. He Convicts - *John 16:8*

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRIVILEGED WITH THE POSITION OF A PERSON

A. The Masculine Pronoun - *John 16:7,8*

B. His Equality

1. In Salvation/Sanctification - *I Peter 1:2*

2. In Baptism - *Matthew 28:19*

3. In Blessing - *II Corinthians 13:14*

C. How we can Relate to Him

1. We Can Insult Him, Resist Him or Obey Him - *Acts 7:51*

2. We Can Have Fellowship with Him - *Philippians 2:1*

THE TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Ephesians 1:13,14

Key Word: Titles

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Given Many Different Titles in the Scriptures

Titles are very important in understanding someone. A person with the title of "Sir" has been knighted by the king/queen. A person whose has been given the right to be called "Dr." has completed extensive studies in his/her field of expertise. The Chief of Police is the man/woman responsible for local law enforcement.

It is interesting to note that while the Bible gives a number of titles to the Holy Spirit, it never designates Him by a formal name. Yet as we will see, the titles that are given to Him tell it all.

There Are 12 Titles That I Wish to Consider. There are also 4 symbols that are used to describe the Holy Spirit which I will speak about later.

THE TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. THE SPIRIT

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT

III. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

IV. THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND OF CHRIST

V. THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

VI. THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS

VII. THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

VIII. THE SPIRIT OF JUDGEMENT/FIRE OR BURNING

IX. THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP OR ADOPTION

X. THE SPIRIT OF PROMISE

XI. THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

XII. THE COMFORTER OR HELPER

I. THE SPIRIT

*"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and **the Spirit**."*

*6. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but **the Spirit** gives birth to spirit.*

7. You should not be surprised at my saying, You must be born again.'

*8. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of **the Spirit**."*

John 3:5-8

This is the most basic title given to the Holy Spirit. The words used in Hebrew (*rauch*), Greek (*pneuma*) and Latin (*spiritus*) for "Spirit" all mean "*breath or wind*."

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!"*

Luke 11:13

This is the most common title used in Scripture. It is also what I believe to be His best title. It distinguishes Him both spiritually and materially. Everything about Him is Holy. This also tells us that there are "unholy spirits." We must have discernment to understand the difference. **Indeed, we need to try the spirits to see if they be of God.**

III. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

*"**The Spirit of the LORD** will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person."*

I Samuel 10:6

This is the most common O.T. title of the Holy Spirit. Saul was given these words of prophecy at the time of his kingly anointing. There were many lords in Saul's day. But the LORD spoken of here distinguished Him as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

IV. THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND OF CHRIST

*"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if **the Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Christ."*

Romans 8:9

There is no doubt in Scripture that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity. There are many other names which are quite similar such as the **Spirit of Jesus Christ, Spirit of Jesus, and Spirit of His Son.** The Spirit of God and of Christ work in such unity that even their titles bring this truth out.

V. THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

*"because through Christ Jesus the law of **the Spirit of life** set me free from the law of sin and death."*

Romans 8:2

This title speaks of the role of the Spirit in the work of imparting life to every believer at the time of their conversion. We do not really "live" until we surrender our life to God. He is then able to take what was dead and make it alive. He replaces our natural heritage of sin and death with life - abundant life. We no longer live by the letter that kills but rather by the Spirit that gives life (II Corinthians 3:6).

"The Spirit of Life leads us into the
Living Stone to quicken us,
to the Living God to shield us,
to the Living High Priest to keep us,
to the Living Bread to feed us,
to the Living Word to assure us,
to the Living Way to access us,
to the Living Christ to satisfy us,
and to the Living Water that He may assuage (satisfy) us."

F. E. Marsh

"Emblems of the Holy Spirit"
p. 219

This title also declares that we can have an ongoing victory over sin because He enables us to overcome every type of temptation common to man. We are set free from the law of sin and death!

VI. THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS

*"and who through **the Spirit of holiness** was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection of the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Romans 1:4

This title is only used once in the N.T. It emphasises not only that He is Holy but also that He is able to empower every believer so they can live a holy life. Paul indicates that we are to be called "*saints (holy ones) by calling*" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

VII. THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

*"But when he, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, he will guide you in all truth. He will not speak of his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*

John 16:13

This is a title that Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit in His farewell discourse to His disciples. The Holy Spirit reveals truth, witnesses to and verifies truth, and He personifies truth. Although He specializes in spiritual truth, He also is the basis of all truth whether in the fields of science, nature or logic. He often helps us understand certain truths.

Annanias and Sapphira are a continual message of the Spirit's disapproval of lying. **The Holy Spirit is committed to truth. He inspired holy men to write the words of truth. He now illuminates our minds to the truth of what He has given us.**

VIII. THE SPIRIT OF JUDGEMENT/FIRE OR BURNING

*"The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a **spirit of judgement and a spirit of fire.**"*

Isaiah 4:4

The Holy Spirit comes often to burn up the "impurities" in our lives. He also works like a persistent heat. This same kind of analogy make metals become molten and thereby **refines** them. He can burn away pride, self-righteousness, doubt, bitterness and habits that try to control us.

IX. THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP OR ADOPTION

*"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received **the spirit of sonship (adoption)**. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"*

Romans 8:15

This Biblical teaching is not that of placing a child into a family as a child with no rights to the inheritance, but rather raising up a child into the status of an adult son or daughter. He chooses to accept us and helps us live up to the new status we've obtained. We no longer need to feel lonely. Our family is over 1 billion strong.

X. THE SPIRIT OF PROMISE

*"And you also were included with Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, **the promised Holy Spirit,**"*

Ephesians 1:13

The Holy Spirit assures us of our spiritual provisions and promised power. There are nearly 7,000 promises in Scripture. Yet there is only one that is called "**The promise.**"

*"Behold, I send **the promise of my Father upon you**"*

Luke 24:49 KJV

The Holy Spirit became the fulfilment of the Father's promise to this world.

XI. THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation** so that you may know him better."*

Ephesians 1:17

All true wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit who is the Author and channel of it. As the Spirit of wisdom He is wise, tactful, informed, thoughtful, sensitive, relevant, and resourceful. We need to ask for The Wisdom that comes from above.

XII. THE COMFORTER OR HELPER

"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor (Comforter) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

John 16:7

There are 4 Biblical references to the Holy Spirit by His title of Comforter, all of them are spoken by Jesus and recorded in the Gospel of John (14:16,26;15:26). The Greek word "paracletos" can be understood by its many synonyms: instructor, guide, advocate, ombudsman, interpreter, advice giver, governor, assistant, helper, caretaker, attorney and barrister.

The word "comforter" does not belong in a room for the sick and depressed but rather in a courtroom. The Spirit is today what the incarnate Christ was to His disciples. **He will not leave us as orphans.** He is always there when we need Him. **He will defend us in the courts of this world, to plead our case as our intercessor.**

Just taking the time to name the titles of the Holy Spirit can lift up our spirits. We serve a great and mighty God who is diverse and yet simple enough to personally come to know.

Do we know Him as He is? Could we know Him better? He wants us to know Him better. We can better understand the Scriptures as we get to know Him and how He relates to us today. Spend time getting to know Him.

THE TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Ephesians 1:13,14

Key Word: Titles

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Given Many Different Titles in the Scriptures

There Are 12 Titles That I Wish to Consider.

I. THE SPIRIT - *John 3:5-8*

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT - *Luke 11:13*

III. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD - *I Samuel 10:6*

IV. THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND OF CHRIST - *Romans 8:9*

V. THE SPIRIT OF LIFE - *Romans 8:2; II Corinthians 3:6*

VI. THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS - *Romans 1:4; I Corinthians 1:2*

VII. THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH - *John 16:13*

VIII. THE SPIRIT OF JUDGEMENT/FIRE OR BURNING - *Isaiah 4:4*

IX. THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP OR ADOPTION - *Romans 8:15*

X. THE SPIRIT OF PROMISE - *Ephesians 1:13; Luke 24:49*

XI. THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION - *Ephesians 1:17*

XII. THE COMFORTER OR HELPER - *John 16:7; John 14:16,26; 15:26*

THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - I

Text: John 3:8

Key Word: Symbols

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Symbolized a Number of Ways in the Scriptures

Today I wish to continue the study we began on the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, we will have gained a greater understanding of who He is by the time we complete this study. Once we understand who He is we can also become better prepared to understand how He works in our lives.

According to Webster's II Dictionary a symbol is

"something which represents or stands for something else, as by resemblance or association."

The 3 symbols which I am going to speak about today have properties which are similar to those of the nature of the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit is not identical to these symbols but rather He is like them in certain ways.**

Depending upon how one classifies each symbol there could be as many as a dozen symbols used to describe the Holy Spirit. We will combine a few to limit the list.

What Are Some Symbols of the Holy Spirit

I. THE SYMBOL OF WIND OR BREATH

II. THE SYMBOL OF FIRE

III. THE SYMBOL OF WATER

I. THE SYMBOL OF WIND OR BREATH

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

John 3:8

The symbol of "*wind or breath*" aptly describes the Holy Spirit. The Hebrew word (*ruach*) and Greek word (*pneuma*) each are translated not only "*breath*" but also "*wind*."

The wind is invisible, powerful and uncontrollable. The Holy Spirit demonstrated this symbol on the Day of Pentecost.

The earliest Biblical writer even spoke of this symbol when he wrote,

*"The Spirit of God has made me [which has stirred me up -Amp]; **the breath of the Almighty gives me life** [which inspires me - Amp]."*

Job 33:4

When the Holy Spirit breathes upon us there is a life which is produced. He is so full of life that even things which are believed to be impossible to come back to life do so.

Ezekiel wrote,

*"Prophesy to the breath (wind - KJV); prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.** 10. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and **breath entered them; they came to life stood up on their feet - a vast army.**"*

Ezekiel 37:9,10

I. THE SYMBOL OF WIND OR BREATH (Contd.)

The Holy Spirit has and will bring entire nations back to life spiritually. Have we asked Him to breathe upon our nation? He has a certain path to take and we must learn to flow with Him just as we have had to learn not to change the direction of the wind. **Wind is unpredictable in so many ways.**

"The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes ever returning on its course."

Ecclesiastes 1:6

II. FIRE

Fire is used to generate warmth, illuminate, purify, test, release energy, and generate power. Our sun is a ball of fire which lights up our planetary system. Even though its heat, light and power is beyond anything we could even begin to describe, it still falls far short of any comparison to the generating power of the Holy Spirit.

A. Attracts

*"There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up."
3. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up.'"*

Exodus 3:2,3

Moses was attracted by the fire. God didn't come to destroy the bush but rather to get Moses' attention. God has often brought us to a place called "***Horeb***" (***Heb - "desolation"***) to get our attention.

II. THE SYMBOL OF FIRE (Contd.)

B. Purifies or Consumes

Fire has the unique ability to either purify or consume materials. **Non-combustible materials are purified while combustible ones are consumed.** The Holy Spirit has come in both ways upon the earth and its inhabitants.

John the Baptist said,

*"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** 12. **His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**"*

Matthew 3:11,12

The prophet Isaiah experienced this purifying fire of the Holy Spirit.

*"Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a **live (burning - NAS) coal** in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7. **With it he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.**"*

Isaiah 6:6,7

"he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by the (S)spirit of judgement and a (S)spirit of fire."

Isaiah 4:4b

II. THE SYMBOL OF FIRE (Contd.)

B. Purifies or Consumes (Contd.)

Paul told Timothy to tell the church that their action would determine what God will do for them. Allowing God to cleanse us will give us opportunity for being used in more noble purposes.

"If a man cleanses himself from the latter wood and clay), he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

II Timothy 2:20,21

C. Breaks Down or Softens

Fire has the ability to break down substances. **Samson was able to break the cords that bound him as if they had been put too close to a flame (Judges 16:9).**

*"as wax melts before the fire,
may the wicked perish before God."*

Psalm 68:2b

The Holy Spirit also softens those who will respond to His voice. Those who don't allow His will to be performed find themselves in a place of destruction.

"for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"

Hebrews 12:29

II. THE SYMBOL OF FIRE (Contd.)

D. Endorses Authority

When the Holy Spirit moves amongst us there is no doubt that He has endorsed the ministry by the presence of His authority.

"Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

39. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD - he is God! The LORD - he is God!"

I Kings 18:38,39

Ahaziah, the king of Israel also discovered that the Holy Spirit was endorsing Elijah's ministry.

"Elijah answered the captain, 'If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!' Then fire came down from heaven and consumed the captain and his men."

II Kings 1:10

III. THE SYMBOL OF WATER

Water is an essential part of our life. It purifies, refreshes and renews, sustains and makes both growth and fruitfulness possible.

A. Essential to Life

Recent pictures of the refugee camps in Africa vividly depict the importance of clean water. Water is an essential ingredient of a healthy life.

III. THE SYMBOL OF WATER (Contd.)

A. Essential to Life (Contd.)

The woman at the Samaritan well also learned this important lesson.

"but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:14

"On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

38. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.'

39. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive."

John 7:37-39

The Holy Spirit brings us past the physical desires into a spiritual realm in which we can find total satisfaction.

"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."

Isaiah 44:3

III. THE SYMBOL OF WATER (Contd.)

B. Brings about Growth

God does not want stunted Christians anymore than He wants it take place in His natural creation.

*"Can a papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh?
Can reeds thrive without water?"*

Job 8:11

C. Cleanses us

The most common agent that we use to cleanse our bodies and clothes is water. There is not a detergent that can clean without water. So it is in the spiritual realm.

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Hebrews 10:22

D. Abundant Fruitfulness

One of the most importance signs of the Holy Spirit working in our lives is the fruit which He produces.

"He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Psalms 1:3

III. THE SYMBOL OF WATER (Contd.)

E. Brings Delight and Hope

Thirsty travelers find much delight when they see a container of water.

"Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

Proverbs 25:25

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God."

Psalm 46:4

Oh how the Church in Canada and worldwide needs such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon it. The floodgates of heaven are open. Our prayers and desires will be met with an abundance of God's presence.

These symbols are becoming a reality for those who have set their heart upon Him. Lets not be satisfied with knowing the abstract symbols of the Holy Spirit. **Let us rather gain an intimate relationship with Him and experience these and many other aspects of Him.**

THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - I

Text: John 3:8

Key Word: Symbols

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Symbolized a Number of Ways in the Scriptures

A symbol is "something which represents or stands for something else, as by resemblance or association."

What Are Some Symbols of the Holy Spirit

I. THE SYMBOL OF WIND OR BREATH - *John 3:8; Job 33:4; Ezekiel 37:9,10; Ecclesiastes 1:6*

II. FIRE

A. Attracts - *Exodus 3:2,3*

B. Purifies or Consumes - *Matthew 3:11,12; Isaiah 6:6,7; Isaiah 4:4b; II Timothy 2:20,21*

C. Breaks Down or Softens - *Psalm 68:2b; Hebrews 12:29*

D. Endorses Authority - *I Kings 18:38,39; II Kings 1:10*

III. THE SYMBOL OF WATER

A. Essential to Life - *John 4:14; John 7:37-39; Isaiah 44:3*

B. Brings about Growth - *Job 8:11*

C. Cleanses us - *Hebrews 10:22*

D. Abundant Fruitfulness - *Psalm 1:3*

E. Brings Delight and Hope - *Proverbs 25:25; Psalm 46:4*

THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - II

Text: Ephesians 1:13

Key Word: Symbols

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Symbolized a Number of Ways in the Scriptures

Last week I spoke on the Symbols of the Holy Spirit. Since there were too many symbols to cover in one week I chose to cover this part of the study in two weeks.

Last week we studied the symbols of **Wind/breath, Fire and Water. Today I Am Going to Consider the Symbols of . . .**

I. THE SYMBOL OF A SEAL

II. THE SYMBOL OF A CLOUD, RAIN, AND DEW

III. THE SYMBOL OF WINE

IV. THE SYMBOL OF A DOVE

V. THE SYMBOL OF OIL

I. THE SYMBOL OF A SEAL

A seal was used in Biblical times as a manner of a signature to denote ownership and responsibility.

*"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,
22. set his seal of ownership on us,
and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."*

II Corinthians 1:21,22

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. Having believed, you were marked with him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

Ephesians 1:13

I. THE SYMBOL OF A SEAL (Contd.)

*"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
with **whom you were sealed for the day of
redemption.**"*

Ephesians 4:30

When the Holy Spirit comes to indwell within us He offers us indisputable evidence (Acts 10) that we have been accepted in the beloved due to the finished work of Calvary.

*"God's solid foundation stands firm,
sealed with this inscription: **'The Lord
knows those who are his . . .'**"*

II Timothy 2:19

God will seal 144,000 during the time of great tribulation upon this earth (Revelation 7:2-8) to distinguish which souls belong to Him. Seals are still used today to give authentic ownership for something which is considered valuable.

II. THE SYMBOL OF A CLOUD, RAIN, AND DEW

Clouds, rain and dew all bring refreshing life to parched ground. Without them nothing could survive. All of these descend upon us from above as does the Holy Spirit. He enters our human soul offering us refreshment and nourishment.

*"He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like
showers watering the earth."*

Psalm 72:6

During the time of Hosea the nation of Israel had fallen into deep sin. Of the six kings which ruled during the time of Hosea, 4 were murdered by their successors, 1 died in battle and only 1 had his son succeed him. These kings were given by God in anger and taken away in wrath (Hosea 13:11).

II. THE SYMBOL OF A CLOUD, RAIN, AND DEW (Contd.)

Yet even in the midst of deep sin God was willing to descend upon the nation with the "dew" of the Holy Spirit.

"I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots."

Hosea 14:5

III. THE SYMBOL OF WINE

The symbol of wine has its limitations when referring to the Holy Spirit. This symbol began in the Old Testament through the Prophet Isaiah,

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

Isaiah 55:1

Jesus used the symbol of wine/wineskins to describe the importance of preparing ourselves properly to receive the Holy Spirit.

"Neither do men pour new wine in old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Matthew 9:17

On the Day of Pentecost the mocking bystanders probably didn't realize just how truthful they were when they said,

"These men are full of new wine - KJV"

Acts 2:13

III. THE SYMBOL OF WINE (Contd.)

When God begins to flow into our lives we find certain restraints no longer encumber and inhibit us. We often witness a new boldness. There is often a new stimulation and motivation to become enthusiastic.

I've witnessed times when people appear to be drunk and yet they are fully aware of what is taking place and do not wish to end it. It is like **they are drinking in a blessing from heaven - God Himself - the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit is repeating this "*wine outpouring*" in our times.

IV. THE SYMBOL OF A DOVE

All of the 4 Gospels report about the baptism of Jesus and how the Holy Spirit descended as a dove.

*"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, **and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him.**"*

Matthew 3:16

There are many unique characteristics of a dove. **They are known for their gentleness, tenderness, grace, innocence, mildness, peacefulness, patience, and faithfulness. The dove is one bird in Scripture which is ceremonially clean. It is very selective in its diet, swift in flight, beautiful in its plumage, sociable in its manners, and monogamous in mating habits.**

The first mention of the Holy Spirit like a dove is recorded in the act of creation.

*"and the Spirit of God was hovering (**brooded or fluttered**) over the waters."*

Genesis 1:2

At the time of the receding of the flood Noah released a dove 3 times to determine whether it was safe to depart from the ark. The first time the dove returned quickly since there was no place to set its feet. **A dove will not land upon a carcass as a raven will.** The second time it returned with **an olive leaf (the symbol of peace).** The third time it didn't return since the curse was lifted from the earth. Each time Noah **waited 7 days** to see if God's recreation had begun.

IV. THE SYMBOL OF A DOVE (Contd.)

The Holy Spirit works in our lives by gently leading and persuading us into His will.
He leads us by peace not by cunningness just as He would want us to act with others.

"Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

Matthew 10:16

This is a symbol which our world often displays yet it has no understanding of how the Holy Spirit really works. If we would allow God more freedom in our affairs we could reach lasting peace accords.

V. THE SYMBOL OF OIL

The Holy Spirit is particularly set forth in Scriptures with the symbol of the oil.

"therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Hebrews 1:9b

Oil was used for a variety of purposes in biblical times including fuel for lamps, as a healing agent and when setting apart people for their offices of ministry.

God has **illuminated the Scriptures** to us by the work of the Holy Spirit.

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you in all truth.
15. ...That is why I said the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you."

John 16:13a, 15b

V. THE SYMBOL OF OIL (Contd.)

The Holy Spirit helps us deliver the Gospel message in such a way that it brings recovery to those in need.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, 19. to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Luke 4:18-19

In the Old Testament the prophet, priest and king were set into their office by anointing them with a specific oil. We also are set apart for our offices by the Holy Spirit.

*"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ, **he anointed us . . .**"*

II Corinthians 1:21

Oil was also used to nourish and sustain life. It was used to **soothe** as well as being an **aid to beauty.** It provided light and gave warmth. The holy anointing oil was not allowed to be copied or changed (Ex 30:32).

There are other symbols such as the *"earnest of the Spirit"* (II Corinthians 1:22) which speaks of something which is significant and valuable in binding a contract. It was often considered as a **partial payment or instalment on the account.** The grapes of Eschol were taken as an earnest of the prosperity of the promised land (Numbers 13:23-25).

The Holy Spirit is also symbolized as **clothing which needs to be put on** (Luke 24:49; Ephesians 4:24).

All of these symbols are used in Scripture to help us better understand who the Holy Spirit is and what He wishes to do in our lives. **Right now we see, understand and witness Him in part. One day we shall know Him as He is.**

THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - II

Text: Ephesians 1:13

Key Word: Symbols

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Symbolized a Number of Ways in the Scriptures

Today I Am Going to Consider the Symbols of . . .

I. THE SYMBOL OF A SEAL - *II Corinthians 1:21,22; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30
Acts 10; II Timothy 2:19; Revelation 7:2-8*

II. THE SYMBOL OF A CLOUD, RAIN, AND DEW - *Psalm 72:6; Hosea 13:11; 14:5*

III. THE SYMBOL OF WINE - *Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 9:17; Acts 2:13*

IV. THE SYMBOL OF A DOVE - *Matthew 3:16; Genesis 1:2; Matthew 10:16*

V. THE SYMBOL OF OIL - *Hebrews 1:9b; John 16:13a, 15b; Luke 4:18-19;
II Corinthians 1:21; Exodus 30:32; II Corinthians 1:22; Numbers 13:23-25; Luke 24:49;
Ephesians 4:24*

THE GENERAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Text: Genesis 1:1-2

Key Word: Work

Key Thought: the Holy Spirit Works in Many Important Ways on Our Behalf

The Holy Spirit is the "*active agent*" of the Godhead who is committed to fulfilling God's will and purpose.

"The Father brings forth,
the Son disposes and arranges,
the Holy Spirit perfects."

Abraham Kuyper

There is no doubt from Scripture that the Holy Spirit is the active worker who fulfills the desires of the Godhead. **The Holy Spirit Works in at Least Three Ways.**

- I. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE**
- II. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN UNREGENERATED MAN**
- III. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE CHURCH**

I. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE

*"In the beginning God created the heavens
and the earth.*

*2. Now the earth was formless and empty,
darkness was over the surface of the
deep, and the Spirit of God was
hovering over the waters."*

Genesis 1:1,2

The word that is used for "*hovering*" or "*moving - KJV*" is only found in one other place in the Hebrew Scriptures. In Deuteronomy 32:11 it tells how God cared for Israel.

*"like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young, that
spreads its wings to catch them and
carries them on its pinions."*

Deuteronomy 32:11

I. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE (Contd.)

This tells us that the Holy worked during the creation of the world in a loving, caring and nurturing manner. The Latin Vulgate uses the word "*incubat*" which conveys the image of a bird incubating its nest of eggs into active life. A bird never neglects its duty until all the eggs have hatched.

When God created Adam something very special took place,

"the LORD God formed the man from dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath [rauch or spirit] of life, and the man became a living being."

Genesis 2:7

There is no life outside of the Holy Spirit. Even Job understood that truth.

"The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Job 33:4

The Holy Spirit took great effort in the creation of this world. He has a great role in sustaining, preserving and adorning the world with beauty.

*"If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath,
15. all mankind would perish and man would return to the dust."*

Job 34:14,15

*"When you send your Spirit they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth."*

Psalms 104:30

*"By his Spirit he hath garnished
[decorated or beautified] the heavens."*

Job 26:13 KJV

I. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE (Contd.)

His special function in the physical universe was to give order and organization to that which was created. He brings forth hidden beauty, achieves form out of the formless, rouses into activity that which was dormant or slumbering and brings all things to their fulfilment. This is why the Holy Spirit is becoming so active in our days. The Holy Spirit perfects that which the Father and Son originate and arrange.

Although much of God's creation was ordered to be self-sustaining and self-perpetuating, we must realize that without the Holy Spirit all would disappear (Psalm 36:6).

II. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN UNREGENERATED MAN

The Son of God is often seen touching man outwardly while the Holy Spirit touches him inwardly. The Spirit continually strives to lead all people to seek and know God in spite of their carnal resistance and the active opposition of our adversary.

The Scriptures state that we are spiritually blinded, darkened and dead.

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Romans 1:21

None of us are capable of turning to God without the assistance of God's grace as performed through the Holy Spirit. It is wrong to say that "we found God." He was never lost. We were.

Someone has likened our problem to a bit of computer jargon. They said we have lost interface with God. Interface is the point of communication that bridges two parts together. Only the Holy Spirit can bridge the gap between God and man.

"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? in the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

I Corinthians 2:11

II. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN UNREGENERATED MAN (Contd.)

It is a fallacy to believe that one day we decided to accept the Lord. Conviction is not the work of man but rather the work of God. We must realize that we do not lead people to Christ in the real sense, it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

"When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment."

John 16:8

When we feel guilty over sin we can be assured that the Holy Spirit is involved. He also sets the standard of righteousness for this world since none of us are pure enough. He also stands witness to the fact that Satan has been defeated and his judgment is secure. Satan therefore has no right to lead us captive into sin. The Holy Spirit convinces unbelievers that forgiveness of sins is still available.

The Holy Spirit is able to hold back the tide of unrestrained evil until its time.

"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way."

II Thessalonians 2:7

The Holy Spirit works within the church to accomplish His plans not because He has to but rather because He wants to.

"We are witnesses of these things , and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Acts 5:32

God still uses anointed preaching to bring about the conviction of the Holy Spirit to those who are unsaved.

III. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE CHURCH

If there was no Spirit, there would be no church.

"The amount of God's power flowing out into the world is in direct proportion to the opportunity given the Holy Spirit to dwell in His Church."

On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit offered the church new power and courage. It was by Him that people were converted, unity prevailed, dynamic leadership administered, and miracles were accomplished.

He led Philip to Gaza (Acts 8:26); directed Ananias to pray for Saul (Acts 9:10); and sent forth Saul and Barnabas on their first missionary endeavour (Acts 13:2-4). He directed the Church into breaking down its prejudices (Acts 15:28).

The Holy Spirit is still involved in

- a). Teaching - John 14:26
- b). Guiding - John 16:13
- c). Showing forth God's glory - John 16:13,15)
- d). Bring to remembrance - John 14:26

The work of the Holy Spirit through Church leadership is very important.

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

Acts 20:28

The Holy Spirit works through those who submit to His guidance. They become channels for Him to work through. We need leadership that is not so full of human talent and skill but rather humbly available to be under the control and purpose of the Spirit.

"The Church that is man-managed instead of God-governed is doomed to failure."

III. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE CHURCH (Contd.)

When the Spirit has His way in the church we move more into a organism than an organization. He elevates our assemblies into a true, serving, worshipping body under the headship of Jesus Christ.

A church will never be unified without the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is not some mechanical unity but unity in our diversity.

"There is one body and one Spirit"

Ephesians 4:4

Lastly, the Spirit confers authority upon and keeps His Word alive. Without Him our words can only express the letter of the law. It is the Spirit that gives life.

"This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words."

I Corinthians 2:13

These are simply some of the general works of the Holy Spirit. It is not an exhaustive list. Yet it begins to unveil His working in and through our lives. The more we understand what He says He can and will do the more our spiritual lives will be enriched.

LET HIM DO HIS WORK IN YOU.

THE GENERAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Text: Genesis 1:1-2

Key Word: Work

Key Thought: the Holy Spirit Works in Many Important Ways on Our Behalf

The Holy Spirit Works in at Least Three Ways.

I. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE - *Genesis 1:1,2; Deuteronomy 32:11; Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Job 34:14,15; Psalm 104:30; Job 26:13 KJV; Psalm 36:6*

II. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN UNREGENERATED MAN - *Romans 1:21; I Corinthians 2:11; John 16:8; II Thessalonians 2:7; Acts 5:32*

III. THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE CHURCH - *Acts 8:26; Acts 9:10; Acts 15:28; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:4; I Corinthians 2:13*

The Holy Spirit is still involved in

- a). Teaching - *John 14:26*
- b). Guiding - *John 16:13*
- c). Showing forth God's glory - *John 16:13,15*
- d). Bring to remembrance - *John 14:26*

THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: I Corinthians 2:4-5

Key Word: Demonstration

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Demonstrating His Power as We Approach the Last Days of Time

The Holy Spirit works in our midst for different reasons. His will is so diverse that we are still trying to understand His workings in our lives. One area which has brought some misunderstanding to the Church is **how and why the Holy Spirit demonstrates His power in our midst.**

As Paul delivered his messages to the churches, the Holy Spirit demonstrated to those around that his messages were authentic.

"When I came to you brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

2. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

*4. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit's power,***

*5. **so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.**"*

I Corinthians 2:1-5

The Holy Spirit Is Beginning His Final Demonstration of Power . . .

I. THROUGH REMOVING THE SLUMBER

II. THROUGH RAISING THE SERVANTS

III. THROUGH RETURNING THE SAINTS

I. THROUGH REMOVING THE SLUMBER

"Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.

2. Shake off your dust: rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive daughter of Zion."

Isaiah 52:1-2

I believe that one of the initial ways the Holy Spirit in our day has begun to come to His Church is with **a call to awake**. The Spirit of God is sounding His trumpet throughout the land to raise the Church from its place of slumber. **Our God is not a God of slumber.**

*"he who watches over you will not slumber;
4. indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither
slumber nor sleep."*

Psalm 121:3,4

People who slumber are dormant and in the stage of beginning to doze off. There is a time to rest and there is a time to rise up. **Any Church that is in the state of peace and tranquillity has missed the wake up call of the Spirit.**

"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest -

6. and poverty will come to you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man."

Proverbs 6:10,11

The call of the Spirit is not just to awake the Church. But rather it is to **awake it to its purpose.**

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

Romans 13:11

I. THROUGH REMOVING THE SLUMBER (Contd.)

*** Some of us in this place are able to rise from our sleep with our eyes wide open. Others use crow bars to lift their eyelids.

I went fishing with a group of 3 other men in the early 1990's in northern BC. We drove for 14 hours to arrive at Carp Lake. It was known for its beautiful rainbow trout.

After such a long drive and then having to set up the tent and get our gear ready I thought we could sleep in. One of the men was an early riser. At 5:00 Am he woke up and put on the water for coffee. At 5:15 he unzipped our tent and stood with a video camera shouting, "Up and at her" "The early bird gets the worm."

None of had a taste for worms so we tried to roll over. I must say he was persistent. Within a few minutes he convinced us that he would not allow us to lay in a state of slumber.

The time was right for the fish to bite.

II. THROUGH RAISING THE SERVANTS

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"

Isaiah 52:7

The second stage of the Holy Spirit's demonstration of Himself is that He will raise His servant Church to its feet. It is not enough to simply wake up and hear the call of the Spirit. His call is a call to action. It will send the Church forth as an army of spreading forth the message of salvation. The weapons of our warfare will be peace, good tidings and salvation.

The prophet Isaiah has revealed to us how it shall be done.

"See, it is I [God] who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc;

17. no weapon formed against you will prevail (prosper - KJV), and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is a heritage of the servants of the LORD and this is their vindication from me,' declares the LORD."

Isaiah 54:16,17

II. THROUGH RAISING THE SERVANTS (Contd.)

The Church unfortunately has never risen to its feet without first experiencing persecution. God also used Assyria and Babylon to become the destroyer who reeked havoc upon the nation of Israel. Through this trouble the people called out to God. He used these nations to bring His people to their senses. They again rose to their feet to rebuild the temple and the walls and gates of Jerusalem.

God would not allow the enemy to prosper over God's people forever. The insulting accusations were quickly quenched as God raised His people to their feet AS SERVANTS.

A Church on its feet is never a stationary force.

*"You will go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will burst into song
before you, and all the trees of the field will clap
their hands."*

Isaiah 55:12

God will make a way where there is no way so His people can march forth in the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

*"And it shall be said: 'Build up, build up, prepare
the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way
of my people."*

Isaiah 57:14

The people who really surrender themselves to God will witness an incredible opening so that God can demonstrate His Spirit into the hearts of the unsaved.

*"then you will find joy in the LORD, and I will
cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to
feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.' The
mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Isaiah 58:14

I must tell you that those who respond to the demonstration of the Holy Spirit will find great reward. We will enter into a fresh covenant with the Holy Spirit which will revolutionize not only our lives but also the lives of our children and grandchildren and those we come into contact with.

II. THROUGH RAISING THE SERVANTS (Contd.)

"As for me, this is my covenant with them says the LORD. 'My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of your descendants from this time on and forever,' says the LORD."

Isaiah 59:21

It is the appointed time for God's people to come out of their slumber and to stand and receive the anointing from God.

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you,
2. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you."*

Isaiah 60:1,2

III. THROUGH RETURNING THE SAINTS

There is a time to be sent forth and also a time to return and share what God has done. The rewards of our labour will return with us.

*"They will proclaim my glory among the nations.
20. And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD - on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,' says the LORD. 'They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels.
21. And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,' says the LORD.
22. 'As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,' declares the LORD, 'so will your name and descendants endure.'"*

Isaiah 66:19-22

III. THROUGH RETURNING THE SAINTS (Contd.)

The day is soon approaching when God's saints will return with the fruit of their labour. Precious souls shall be gathered unto their LORD. Rewards for faithfulness will be issued. The gathering shall be complete.

The song that the exiles of Ezra once sang will again burst forth before the throne of God as we also make our ascent before Zion.

"When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed.

2. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'

3. The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

4. Restore the fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev.

5. Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

6. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him."

Psalm 126:1-6

One of the greatest demonstrations of the power of the Holy Spirit in the O.T. was when the Red Sea was opened to deliver God's people from their Egyptian oppressors. It raised the people of God from their slumber.

In the N.T. the Holy Spirit raised the servants of God to their feet on the day of Pentecost. They went forth in the power of the risen Lord capturing the strongholds of the enemy.

In the closing days of this age the final sending forth is being done. There have been more missionary endeavours in the last 100 years than every before in the history of the world. **It is now time to gather in the harvest. The saints are returning.** Where are you in this exciting close of time?

THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: I Corinthians 2:4-5

Key Word: Demonstration

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Is Demonstrating His Power as We Approach the Last Days of Time

The Holy Spirit Is Beginning His Final Demonstration of Power . . .

I. THROUGH REMOVING THE SLUMBER - *Isaiah 52:1-2; Psalm 121:3,4; Proverbs 6:10,11; Romans 13:11*

II. THROUGH RAISING THE SERVANTS - *Isaiah 52:7; Isaiah 54:16,17; Isaiah 55:12; Isaiah 57:14; Isaiah 58:14; Isaiah 59:21; Isaiah 60:1,2*

III. THROUGH RETURNING THE SAINTS - *Isaiah 66:19-22; Psalm 126:1-6*

THE CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 16:7-11

Key Word: Conviction

Key Thought: It is Because of God's Love for Us That He Will Convict Us in Order to Bring about a Lasting Change.

The term "**conviction**" has several meanings. When we say we have a conviction about something we are telling others that we have a strong opinion or belief on the matter. Our Fellowship Today magazine used to be called "Conviction." I commented once that we've moved out of conviction and into fellowship.

The word that is used in our text "**convict**" or "**reprove - KJV**" means to "**admonish, convince, tell a fault, or rebuke.**" The Holy Spirit uses conviction to show people of their need of God and attempts to move them toward repentance and faith in God.

*"But I tell you the truth: it is good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
8. When he comes, **he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.**"*

John 16:7,8

The Holy Spirit takes upon Himself 2 roles. **He works on our behalf as a DEFENCE ATTORNEY to speak up for us.** He is our counsellor. He does not condone sin in our lives. He condemns sin without coming across as one who is condemning us.

When it comes to His approach to the world He switches sides but still works as a lawyer. He becomes the **PROSECUTING ATTORNEY for the world.** We can find out a lot about what concerns God by understanding how He convicts the world.

One thing about the court of God is that everyone who stands before Him from the world is guilty. There are no innocent sinners who find that they've been unfairly brought to court. That is why it says He comes to **convict the world of guilt.** He cross-examines the unsaved for the purpose of convincing them that they are wrong.

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the World Is to Convict Them . . .

I. AS SINFUL

II. WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS

III. UNDER JUDGMENT

I. AS SINFUL

"he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin."

John 16:8a

This is the only place in scripture that it speaks of the Holy Spirit performing His work "in the world." Normally, He focuses His work upon the saints.

One of the first things the Holy Spirit did on the Day of Pentecost was to convict the world of sin through the mouth of the apostle Peter.

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37. When the people heard this, they were cut to their heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do.'"

Acts 2:36,37

The people felt the sin in their hearts exposed. It caused them to recognize their need of a Saviour. It showed them that they were unbelievers even though they were religious Jews. **If the Holy Spirit cannot convict people of sin lets not heap condemnation and insult upon them.** It is better to pray that any hindrances are removed. God can do it on His own but He also often involves us with prayer and carefully chosen words.

The greatest sin in our nation is a basic sin which places people in a position of being ruler over their lives. They sit on the throne determining what is right and wrong for their lives. They refuse to believe that God is right.

I. AS SINFUL (Contd.)

“We do not have a healthy hatred of sin today because we have no proper sense of the holiness of God. **The love of God has been preached but not His law.** Men are not conscious of their need because they do not regard sin as the awful thing that cost God His Son and the Son His life. They do not desire the Physician because they do not think they are sick.”

Vance Havner
p. 214

Our **world** needs a healthy dose of a need for God because of sinfulness.

II. WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS

"in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father."

John 16:10

The Holy Spirit helps people realize that they have no righteousness in themselves and that they need forgiveness through the grace that God offers them.

It's an amazing thing that the Holy Spirit can convince us to put our trust for all eternity in the One who was crucified as a Jewish criminal. None of us, no matter how great we are at speaking, could do such a thing. It is even more amazing that we now accept the fact that our righteousness depends upon us placing our total faith in our crucified/risen Lord.

When Jesus stood before the Father there was no opportunity for hypocrisy to be found. He proved His righteousness by going to the Father. No one would be foolish enough to attempt to pretend they are something which they are not while standing before God.

The Holy Spirit convinces us that we must stand only upon the righteousness which is from Christ and Christ alone. Those who refuse to listen to His voice will bring themselves to a terrible end.

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Romans 1:21

II. WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS (Contd.)

*** Blackmailers once sent C.H. Spurgeon a letter to the effect that if he did not place a certain amount of money in a certain place at a certain time, they would publish some things in the newspapers that would defame him and ruin his public ministry.

Spurgeon left a letter in reply at the appointed place: "*You and your like are requested to publish all you know about me across the heavens.*"

He knew his life was blameless in the eyes of men and, therefore, they could not touch his character. ***

Michael Green
#1149

III. UNDER JUDGMENT

"and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."

John 16:11

The main reason why Jesus had to overcome Satan was not to prove He was more powerful. The main reason was to judge the devil of his rebellious sin. Justice had to take place. **Once justice was complete defeat was imminent.**

Satan lost his grip over the lives of individuals who wish to turn to God. Jesus paid the price so those who were once captive could now be set free.

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Colossians 2:15

God disarmed the devil and his cohorts. It was like telling them to throw their weapons down. He made a public spectacle of them just like law enforcement officers do when they lead away those in handcuff who have been charge with an offence.

Those who choose NOT to accept God's gracious gift of salvation find themselves under judgment. The Holy Spirit will judge those who choose to forsake the forgiveness that can be found in God alone.

III. UNDER JUDGMENT (Contd.)

*** In the days of the pioneers, when men saw that a prairie fire was coming, what would they do? Since not even the fastest of horses could outrun it, the pioneers took a match and burned the grass in a designated area around them.

Then they would take their stand in the burned area and be safe from the threatening fire. As the roar of the flames approached, they would not be afraid. Even as the ocean of fire surged around them there was no fear, **because fire had already passed over the place where they stood.**

When the judgment of God comes to sweep men and women into hell for eternity, there is one spot that is safe. **Nearly 2,000 years ago the wrath of God was poured on Calvary.** There the Son of God took the wrath that should have fallen on us. Now, if we take our stand by the cross, we are safe for time and eternity.

Michael Green

Anyone who chooses to reject God's gracious gift of salvation and forgiveness will find themselves consumed by fire. **If people proudly go against God's safety zone, they will have to face the result of the flames.** Sin is always dealt with in a severe form. It is either dealt with by the grace of God for those who choose to repent and turn away from it or it is dealt with by the law of God in eternal judgement.

The Holy Spirit is reinforcing this truth to unbelievers before it is too late. We may be used in voicing His truth to others. Judgement is a fact. It took place at Calvary and it will take place again at the White Throne Judgment.

We need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit while there is still time. Go where He leads you. Say what He places upon your heart to say. Reach out with the love of God. **Let the Holy Spirit do the conviction.**

THE CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 16:7-11

Key Word: Conviction

Key Thought: It is Because of God's Love for Us That He Will Convict Us in Order to Bring about a Lasting Change.

INTRODUCTION: *John 16:7,8*

The Work of the Holy Spirit in the World Is to Convict Them . . .

I. AS SINFUL (16:8a) - *John 16:8a; Acts 2:36,37*

II. WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS (16:10) - *John 16:10; Romans 1:21*

III. UNDER JUDGMENT (16:11) - *John 16:11; Colossians 2:15*

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 14:16-18

Key Word: Indwelling

Key Thought: The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit Is Different than the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

While Jesus walked upon this earth He left us many wonderful promises. One of those promises is what I call **His wonderful promise**. I don't know how I could live without this promise. This promise has been fulfilled and is being fulfilled in the lives of believers every day.

"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it..."

16. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever -

*17. the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him or knows him. **But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.***

18. I will not leave you as orphans: I will come to you."

John 14:14,16-18

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is one of the most important truths we need to understand in this series of messages. All other ministries depend upon this fact.

A person cannot be a Christian without this happening to them.

*"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.**"*

Romans 8:9

Once this happens our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

*"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that **God's Spirit lives in you?**"*

I Corinthians 3:16

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."

I Corinthians 6:19

"One of the most comprehensive definitions of a Christian is that he is man in whom the Holy Spirit dwells."

Myer Pearlman

"You show me a man who is not indwelt by the Spirit of God, and I will show you a man who is not a child of God."

Louis Talbot

There are several things we need to understand about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **I want to make it very clear that I am not referring to what is most commonly called "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit."**

What Are 3 Things We Need to Know about the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

- I. IT IS CONDITIONAL**
- II. IT IS INSTANTANEOUS**
- III. IT IS PERMANENT**

I. IT IS CONDITIONAL

"Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard."

Galatians 3:5

The answer is found in the question. **There is only one prerequisite to receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.**

"That impartation of the Spirit as indwelling the believer simply and only because he was a believer marked the tremendous transition from the age of law to the age of grace."

C. I. Scofield

I. IT IS CONDITIONAL (Contd.)

The only prerequisite for receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is our faith in God. The church at Galatia **never received the indwelling because they were perfect.** They believed and received by exercising their faith in God. Their lives were not what we would describe as clean.

Anyone who teaches that we must clean up our lives before receiving the Holy Spirit totally misunderstands the Scriptures in this area. Nowhere does it teach that we receive the Holy Spirit based upon our works. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are received by grace through faith.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -
9. not by works, so that none can boast."*

Ephesians 2:8

Therefore, the one and only condition for receiving Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is our faith in God.

II. IT IS INSTANTANEOUS

*"Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us:
We know it by the Spirit he gave us."*

1 John 3:24

The Scriptures do not say that the Spirit is BEING GIVEN to us. **It says we know it by the Spirit He GAVE US - past tense.** It speaks of something which was completed in the past. Other tenses could have been used but the Word uses **an aorist tense.**

We do not receive more of the Holy Spirit as we mature in our faith. The fullness of the Godhead dwells within us when we become a Christian.

The indwelling is not based upon some emotional high we may or may not experience. A person is NOT filled more if they shout or if they cry or if they do nothing. None of these things are necessary for the completion of our salvation as well as for the complete act of the indwelling to take place.

II. IT IS INSTANTANEOUS (Contd.)

2231 Fill Us!

"This the secret of the holy,
Not our holiness, but HIM:
Jesus! empty and fill us
With Thy fullness to the brim."

When we were saved, we were fully saved. When we were indwelt, we were fully indwelt. (Illustration.- Testifying at Berwick Hotel).

God alone is able to empty ourselves of ourselves in order to fill us with Himself.

III. IT IS PERMANENT

*"As for you, the anointing you received from him
remains in you,"*

I John 2:27

I know of people who believe they lose the Holy Spirit every time they sin. They have told me that the Holy Spirit cannot dwell where there is sin. If that was true, none of us would have the Holy Spirit within us. Also, the Holy Spirit would not be able to dwell anywhere that man has gone.

The Holy Spirit can enter the presence of sin without becoming sinful. He can and does dwell within imperfect Christians. He doesn't leave when we get angry, swear, lie, steal, or do whatever we are not suppose to do. If He did, we would never attempt to change from these things.

We do not risk the possibility of losing the Holy Spirit if we casually sin.

*"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another Counsellor to be with you forever"*

John 14:16

The Holy Spirit has come as our Advocate to speak on our behalf often when we have committed a sin. He does not say we are not guilty, rather He redirects the eternal punishment to Jesus if we have truly repented. We may have to face **temporary punishment** because of our legal system, but God's Spirit does not leave us during these times. This should cause us to stop sinning.

III. IT IS PERMANENT (Contd.)

We don't need to get indwelt by the Holy Spirit again unless we have totally forsaken the grace of God. Why would we ever want to forsake the wonderful blessings that God has blessed us with? Illustration - Foot over the line.

We can grieve the Holy Spirit if we continue in sin. All we have to do is repent; turn FROM our sin and turn TO God. **If we do not repent and turn from sin we will notice a diminished awareness of God's presence and a restriction for Him to flow through our lives.**

Consequences of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

A. Understanding - The permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit which we receive at the time of our salvation enables us to understand the things of God. (Not window shopping)

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God had freely given us."

I Corinthians 2:12

B. Access in Prayer (Admit One)

"For through him (Jesus) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."

Ephesians 2:18

C. Assurance (Confidence)

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

Romans 8:16

D. Power over sin/Fruit of Righteousness

Read: *Galatians 5:17-26*

III. IT IS PERMANENT (Contd.)

E. Channels for the Holy Spirit to Flow

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

39. By this he meant the Spirit whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

John 7:38,39

Hopefully this has answered more questions than it has created. Lets be careful not to **mix up the indwelling of the Holy Spirit with the gift or promise or Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

Keep in mind the 3 things we need to know about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

- I. IT IS CONDITIONAL**
- II. IT IS INSTANTANEOUS**
- III. IT IS PERMANENT**

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 14:16-18

Key Word: Indwelling

Key Thought: The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit Is Different than the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION: *John 14:14,16-18; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 6:19*

What Are 3 Things We Need to Know about the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

I. IT IS CONDITIONAL - *Galatians 3:5; Ephesians 2:8*

II. IT IS INSTANTANEOUS - *I John 3:24*

III. IT IS PERMANENT - *I John 2:27; John 14:16*

Consequences of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

A. Understanding - *I Corinthians 2:12*

B. Access in Prayer - *Ephesians 2:18*

C. Assurance - *Romans 8:16*

D. Power over sin/Fruit of Righteousness - *Galatians 5:17-26*

E. Channels for the Holy Spirit to Flow - *John 7:38,39*

THE SPIRIT IN SANCTIFICATION

Text: II Thessalonians 2:13

Key Word: Sanctification

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Will Help Us Through the Process of Sanctification

When we ask Jesus Christ to forgive us of our sins, an immediate step takes place which is called "justification." At this point the righteousness of Christ is credited to our account. Therefore, we stand before God as if we had never sinned. Our sins are totally forgiven.

The next step is a process rather than an event. It is called "sanctification." This is the process of becoming more like Christ. Over a period of time each believer grows in this area. The rate of change depends upon their willingness to surrender to God.

The final step that will happen in an instant for every believer will be our "glorification." This will take place when Jesus Christ returns to rapture His Church. Both the **act of justification** and the **process of sanctification** will be completed at that time in our lives.

The truth of justification by faith in God was returned to the Church by a German monk named Martin Luther in 1517 AD. He stood opposed to the medieval Roman Catholic Church's teaching of "**a works-righteousness**" doctrine. He spoke out against 95 legal requirements which the Catholic Church had placed upon the people. The people were burdened under the payment of fines and petty penances on their road to sanctification.

John and Charles Wesley began clarifying the Biblical teaching of personal sanctification in the 18th century. Some of the great holiness preachers like George Whitefield, Francis Asbury, and John Fletcher carried the message as well to the Churches.

There is no doubt that in a sense we are sanctified the moment we are saved.

"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

I Corinthians 1:30

Today, I'm going to address the subject of **the process of sanctification** as taught by the Scriptures.

Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica some very special words on the subject of sanctification. These words bring out the truth that sanctification is a process.

*"But we ought to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you **to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit** and through belief in the truth."*

II Thessalonians 2:13

What is Sanctification all about?

- I. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROGRESSING**
- II. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROFESSING**
- III. IT IS A PROCESS OF POSSESSING**

I. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROGRESSING

I have yet to meet a Christian who believes that he or she has reached their final potential of holiness. Most people believe there is still a work for God to do.

I am thankful that Jesus chose a disciple like Peter to be one of the 12 apostles. It reinstates the truth that God knows we are in the **process of becoming**. We are not there yet but are further than where we were a year ago.

Our **PROCESS OF PROGRESSING** is a **LIFELONG** system of growing up in God. One thing about growing up is that it brings a certain amount of pain.

****** A young son brought his report card home from school but was concerned with his marks. He therefore, went to the attic to find his father's report cards.

"Here's my report card, Dad, along with your old ones I found in the attic."

They compared their marks. The son mentioned, *"These report cards are not that much different, are they, Dad?"*

The father replied, *"Your right son. I guess the only fair thing to do is give you what my father gave me."* ******

Bob Phillips
"The Last of the Good Clean Jokes"
p. 3

I. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROGRESSING (Contd.)

*"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; **but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.***

*11. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. **Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**"*

Hebrews 12:10,11

Even though the process may bring temporary pain, it's good to know that it is designed to progress in the positive direction.

** A young boy came to his father one day to ask, "Dad, what is 'creeping inflation.'"

The father replied, "It's when your mother starts out asking for new shoes and ends up with a complete new outfit." **

ibid
p. 3

There is a lot of misunderstanding about sanctification. **It is not a series of man-made laws which we must abide by. It is rather an understanding of God's will and the willingness to surrender to it.** So many people seem to add $2 + 2 = 5$ when it comes to holiness.

** The father who was upset at his son's behaviour said, "Every time you're naughty I get another grey hair."

"WOW!" the boy replied, "you must have been a terror when you were young . . . just look at Grandma." **

ibid
p.5

Even though we may not fully understand the full meaning of sanctification, it is no excuse for not pursuing it. If we cooperate with God, He will work to make us in reality what He has already declared us to be.

We need to be determined to pursue THE PROCESS OF PROGRESSING in our holy living.

I. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROGRESSING (Contd.)

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory,** which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

II Corinthians 3:18

*"Make every effort to live in peace with all men **and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.**"*

Hebrews 12:14

II. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROFESSING

AS WE PROGRESS, WE SHOULD ALSO PROFESS to others what is taking place in our lives. From the very beginning of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts, there was a profession of their newfound faith in God. The early church was not perfect in holiness.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached a powerful message in which he professed his newfound faith in the risen Saviour. His words were filled with a new conviction.

*"With many other words he warned them; and pleaded with them, '**Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.**'"*

Acts 2:40

The more that Peter matured in his Christian faith, the more he professed it openly no matter what others felt (Acts 4:29,30). **His words ended him up in a prison.** His words preceded the death of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).

Stephen also had to walk this pathway of professing his faith in God before the lawless, religious leaders of Jerusalem. **It cost him his life.** Yet he knew where the road was leading him.

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Acts 7:59

II. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROFESSING (Contd.)

** A minister was building a wooden trellis to support a climbing vine by his house. As he was pounding away, he noticed that a little boy was watching him.

The youngster didn't say a word, so the preacher went on working, thinking the lad would leave. But he didn't.

Pleased at the thought that his work was being admired, the pastor said, "Well, son, trying to pick up some pointers on gardening?"

"No," replied the boy, "I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer." **

Michael Green
"Illustrations for Biblical Preaching"
#1472

Is our PROFESSION PROGRESSING in a manner that it brings glory to God or not?

We are the only Bible
The careless world will need
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed,
We are the Lord's last message,
Given in deed and word.
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?

Annie Johnson Flint
from Michael Green
"Illustrations for Biblical Preaching"
#1474

III. IT IS A PROCESS OF POSSESSING

Peter, spent a considerable amount of time in his letters on the subject of sanctification.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness (excellence).

*4. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, **so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.***

5. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness (virtue AV), and to goodness knowledge;

6. and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7. and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

*8. **For if you possess these qualities IN INCREASING MEASURE, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

II Peter 1:3-8

These words declare the truth that we don't possess all the qualities of the Christian life the moment we believe. It is our duty to progress in the area of possessing these "additions" to our faith. **THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT DOES NOT CANCEL THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY, BUT IT DOES GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL AND MORAL GROWTH.**

This is an area we must be persistent in.

** Little William was saying his prayers one night. His mother thought she would tiptoe up and listen to what he said. He prayer was short and sweet. It ended with the following request.

"And please make Tommy stop throwing things at me. You may remember, I've mentioned this to You before. He's still doing it." **

III. IT IS A PROCESS OF POSSESSING

If God appears slow in answering our prayers it may be because He can use the situation to increase our **POSSESSION OF HOLY LIVING**. There are no fast food drive throughs when it comes to holiness.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

II Thessalonians 5:23

Be encouraged if you sense the Holy Spirit guiding you to be set apart for God's use by conforming you into His image. **The day of our glorification is nearer now than when we believed. Keep on keeping on for God.**

THE SPIRIT IN SANCTIFICATION

Text: II Thessalonians 2:13

Key Word: Sanctification

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit Will Help Us Through the Process of Sanctification

INTRODUCTION:

Justification:

Sanctification:

Glorification:

I Corinthians 1:30; II Thessalonians 2:13

What Is Sanctification All About?

I. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROGRESSING - *Hebrews 12:10,11; II Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 12:14*

II. IT IS A PROCESS OF PROFESSING - *Acts 2:40; Acts 4:29,30; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 7:59*

III. IT IS A PROCESS OF POSSESSING - *II Peter 1:3-8; II Thessalonians 5:23*

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PART I

Love, Joy, Peace

Text: Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 5:22

Key Word: Fruit

Key Thought: The Fruit of God's Love, Joy and Peace Needs to Abide in Each of us

Jesus took every occasion He could to train His disciples for service. Luke deals with some of these times in the life of Jesus that no other gospel does. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a case in point to bring out wonderful truths.

I want to do a 3-part series on the Fruit of the Spirit. These fruit can be seen in the 3-part teaching that Jesus gave on what could be called "**The Characteristics of a True Disciple.**"

The first three fruit that the Bible mentions are - Love, Joy and Peace. **Let's See How These Characteristics Are Blended into this Discourse of Jesus.**

I. LOVE (Luke 10:25-32)

II. JOY (Luke 11:33-34)

III. PEACE (Luke 11:35-37)

I. LOVE (Luke 10:25-32)

One day an expert in the law came to Jesus and asked a question that many have wondered about.

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Luke 10:25

He didn't say "What must I do to receive eternal life." **There is a vast difference between receiving and inheriting.** Anyone can receive something. Inheritances are for a selected few. You receive an inheritance not by WHAT YOU DO but by WHO YOU ARE. Why did he ask Jesus - "*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*" **An heir will simply receive his inheritance by proving who he is, not by what he does.** Many heirs have argued and won legal cases that many would contend that they were not fit to receive. But they received their reward simply because they proved without question their identity.

When Jesus asked the lawgiver what the law said, he could have quoted many verses from the Torah. He chose the verse that Jesus was looking for. Jesus was interested in the written law not in the oral tradition. This verse expressed the heart of Jewish religion. **The law had to be read through the eyes of love.** Law without love is deadly. It brings eternal death.

I. LOVE (Luke 10:25-32) (Contd.)

Jesus said, "do this and you will live."

Luke 10:28

Jesus uniquely combined the truth that **YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO. You prove you're an heir to the kingdom of God by your actions.** You can't say it and not do it. **Your inheritance is based upon how your heart expresses itself.**

"For out of the overflow (abundance KJV) of the heart the mouth speaks."

Matthew 12:34

We cannot make claim to God's kingdom with all of its reward without expressing God's love.

"To the Jews who had beloved him, Jesus said, If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples"

John 8:31

"If God were your Father you would love me."

John 8:42

The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed."

John 8:48

It's so interesting to me that Jesus then uses the question of the lawyer to tell The Parable of The Good Samaritan. The Jews thought that they had their inheritance as sons and not illegitimate children because they said,

"We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves to anyone (what about Babylon, Media, Persia & Rome). How can you say that we shall be set free?"

John 8:33

I. LOVE (Luke 10:25-32) (Contd.)

Jesus was forcing them to come to the truth of who they really were and therefore, what inheritance they could rightly claim. If they came to have the truth of God's Word living within them and accepted it as legitimate sons they would have eternal life.

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

John 8:51

The lawyer had to KEEP God's Word not simply KNOW it. The Parable of The Good Samaritan was powerfully used to open the lawyer's eyes. He could and would identify with the priest and Levite but would contend that they would have helped - although it would be doubtful that they would have. **Love sometimes has to be expressed in unlikely places, and to unlikely people. Our inheritance may come into question by the limitations we place on our acts of love.**

Love, Unconditional

*** One Sunday a little boy looked up at his dad and asked, "Daddy, how does God love us?"
His father answered, "Son, God loves us with an unconditional love."
The lad thought for a moment and then asked "Daddy, what kind of love is unconditional love?"
After a few minutes of silence his father answered, "Do you remember the two boys who used to live next door to us and the cute little puppy they got last Christmas?"
"Yes."
"Do you remember how they used to tease it, throw sticks and even rocks at it?"
"Yes"
"Do you remember how the puppy would always greet them with a wagging tail and would try to lick their faces?"
"Yes"
"Well that puppy had an unconditional love for those two boys. They certainly didn't deserve his love for them because they were mean to him. But he loved them anyway."
The father then made his point: "God's love for us is also unconditional. Men threw rocks at His Son, Jesus, and hit Him with sticks. They even killed him. But Jesus loved them anyway."
We prove who we belong to by who and how we love. ***

II. JOY (Luke 11:33-34)

This expert in the law probably had very few friends. He likely spent most of his time studying and very little time in fellowship. I believe that is why God was telling Him to reach out to others in need.

We can never have joy without giving it away to others. We get more as we give more. It's directly opposite to the world's counsel. The world tells us that you gain more joy by what you have.

"The man who dies with the most toys wins."

It's a very selfish way to live. It's a very lonely way to live. The Samaritan went out of his way to care for this man. **It was very dangerous to stop and help anyone who had been robbed.** Robbers in this area often used their victims as bait to catch the next unsuspecting and kind person. While the person would stop to help the victim the robbers would dash out from behind the rocks, surround the person and give him the same treatment.

The Samaritan had to use some of his own clothing, oil and wine. He also chose to walk while his donkey carried the victim.

If you've ever helped someone in need, you know the joy of it. God expects that we meet the needs of others. God could do it by Himself but He chose to use you and me.

*** A little girl was given two dollars by her father. He told her that she could do anything she wanted with one and the other was to be given to God on Sunday at church. The girl nodded in agreement and asked if she could go to the candy store. With visions of all that she could buy with her dollar she happily skipped toward the store, holding tightly the two dollars in her hand.

As she was skipping along, she tripped and fell and the wind blew one of the dollars into a storm drain at the curb. Picking herself up, the little girl looked at the dollar in her hand and then at the storm drain and said,

"Well Lord there goes your dollar."

The compassion expressed by the Samaritan put God first and his own desires second. He laid up some treasures in heaven. Treasures of joy.

II. JOY (Luke 11:33-34) (Contd.)

*** A rich man once asked his friend, "Why am I criticized for being miserly? Everyone knows that I'll leave everything to charity when I die."

"Well," said the friend, "Let me tell you about the pig that was lamenting to the cow one day about how unpopular he was."

"People are always talking about your gentleness and your kind eyes," said the pig "Sure you give milk and cream, but I give more. I give bacon, ham and bristles. They even pickle my feet! Still, nobody likes me. Why is this?"

The cow thought for a moment and replied, "Well, maybe it's because I give while I'm still living."

There is no joy in waiting until you die to give to others in need. **Your joy will come in serving others.**

III. PEACE (Luke 11:35-37)

*** November 27, 2011 marked the 116th anniversary of Alfred Bernard Nobel's will. Why is the date of his will commemorated? That last will and testament left the bulk of a vast fortune amassed from the invention of dynamite and other explosives to the establishment of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1867, at age 34, Nobel was granted a patent for dynamite and over the next 29 years of his life he became very wealthy from the manufacturing of explosives.

His will, dated Nov. 27, 1895, provided the funds for a trust from which five prizes were awarded in the field of peace, physics, chemistry, psychology or medicine, and literature.

Recipients of the prizes were to receive a gold medal, a citation diploma, and cash awards of from 30,000.00 to 40,000.00.

A sixth award in economic science was added in 1969. ***

The world ironically offers its peace prize funding from the monies gained through the manufacturing of explosives. God offers us His inheritance because He is the Prince of Peace. His peace came through giving. When others reviled Him, He never reviled them back.

JESUS GAVE AND FORGAVE IN ORDER THAT WE CAN GIVE AND FORGIVE. The Samaritan put a down payment on the expenses. The two silver coins could have paid the room and board for up to two months. **Many here have experienced the peace that comes from giving and over giving to the needs of others.** The expert in the law knew what he had to do. Jesus just emphasized the truth.

III. PEACE (Luke 11:35-37) (Contd.)

"Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:37

We sometimes say that our nation is living in peace. We may not have an army on our doorstep, but we are not a nation of peace. We're filled with turmoil. **Much of our turmoil stems from our selfishness.** If the world could only learn the message that we know they could come a long way in finding peace.

*** Upon the Plains of Waterloo there stands a great bronze lion, forged from the captured guns of Britain's foes in 1815. The beast's mouth is open and snarls through his teeth over the battlefield.

At one time a bird chose to make its nest in the memorial. It chose to do so in the mouth of the lion. I understand that it was quite a sight to see. You couldn't help but notice the nest of twigs nestled in the ferocious looking teeth of the monstrous statue.

If you listened closely, you can hear the swallows chirping out their songs. They sat peacefully encased in the jaws of death.

Would people know that we are heirs of the kingdom of God by our display of love, joy and peace?

Is there enough fruit for the picking?

As a disciple of Christ and an heir of His promises, we need to display the fruit of the Spirit as the Good Samaritan did. These are the first three characteristics of a disciple of Christ.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PART I

Love, Joy, Peace

Text: Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 5:22

Key Word: Fruit

Key Thought: The Fruit of God's Love, Joy and Peace Needs to Abide in Each of us

Let's See How These Characteristics Are Blended into this Discourse of Jesus.

I. LOVE (Luke 10:25-32) - *Luke 10:25; Luke 10:28; Matthew 12:34; John 8:31; John 8:42; John 8:48; John 8:33; John 8:51*

II. JOY (Luke 11:33-34)

III. PEACE (Luke 11:35-37) - *Luke 10:37*

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PART II

Patience, Kindness, Goodness

Text: Luke 10:38-42; Galatians 5:22

Key Word: Fruit

Key Thought: The Fruit of God's Patience, Kindness, Goodness Needs to Abide in Each of us

I find it interesting that Luke (the physician) is the only one who records this story at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany. We are told by the leading physicians of our time that internal strife creates many medical problems. In fact, **stress is now the No.1 killer in our North American society.**

I've seen the effects of a high amount of stress on people. **It is both progressive and habitual.** Experts have tried to use diet, exercise, relaxation methods, behaviour modification, priorities and values clarification to reduce the stress factor. Some of these methods are helpful and others are dangerous for a Christian when taught without a Biblical perspective.

Jesus saw something that concerned Him in Martha's life. Outwardly she may have had a viable concern. **Yet her concern was being expressed in the wrong way.** Jesus had to deal with the issue.

Last week, I looked at the question of the lawyer with Jesus' response of The Parable of the Good Samaritan. We saw how the first 3 Fruit of the Spirit blended in with that story.

This week I want us to see how the next three fruit (patience, kindness and goodness) blend in with this story. Hopefully, we will also see further characteristics that need to be part of a disciple of Christ's life. The parable of the Good Samaritan dealt with Christ's second commandment. Now we are going to see how the first commandment fits in Jesus' teaching.

Let's See How These Characteristics Are Blended into this Discourse of Jesus.

I. PATIENCE (Luke 10:38-40)

II. KINDNESS (GENTLENESS - KJV - Luke 10:41)

III. GOODNESS (Luke 10:42)

I. PATIENCE (Luke 10:38-40)

This is the one Fruit of the Spirit that is difficult to grasp. It also seems like just when we feel we have it under control that another circumstance arises that **"tries our patience."**

The word *"patience"* comes from combining two Greek words, - *"anger"* and *"long or slow."* From this we understand that patience means being *"slow to anger;"* *"long in wrath"* or *"longsuffering."* In other words, it is handling anger slowly.

I. PATIENCE (Luke 10:38-40) (Contd.)

"The LORD, the LORD the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."

Exodus 34:6

We all have a bit of anger within us because we've taken on the nature of God. We can express it quickly or slowly. Most often any quick expressions are usually conveyed in incorrect ways.

*** Some years ago in a small town in England a man escaped from an institution for the criminally insane. During his few hours of liberty, he captured, raped, and murdered a small girl before being apprehended by the authorities. The father of the dead girl arrived at police station at the same time the criminal was escorted in. The father was a mild-mannered man but when he saw the man who had murdered his beloved daughter, he went berserk, and it took several policemen to control him. **The intensity of his love for his daughter was demonstrated by the intensity of wrath toward the murderer.** ***

Patience is the fruit that keeps our anger within reasonable control. It refers to our endurance of wrong and exasperating conduct toward others at critical times.

"bearing up under the stresses and strains of life."

Donald Guthrie

Patience is highlighted in the social context. We usually are quite patient with ourselves but less patient with others. **I truly admire an individual who can display enduring patience.** I have times when I'm not very patient with certain individuals. I try, but sometimes I fail. There have been certain ones that really seem to know which button to press to test my patience.

Martha was losing her patience with Mary. She saw Mary as someone who was avoiding the work that needed to be done. In Jewish tradition, only the men were taught by the religious leaders. The women would have to learn from their mothers and husbands.

I. PATIENCE (Luke 10:38-40) (Contd.)

Martha was wrong to think that her service was the only acceptable service to Jesus. **She could not see that someone could serve Jesus by listening to Him as well as working for Him.** Jesus was showing that there are times when domestic duties need to be withheld until a time of listening is completed. Mary sat at Jesus' feet indicating her willingness to receive His Word and submit to His guidance.

Martha's impatience brought her to Jesus. She came to Him (Lit - "*suddenly appeared*") after being distracted (lit - "*to be pulled away, dragged away; busy; overburdened*") by all the preparations. Hospitality had prevented her from listening to Jesus. I hope none of you ladies stay at home to prepare meals on Sunday for your visitors. You'll be missing a great blessing.

Martha probably already tried to get Mary to help her prepare the meal. Instead of being drawn to the preparations, Mary was drawn to listening to her Master. Martha's lack of patience was seen in her anger.

4265 A Little Kinder

Let me be a little kinder
Let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me;
Let me praise a little more.

Let me be when I am weary
Just a little bit more cheery.
Let me serve a little better
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver
When temptations bids me waver
Let me strive a little harder
To be all that I should be.

Let me be a little sweeter.
Make my life a bit completer;
Keep me faithful to my duty
Every minute of the day.

Let me toil without complaining,
Not a humble task disdain;
Let me face the summons calmly
When death beckons me away.

Glen Campbell

II. KINDNESS (GENTLENESS - KJV - Luke 10:41)

Kindness is the way a patient person expresses him/herself. It is that soft answer; the serene, loving and sympathizing manner. Kindness is something that must be expressed. It is of great value when you've been wronged.

It is that careful way of solving an argument with your friends, family & neighbours.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

13. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14. And overall these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Colossians 3:12-14

James wrote,

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate (gentle KJV), submissive, full of mercy, and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

James 3:17

Jesus kindly responded to Martha's anger. He called her by her name - twice (Martha, means "lady" in Aramaic). Jesus noted that she worried ("unduly concerned, full of inward anxiety"). Her worldly concern had caused her to lose kindness toward her sister. Jesus did not respond unkindly. He chose His words and expressions carefully.

Kindness or gentleness should never be confused with weakness.

II. KINDNESS (GENTLENESS - KJV - Luke 10:41) (Contd.)

*** A steelwork company in England has a very powerful steam hammer. Visitors are told of its exceptional power. Before leaving though, they are shown a very unique demonstration.

They use the great hammer to crack a nut. The nut is cracked as gently and neatly as with a small pair of hand crackers.

Gentleness or kindness is power under control. ***

Kindness/gentleness is a remarkable fruit that needs to be constantly expressed in our lives. We can never be too kind or gentle to others. There is always someone who needs us to be kind to them.

*** A number of years ago we travelled to the Rocky Mountains to show the children the beauty of God's creation. As we were heading out of Jasper, to drive to the Gondola Lift, an elderly man was along the road looking a bit perplexed. All the cars ahead of us simply continued on their fast paced rate to get to the next tourist spot.

We chose to stop and ask if he needed help. He had run out of gas and needed a lift to the gas station. We moved some things around to make room for him to sit. Within a short time we arrived at the Esso station.

He thanked us for the ride. I told him, I'd wait until he got the gas and then drive him back to his car before it got towed away. His eyes expressed his appreciation.

We drove to his car and said our goodbyes. I waited along the opposite side of the road until we knew that his car had started. His friendly smile and warm wave gave us the reward which we never requested. ***

I find that a person who is kind/gentle is not far from the heart and hand of God.

III. GOODNESS (Luke 10:42)

In Luke's day the Grecian philosophers taught that goodness was the experience of pleasure and the eradicator of pain. Therefore anything that caused displeasure or pain was bad and to be avoided. Divorce, drunkenness, laziness and selfishness all became acceptable under their train of thought. Our Western thought has spiralled into a complex system of medical services, social services, welfare agencies, government spending and enterprising businesses in an attempt to alleviate misery for people.

III. GOODNESS (Luke 10:42) (Contd.)

Our world has perhaps misunderstood one important part of goodness. Goodness it is not passive.

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him (treasure of his heart - KJV)."

Matthew 12:35

You can often tell how good someone is by the **depth of their conversation** and the **width of their actions**. The Bible said that Dorcas . . .

"was always doing good and helping the poor."

Acts 9:36

It's one thing to have good intentions. It's quite another to fulfill those intentions on a regular basis. This fruit must also grow to be effective. Our goodness as a Christian is shown in our **word, work and will** based upon the role model of Christ. An unregenerated man has to find the standard in himself or in others because he does not look toward God.

The Psalmist challenged us,

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Psalm 34:8

I encourage you to leave this place today with these three important fruit of the Spirit of God on your heart and mind. Ask God for an opportunity to put them into practice.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PART II

Patience, Kindness, Goodness

Text: Luke 10:38-42; Galatians 5:22

Key Word: Fruit

Key Thought: The Fruit of God's Patience, Kindness, Goodness Needs to Abide in Each of us

Let's See How These Characteristics Are Blended into this Discourse of Jesus.

I. PATIENCE (Luke 10:38-40) - Exodus 34:6

Patience is the fruit that keeps our anger within reasonable control.

II. KINDNESS (GENTLENESS - KJV - Luke 10:41) - Colossians 3:12-14; James 3:17

Gentleness or kindness is power under control

III. GOODNESS (Luke 10:42) - Matthew 12:35; Acts 9:36; Psalm 34:8

You can often tell how good someone is by the **depth of their conversation** and the **width of their actions**.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PART III

Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

Text: Luke 11:5-8; Galatians 5:22,23

Key Word: Fruit

Key Thought: The Fruit of God's Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control Needs to Abide in Each of us

Today I'm going to conclude a three-part series of messages on the characteristics of a disciple combining the last 3 of the 9 - "*fruit of the Spirit.*" It has interested me how these 9 fruit blend into these 3-discourses of Jesus. We are going to see how faithfulness, gentleness and self-control blend in with this particular teaching of Jesus.

The parable of the friend at midnight has been often misunderstood because people attempt to interpret too much into it. We must realize that every parable is endeavouring to convey one main truth. Other truths may be found but one must always attempt to find the main truth.

Some have likened the man asleep as representing God. Let me say clearly that he does not represent God. God is not asleep. **God does not need to be wakened by our constant knocking.**

"Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear."

Isaiah 65:24

The point of this parable is **not** to keep on praying because God will eventually answer **if** you bother Him enough. **The point is to be faithful in prayer because prayer opens the door for our gracious God to supply and even oversupply our needs.** This point is stressed again in Luke 11:9-13.

Let's See How These Final Characteristics Are Blended into this Discourse of Jesus.

I. FAITHFULNESS (FAITH KJV)

II. GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS KJV)

III. SELF-CONTROL

I. FAITHFULNESS (FAITH KJV)

The Greek word for “*faith*” is “*pistos*” which comes from the word meaning “*to be convinced, persuaded, and having confidence.*” **Therefore, it came to mean the continual persuasion of God's truth and the full reliance upon His never changing Word.** It has often been used to describe belief in something that is not presently seen (Hebrews 11:1).

The man in the parable had an unexpected need that would be embarrassing not to meet. Hospitality has been and still is very important to Jewish people. There was not enough food for his visitor.

The man went to a friend's place to get some help. This friend must have been poor. The house was similar to a peasant's single room cottage (Matthew 5:15) in which the whole family slept on a mat which served as a bed.

The request was unreasonable at the midnight hour. It would disturb the whole family. Few poor people would have more than three loaves of bread prepared for the following day. No one guest could eat 3 loaves of bread. Perhaps this man had been a bit lazy in preparing for his own next day's food supply. He might have allowed his family to do without but not his guest.

Therefore, the man needed faith to bring about the answer to his request. **We sometimes have to be faithful in prayer because we've been unfaithful in other areas of life.**

*"I was young and now I am old yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.
26. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed."*

Psalm 37:25,26

*** The story has been told of a man who was crossing a desert in the days of the pioneers. He ran into trouble and was dying of thirst when he spotted a pump near an abandoned shack. He had no water to prime the pump, but he noticed a jug of water near the pump with a note attached.

It read, "There is just enough water in this jug to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. This well has never gone dry, even in the worst of times. Pour the water in the top of the pump and pump handle quickly. After you have had a drink, refill this jug for the next man who comes along."

(Contd.)

I. FAITHFULNESS (FAITH KJV)

*** What would the man dying of thirst do? To follow the instructions and prime the pump without first taking a drink would be an exercise of the faith that the Bible speaks of. If the man follows the instructions, he takes the chance of pouring out all the water and getting none to drink if the pump fails. So he must trust that the message is right. **We must act in belief without first receiving, and must trust in the truth of the promise.** ***

Faithfulness is something that must be tested to reveal the amount of its value. No one will know how much faith they have without it being tried and tested. If you've ever asked God for more faith, be prepared for a time of testing. Faith just like patience (longsuffering), must often be tried (by fire).

*** At a burning building in New York City's Harlem, a blind girl was perched on the fourth floor window. The firemen had become desperate. They couldn't fit the ladder truck between the buildings, and they couldn't get her to jump into a net, which she, of course, couldn't see.

Finally her father arrived and shouted through the bull horn that there was a net and that she was to jump at his command. The girl jumped and was so completely relaxed that she didn't break a bone or even strain a muscle in the four storey fall. **Because she trusted her father completely, when she heard her father's voice she did what he said was best.** ***

II. GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS KJV)

This word is closely linked with the word “*humility.*” We often make the mistake of considering meekness as a form of weakness. That is far from the truth. **Jesus was meek but He was not weak.** It is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest.

Christians display gentleness (meekness) when they correctly understand their position in Christ. **A gentle person is one who is full of assurance. Aggressiveness is most often associated with a lack of belief.** A person with a large mouth usually is full of insecurities. A gentle spirit denotes how much we trust in God.

The man who stood at the door of his fiend's house at midnight, depicted a man of a meek (gentle) spirit. There was no shouting; no name calling; no frustration mentioned. He simply knocked and kept knocking.

II. GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS KJV) (Contd.)

"Meekness is an inward and passive thing, whereas gentleness is an outward and active thing. A man feels meek but he acts gently."

Donald Gee

A. Biblical Expressions of Meekness

1. Restoring Backsliders (Galatians 6:1)

It is so easy to keep people living in their past sins. Sometimes people feel strong by keeping others weak. We need to be careful because **it is only God's grace that keeps the judge from becoming the criminal.** This does not mean that there is no place for church discipline. All restoration needs to be done in the right spirit by the right people.

2. Answering Opponents (I Peter 3:15)

It's not so important to always have the right answers. **It IS important to have the right attitude in answering our opponents.**

*** I remember speaking to a few young men in the a church foyer after a Sunday service. It was evident that they wanted nothing to do with God or His Word.

They argued much of the same words that have been repeated over and over. "*If there is a God why does He let innocent babies die of painful diseases? Why do so many people starve to death if He really can supply for all our needs? If He's as powerful as He says why doesn't He stop all the wars?*"

I could have got into an argument but instead I chose to also ask a question. "Are you so sure of what you believe that you are willing to stake your life on it?"

I told them I could honestly say "*I was sure of what I believed even unto death.*" ***

I didn't have to argue. **I simply answered with gentleness (meekness) and respect. I don't care if I won the argument or even answered their deflecting questions.** I felt it was more important to give them something to feed upon that could eventually cause them to change their minds.

II. GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS KJV) (Contd.)

A. Biblical Expressions of Meekness (Contd.)

3. Receiving God's Word

"humbly accept the word planted in you."

James 1:21

I've known people who accept God's Word with a critical spirit. They continue to think of verses that they believe will disprove what the speaker is saying. Their pride becomes their own stumbling block. **They'll only listen to what "the Spirit tells them" or teachers whom they approve of (who agree with what they believe).** This spirit of rebellion causes their heart to grow cold. They usually take out their frustration on others. They become a stumbling block to others. Their foolish pride hinders them from growing any further.

4. Moses Symbolized Meekness

"Now Moses was a very humble (Meek-KJV) man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth."

Numbers 12:3

Moses was meek but still rose up to be a great leader for Israel. He was stern when he needed to be. Yet he refused to retaliate at those who ridiculed his leadership. God became his vindicator.

Miriam was critical of Moses' wife from Cush - most probably a black skinned lady. God judged Miriam by turning her into a leper (as white as snow - Numbers 12:10). Moses prayed on her behalf and she was healed. Moses' meekness was displayed in the way he restrained himself from attacking his condemning sister.

We need men today that stand up for what they believe. A man ought to be a man.

*** A preacher was conducting a wedding where the couple both had long hair, dressed alike and spoke alike. Confused over their identity, the minister closed the ceremony with, "Would one of you kiss the bride." ***

III. SELF-CONTROL

Self-control is the way we hold back from doing things. It means *"to have inward strength."*

"Self-control is said to be the capacity to break a chocolate bar into four pieces with your bare hands - and then just eat one of the pieces."

*** Charles Swindoll tells of the time he went to the dentist to get some work done on his "ivories". Before beginning the work the dentist inserted 80 milligrams of Nembutol into his bloodstream. The result could not be published. Those around that day were sworn to secrecy.

His wife helped him from the car as he sung loudly. He missed hitting the mosquito but the swing was incredible.

When he awoke on the piano three hours later his children were giggling and snickering at their father's unrestraint. ***

Another word for "self-control" is "restraint." The KJV uses the word *"temperance."*

We can show self-control in many ways.

1. In our Anger

"A gentle answer turns away wrath."

Proverbs 15:1

*"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while your still angry.
27. and do not give the devil a foothold."*

Ephesians 4:26,27

2. In Our Speech

"Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue."

Proverbs 19:28

III. SELF-CONTROL (Contd.)

2. In Our Speech (Contd.)

"If only you would be altogether silent! For you, that would be wisdom."

Job 13:5

I've heard it said that,

"it's better to keep your mouth quiet and have people think you're a fool, then to open it and remove all doubt."

[Author Unknown](#)

"Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Ephesians 4:29

3. In our Eating

We are warned by Solomon to be careful about overeating.

"put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony."

Proverbs 23:2

He goes on to warn the people not to,

"gorge themselves on meat."

Proverbs 23:20

God is concerned with the excesses of life.

III. SELF-CONTROL (Contd.)

4. In Our Finances

Jesus warned us to be careful where we lay up our treasures.

"For where your treasure is your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

"Give everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

8. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continual debt to love one another."

Romans 13:7,8

5. In our Work

God has chosen to give us one day in seven to rest our bodies.

*"Six days you shall labour and do all your work
10. but the seventh day is a Sabbath, to the Lord your God On it you shall not do any work"*

Exodus 20:9,10

*** I remember the pastor who I was saved under suffered a heart attack. He has had several "mild ones" after that.

His wife, in mentioning about the situation, said that her husband was being taught the fruit of self-control. He had to learn to slow down, eat well and exercise more. Unfortunately he didn't learn his lessons well enough. He eventually died of a massive heart attack. ***

Even though the man in our parable needed bread, he still acted in a self-controlled manner. **He was persistent but not outrageous.** He controlled his actions and received his request. Yelling and screaming needs to be replaced by a persistent restraint.

Hopefully, we are all growing in these vital areas of development that consistently speak of the characteristics of a maturing disciple of Christ. **Decide today to grow ahead.**

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PART III Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

Text: Luke 11:5-8; Galatians 5:22,23

Key Word: Fruit

Key Thought: The Fruit of God's Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control Needs to Abide in Each of us

Introduction: *Isaiah 65:24*

The point of this parable is not to keep on praying because God will eventually answer if you bother Him enough. The point is to be faithful in prayer because prayer opens the door for our gracious God to oversupply our needs. This point is stressed again in Luke 11:9-13.

Let's See How These Final Characteristics Are Blended into this Discourse of Jesus.

I. FAITHFULNESS (FAITH KJV) - *Hebrews 11:1; Matthew 5:15; Psalm 37:25,26*

It came to mean the continual persuasion of God's truth and the full reliance upon His never changing Word.

II. GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS KJV)

A. Biblical Expressions of Meekness

1. Restoring Backsliders - *Galatians 6:1*
2. Answering Opponents - *I Peter 3:15*
3. Receiving God's Word - *James 1:21*
4. Moses Symbolized Meekness - *Numbers 12:3; Numbers 12:10*

III. SELF-CONTROL

1. In our Anger - *Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:26,27*
2. In Our Speech - *Proverbs 19:28; Job 13:5; Ephesians 4:29*
3. In our Eating - *Proverbs 23:2; Proverbs 23:20*
4. In Our Finances - *Matthew 6:21; Romans 13:7,8*
5. In our Work - *Exodus 20:9,10*

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Matthew 3:11

Key Word: Baptism

Key Thought: Those Who Understand the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Are More Likely to Receive Him

The subject of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit has been probably the most opposed teaching in the Word of God. **If we would only take a few minutes to study what the Scriptures say we could end much of the misunderstanding.**

****** Two lawyers were bosom friends. Much to the amazement of one, the other became a Sunday School teacher.
"I bet you don't even know the Lord's Prayer," he fumed.
"Everybody knows that," the other replied.
"It's, 'Now I lay me down to sleep ...'"
"You win," said the other admiringly.
*"I didn't know you knew so much about the Bible." *******

******* A number of years ago a man called me and asked if he could meet with me. Several members of the congregation he attended were having a Bible study on the Holy Spirit.
He was being told the typical answers that the Baptism was simply for the apostles and early disciples to start the church.
They were being told that it is not needed and not possible to receive it today. He had been a Christian for several years and felt he was on the verge of a spiritual breakthrough.
We sat down and read together almost every scripture I could find on the subject. The more we read, the more he enjoyed it.

At one point I thought he was going to jump out of his seat. God had come to him in a special way a few days earlier and now it was all beginning to make sense.

What he had been taught was not lining up with Scripture so he had been confused. He left my office dancing with a smile that truly stretched from ear to ear.

His pastor attended one of our services shortly after along with the elder and their wives for the sole purpose of us laying hands upon them to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. *******

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is different than the **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit** which I spoke about earlier. Of the 7,000 promises in the Bible, this is what is called "**The Promise.**"

*"And behold, I am sending forth **the promise of My Father** upon you, but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

Luke 24:49 KJV

The term "**baptism**" literally means "**to immerse one thing into another.**" Jesus baptized His morsel of bread when He dipped it into the wine and handed it to Judas (John 13:26). **Figuratively speaking, it means to introduce something into a new environment so as to alter its condition in some way.**

This Baptism is therefore an immersion of the believer into a new and all-encompassing relationship with the Holy Spirit in such a way that He becomes a comprehensive influence in our lives.

There Are Several Bible Terms Which Are Used Synonymously When Referring to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. A Gift/The Promise

*Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of you sins. And you will receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

*39. **The promise** is for you and your children and for all who are far off -for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

Acts 2:38,39

2. A Receiving

*"Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and **they received the Holy Spirit.**"*

Acts 8:17

3. A Coming Upon

*"When Paul placed his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came upon them**, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."*

Acts 19:6

4. A Filling

*"All of them **were filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

Acts 2:4

The result of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is that we become filled with the Holy Spirit. **It does not mean that the Holy Spirit can be divided up and received on instalments.** Other uses of this word mean *"to be brought under the control of something."*

People were *"filled with fear (awe - NIV)"* in Luke 5:26 in the sense that the fear powerfully influenced their thoughts and actions. In the same manner, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit we place our lives graciously under His full control.

It is more correct to say when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit that we do not receive all of Him, but rather He receives all of us to lead and guide our way.

There Were 5 Recorded Cases of People Being Baptized in the Bible.

1. The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13) - On the 10th day of the prayer and fellowship meeting, the 120 believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. External signs ushered in the presence of the Spirit and the disciples spoke in other tongues. The enthusiastic witness that followed brought about the salvation of 3,000 souls.

2. The Outpouring in Samaria (Acts 8:14-19) - Philip's ministry resulted in *"miraculous signs."* Peter and John prayed for the people to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15). Up to that time they had only been baptized in water. As they laid their hands upon the believers they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17). When Simon saw what had taken place, he tried to buy it.

3. The Baptism of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:17,18) - Ananias was sent to Saul for one purpose.

"Brother Saul, the Lord - Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 9:17

4. The Outpouring at Caesarea (Acts 10:44-46) - This is the first case of Gentiles being filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke in other tongues just as those had on the day of Pentecost.

"For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."

Acts 10:46

5. The Baptism of the Ephesians - (Acts 19:1-7) - This event took place approximately 23 years after the Day of Pentecost. Apollos had taught on John's baptism but his message was incomplete. Paul led them into a believer's baptism and then . . .

"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

Acts 19:6

I strongly believe that every believer should and can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I also believe that God is eager to fill every Christian with His Spirit.

So, What Are the Key Elements to Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

1. Repentance (Acts 2:38) - A person must consent to God before anything will happen. **Repentance is an act of our will.** We must choose to leave our old life of sin and begin living a new life for God. One evidence of our choice is to be baptized in water (although it is not a requirement). The world cannot receive God (**John 14:17**).

2. Faith (Galatians 3:14; cf Acts 2:39) - Faith is the process we must follow to be baptized. We do not earn or merit the Baptism, it is simply a matter of receiving. The believers at Ephesus were told to believe on the Lord Jesus before being baptized.

3. Obedience (Acts 5:32) - God is very interested in our inward obedience (submission to His will) in the midst of severe persecution. The death of our self-will is the entrance to a Spirit-filled life.

4. Personal Purity (I Corinthians 3:16) -

"God does not require golden vessels, neither does He seek for silver ones, but He must have clean ones."

We enter this life of holiness NOT through personal purity based upon human works but rather by receiving God's gift of holiness through an obedient and surrendered life (Isaiah 61:10).

5. Wholehearted Desire (Luke 11:13) - The original 120 waited in earnest hope and desire until "**the Promise**" came. Those in Samaria, Caesarea and Ephesus all sought what they were told they could have.

6. The Gateway of Praise (Luke 24:52,53) - The disciples were gathered together in the temple "*praising and blessing God.*" In early Pentecostalism seekers were "advised first to pray until their prayer became a joyfully free communication with God, and then they were told to continue to pray until their prayer became a praise that was natural, wholehearted and spontaneous."

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is very much needed in our Churches. It will lead us into a greater prayer life, meaningful worship, help us in overcoming sin, and offer us an opportunity to receive further Spiritual gifts.

He is here as your gift, simply receive Him. There is no more need to tarry (wait) for **THE PROMISE HAS COME.**

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Matthew 3:11

Key Word: Baptism

Key Thought: Those Who Understand the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Are More Likely to Receive Him

INTRODUCTION: *Luke 24:49 KJV*

There Are Several Bible Terms Which Are Used Synonymously When Referring to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. **A Gift/The Promise** - *Acts 2:38,39*
2. **A Receiving** - *Acts 8:17*
3. **A Coming Upon** - *Acts 19:6*
4. **A Filling** - *Acts 2:4; Luke 5:26*

There Were 5 Recorded Cases of People Being Baptized in the Bible.

1. **The Day of Pentecost** - *Acts 2:1-13*
2. **The Outpouring in Samaria** - *Acts 8:14-19*
3. **The Baptism of Saul of Tarsus** - *Acts 9:17,18*
4. **The Outpouring at Caesarea** - *Acts 10:44-46*
5. **The Baptism of the Ephesians** - *Acts 19:1-7*

So, What Are the Key Elements to Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

1. **Repentance** - *Acts 2:38; John 14:17*
2. **Faith** - *Galatians 3:14; cf Acts 2:39*
3. **Obedience** - *Acts 5:32*
4. **Personal Purity** - *I Corinthians 3:16; Isaiah 61:10*
5. **Wholehearted Desire** - *Luke 11:13*
6. **The Gateway of Praise** - *Luke 24:52,53*

THE INITIAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Acts 10:44-46a

Key Word: Initial

Key Thought: The initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is Speaking in Tongues

The reason I have chosen to devote an entire lesson to this subject is for two main reasons. **First**, is due to the fact that the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues has always been one of the most controversial aspects of Pentecostal teaching since the late 1800's.

Second, if the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an essential part of the New Testament practice, then the ability to determine if someone has received it is of vital importance. Our God is not the God of confusion but rather of divine order.

Pentecostal believers hold to the teaching that speaking in other tongues is "the uniform, initial, outward or physical evidence that a Christian has received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit."

Due to the fact there are many different Bible translations, we also have to deal with many different terms. Some versions translate it "*other tongues*" or "*unknown tongues*" while others call it "*strange tongues*" or "*ecstatic utterances*" in some contemporary versions.

The Greek word used is "*glossolalia*." The prefix "*glosso*" (or *glossa*) means "*tongue, word or language*." The verbal root "*lalia*" means "*to talk, to speak, to chatter or babble*." Therefore, "*glossolalia*" constitutes

"the ability to speak in a foreign language not previously learned by the tongues-speaker."

A person who speaks in tongues is NOT expressing some kind of gibbers or nonsense syllables. On the Day of Pentecost the tongues which were spoken were understood by the visitors of 15 foreign countries.

"Then how is it that each of us hears them in his native language (dialektos)."

Acts 2:8

"we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! (glossa)"

Acts 2:11b

"Dialektos" is "*a language of a nation or region*." Even in Caesarea, the tongues that were spoken were understood by the Jews.

"For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."

Acts 10:46

Tongues are a language that can be communicated. They can be used to sing, pray, bless and give thanks (I Corinthian 14:14-17).

"Isn't it fitting that we should speak to God in a pure and holy language that cannot be spotted by the world with vile curses."

Alice Shevkenek

The biggest hindrance we have had to overcome with this truth is tradition.

Lets consider 12 traditional misconceptions and compare them with Scripture

1. "I forbid you to speak in tongues"

"Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."

I Corinthians 14:39

2. "Speaking in tongues is an sign of over emotionalism and fanaticism."

"And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons; and they will speak with new tongues;. . ."

Mark 16:17

3. "Speaking in tongues means the ability to learn many foreign languages."

"For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit."

I Corinthians 14:2

4. "I'm embarrassed and ashamed to speak in tongues."

"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

Luke 9:26

5. "When they speak in tongues they are full of the devil."

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Acts 2:4

6. "They magnify/glorify themselves by speaking in tongues."

"For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising (magnify - KJV) God."

Acts 10:46

7. "Tongues were just for the Day of Pentecost."

TEN YEARS AFTER - Acts 10:46
TWENTY THREE YEARS AFTER - Acts 19:1-6

8. "Tongues ceased with the apostles."

"Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

*9. For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
10. but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears."*

I Corinthians 13:8-10

9. Speaking in tongues does no good."

*"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself . . .
22. Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but
for unbelievers."*

I Corinthians 14:4,22

10. "None of our members speak in tongues."

*"I would like everyone of you to speak in tongues . .
."*

I Corinthians 14:5

11. My church and denomination would put me out if I spoke in tongues."

*"for they loved praise from men more than praise
from God."*

John 12:43

12. "The tradition of our church teaches against speaking in tongues."

*"Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of
your tradition."*

Matthew 15:6

**There Are at Least Seven Reasons Why God Chose Tongues
as the Initial Sign of Holy Spirit Baptism.**

1. It is an external evidence constituting a visible symbol of spiritual reality (cf. Water Baptism).
2. It is a uniform evidence since tongues are recognizable by all cultures.
3. It properly recognizes the personality of the Spirit.
4. It is a symbol of the Spirit's control of the believer.
5. It manifests the Holy Spirit as the believer's source of truth and utterance.
6. It signifies the honour that has God placed upon human speech.
7. It is a foretaste of heavenly speech.

Something else we should never forget is the **purpose of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit** with the initial evidence is speaking in other tongues. Luke recorded Jesus' words that it would give us "power" (Acts 1:8) to be a "witness" (martyr) for God.

Another important point to make is that tongues alone are not a sufficient enough sign that one has been baptized. We all must be responsible enough in our Christian walk to also practice a life of Christian virtue. Those who yielded to God to receive the baptism should also yield themselves to God on a daily basis through their lifestyle. **Holy Spirit baptism does NOT nullify the importance of responsible Christian living.**

Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence that a believer is a candidate for other spiritual gifts. We no longer have to wait (tarry) for the Holy Spirit to come. He came on the Day of Pentecost to a group of 120 obedient disciples. All we have to do is receive the gift He has provided for us.

Seek the Giver more than you seek the Gift.

Ask yourself the question that Paul was led to ask the believers who were at Ephesus.

*"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when (or after)-
[having believed did you receive] you believed."*

Acts 19:2

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gateway rather than a goal. Perhaps it is time for you to enter through the gate.

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Acts 2:8; Acts 2:11b; Acts 10:46; I Corinthians 14:14-17

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Acts 19:2

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gateway rather than a goal.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART I THE WORD OF WISDOM

Text: I Corinthians 12:8

Key Word: Wisdom

Key Thought: The First Gift of the Holy Spirit Is Wisdom

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are still available to be freely and graciously received.

The Holy Spirit is **THE GIFT** (Acts 2:38; 10:45); but we can also receive **A SPIRITUAL GIFT**. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given for a person's personal benefit while all of the gifts are given for the good of all (I Corinthians 12:7).

The New Testament word that describes these gifts is "*charismata*" (Romans 11:29; I Corinthians 12:4) which occurs 17 times. It describes what Christians receive from Christ because of His love, favour, kindness and grace.

There are many definitions available to describe "*charismata*" like,

"gifts given us in spite of the fact that we do not deserve them."

"the concrete realization of God's grace."

The root of the word is the same root as what is translated "*charity*" or "*love*." It is from God's love and grace that we receive spiritual gifts.

We receive the gifts of the Spirit not because we deserve them. They are simply an act of God's grace and love for those who desire them.

"The genuine gifts of the Spirit are God in action through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Church."

J. W. Jepson

When the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in use in the Church we can be assured that God is graciously ministering to us through receptive vessels NOT perfect people. The focus must always be kept on God - not man.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were NOT simply for the early Church. We have many writings that make it clear that they did not die with the apostles.

"The church is speaking in tongues, prophesying, and praying for the sick by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Justin Martyr (c.108-168)

A well known church historian spoke of . . .

"the splendour of the gifts of the Spirit... which flash forth and shine upon his church."

Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340)

There are records of this phenomena well up to the time of the Reformation. No one can say that the gifts of the Holy completely died out. **It is correct to say that references to the Spirit became less frequent.** Never in history was the thread lost. It seems to weave its way through church history. There are 4 N.T. lists of spiritual gifts that offer us 22 different gifts.

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of Healings
5. Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues
10. Practical Service or Ministry
11. Teaching
12. Stirring Faith in Others or Encouraging
13. Liberally Contributing (to other's needs)
14. Leadership or Ruling
15. Showing Mercy or Compassion
16. Apostles
17. Prophets
18. Evangelists
19. Pastor-teacher
20. Teachers
21. Assistants or Helpers
22. Administrators

As we consider the 3 Revelation gifts as recorded in I Corinthians 12, I must emphasize that these gifts are given freely and graciously. They have nothing to do with merit or worthiness. They are also not related to human wisdom or talent or gifting. They are and always will be a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are divine enablements given to continue the supernatural ministry of Jesus Christ through His Church. Unlike the fruit of the Spirit, which are inward qualities of character, the gifts are outward manifestations in order to facilitate the work of ministry. The fruit of the Spirit can and must be cultivated and activated by our conscious effort.

The gifts of the Spirit cannot be cultivated. Each gift comes complete, ready to be used.

*** Have you ever purchased a BBQ in its box? Usually the instructions mention that it will only take a screwdriver and a wrench as well as about 45 minutes to assemble it.

They could honestly say that the BBQ comes complete. But is it also true that it will take some time, patience and knowledge to assemble it. It cannot be used until it is all together.

The fruit of the Spirit is like the BBQ which takes time to become "assembled" and effective.

The Gifts of the Spirit are like the BBQ that you see totally assembled and ready for use. Someone has had to take the time to prepare it for use. All a person has to do is read the instructions.

The BBQ has come complete; we'll never improve its ability to perform. What can happen though is our ability to use it in such a way that the final product is improved can mature. ***

The gifts of the Spirit cannot be improved upon. They come complete. **We must be the ones who improve.** That is done by becoming sensitive when they can be used (few BBQ's are used in winter); how they are used (certain controls are in your hand); for how long (overcooking can destroy a meal as much as undercooking can); what they can be used with (most people don't cook bacon on BBQ's). One thing about BBQ's is that you must have your tank re-filled with gas if you expect to continue using it for a prolonged time. **There is a limit to how much can be done with one filling.**

Lets consider the first of the 3 Revelation gifts as recorded in I Corinthians 12 this evening.

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM
II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE
III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8)

"To one there is given the word (message or utterance) of wisdom,"

I Corinthians 12:8

I find it very interesting that the Holy Spirit chose to deal with wisdom before He dealt with knowledge. Wisdom is the ability to exercise the best use of the knowledge we possess. The "**Word of Wisdom**" speaks of a statement or pronouncement which is prudent, shrewd and clever. It is exercising of superior judgement at the appropriate time and in regards to a particular issue. We are not given the full measure of God's wisdom but rather only a "**WORD of Wisdom.**"

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) (Contd.)

God uses this gift to give special insight into the mind and purpose of God when dealing with ordinary problems and issues of life.

"The Word of Wisdom is therefore the supernatural revelation, by the Spirit, of Divine purpose; the supernatural unfolding of His plans and purposes concerning things, places, people, individuals, communities, nations."

The biggest difference between the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge is time.

"The Word of Knowledge is the revelation of *past* happenings or of things existing or events taking place in the *present*." The Word of Wisdom is the revelation of the Purpose of God concerning people, things or events in the *future* or looking to the future."

It was by the **Word of Knowledge** that John the Apostle knew the present condition of the 7 churches; it was by the **Word of Wisdom** that he was able to convey the mind, will and commands of God for their particular situation.

It is **NOT**

1. A High degree of Wisdom or human intellect
2. Being able to explain God's Word

There are both O.T. and N.T. examples of this gift being exercised.

A. Noah - To Warn of Impending Judgement

"So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, from the face of the earth..."

13. I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

14. So make yourself an ark . . ."

Genesis 6:7,13,14

B. Pharaoh/Joseph - To Prepare us for Future Disasters

"Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do,"

Genesis 41: 25

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) (Contd.)

Isn't it amazing to know that God revealed His will to Pharaoh who we know was a very ungodly man!!!

C. Moses - To Assure Moses of his Commission

"The Lord said I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

8. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey . . ."

Exodus 3:7,8

If God would have stopped at simply describing the people's present condition then only the Word of Knowledge would have been revealed to Moses. **In telling what His future plans were, God used the Word of Wisdom.**

D. Moses - To Reveal God's Acceptable Order of Worship

"Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you."

Exodus 25:9

*"See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,
3. and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts."*

Exodus 31:2,3

God set the heavenly pattern into the mind of both Moses and Bezalel so they would be able to do set the tabernacle into order.

E. Joshua - To Lead God's People into Victory

"Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him."

Deuteronomy 34:9

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8) (Contd.)

Joshua was led by God to do things that he couldn't understand in the natural. God knew the future so therefore, He led Joshua to walk in obedience to His future plans for the nation of Israel. Remember that Joshua did not understand all things in the future. He did not know that Achan had stole from Jericho.

F. Paul - To Offer Assurance in the Midst of Calamity

" Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also...

23. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me

24. and said, 'DO not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

25. So keep your courage men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me."

Acts 27:10, 23-25

The full teaching of this gift can never be completed in one lesson. I could give a host of present-day examples of how this gift works. **The expression of the gift varies in accordance with the person whom it is exercised through and what the need is as well as what the future holds.**

When we consider the number of people who are paying lots of money to psychics, we see the inner desire of man to understand the future. May God use this gift for His glory.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART I THE WORD OF WISDOM

Text: I Corinthians 12:8

Key Word: Wisdom

Key Thought: The First Gift of the Holy Spirit Is Wisdom

INTRODUCTION: The Holy Spirit is **THE GIFT** - Acts 2:38; 10:45; but we can also receive **A SPIRITUAL GIFT**. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given for a person's personal benefit while all of the gifts are given for the good of all (I Corinthians 12:7).

The New Testament word that describes these gifts is "*charismata*" (Romans 11:29; I Corinthians 12:4) which occurs 17 times. through church history.

There are 4 N.T. lists of spiritual gifts that offer us 22 different gifts.

As we consider the 3 Revelation gifts as recorded in I Corinthians 12, I must emphasize that these gifts are given freely and graciously.

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

I. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF WISDOM (I Corinthians 12:8)

There are both O.T. and N.T. examples of this gift being exercised.

A. Noah - To Warn of Impending Judgement - Genesis 6:7,13,14

B. Pharaoh/Joseph - To Prepare us for Future Disasters - Genesis 41: 25

C. Moses - To Assure Moses of his Commission - Exodus 3:7,8

D. Moses - To Reveal God's Acceptable Order of Worship - Exodus 25:9; 31:2,3

E. Joshua - To Lead God's People into Victory - Deuteronomy 34:9

F. Paul - To Offer Assurance in the Midst of Calamity - Acts 27:10, 23-25

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART II

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Text: I Corinthians 12:8b

Key Word: Knowledge

Ky Thought: The Second Gift of the Holy Spirit Is Knowledge

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been interpreted in several different ways. The matter becomes quite noticeable when we deal with the Revelation gifts.

** It reminds me of the problem a teacher once faced in her classroom. *"Some plants,"* said the teacher, *"have the prefix 'dog.'* For instance, there is a dogrose, the dogwood, the dogviolet. Who can name another plant prefixed by 'dog?'"
"I can," shouted a young boy in the back row, *"Collie flower."* **

One of the best things to do is to approach any study on the Holy Spirit with an open mind. We may have to make some adjustments to our thinking and our actions.

** A college boy came home from school one day and announced that he wanted to take political science as his major because he *"wanted to clean up the mess in the world."* His mother commented, *"That's very nice. Why don't you go up stairs and begin by cleaning up the mess in your room."* **

The gifts of the Holy Spirit have been classified in many different categories over the years. Tertullian was one of the earliest writers to suggest that they were divided as gifts of **Power, Sympathy, Administration, and Utterance.**

The most common classification is **Gifts of Revelation** (Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, & Discerning of Spirits); **Gifts of Power** (Healings, Miracles, & Faith); **Gifts of Utterance** (Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy).

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE

A. Definitions - The Word of Knowledge has been described as,

"a supernatural impartation of facts which the individual at the moment has no way of learning by natural means."

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Holy Spirit"
Part 1, pp. 110-111

"The Word of Knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God."

Harold Horton
"The Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 39

"a supernatural revelation of the existence, or nature, of a person or thing, of the knowledge of some event, given to us by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose."

Howard Carter
"The Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 30

One thing which must be made clear is that a person who has this gift does NOT possess all of the knowledge of God at any given time. He/she simply possesses a "WORD" or portion of knowledge that God wants to be expressed either to an individual or a group of people.

When we call up our lawyer for help he gives us a portion of knowledge not everything he knows. If he was able to transfer all his knowledge into your mind you would never need him again. He simply gives you a fragment of what he knows to help you temporarily overcome the difficulty facing you.

It is also **NOT something that someone recalls** because that would be **Memory** instead. It is **NOT natural ability**, or natural learning. It is **NOT a profound knowledge of Bible truth or theology**.

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE (Contd.)

B. Biblical Examples

There are a host of examples in the both the O.T. and N.T. writings of the Bible. When we see the gift at work it makes it easier to understand how God uses it for His glory.

1. Elisha - To Expose Deception

*"Where have you been, Gehazi? Elisha asked.
"Your servant didn't go anywhere," Gehazi answered.*

26. But Elisha said to him, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, flocks, herds, or menservants and maidservants?"

27. Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever."Then Gehazi went from the Elisha's presence and he was leprous, as white as snow."

II Kings 5:25-27

Peter also used this spiritual gift to expose the deception of Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11).

2. Elisha - To Uncover our Enemy's Plans

"The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: 'Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.

10. So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and time again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places."

11. This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, 'Will you not tell me which of us in on the side of the king of Israel?'

12. None of us, my lord the king, said one of his officers, 'but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.'

II Kings 6:9-12

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE (Contd.)

B. Biblical Examples (Contd.)

We need to realize that God knows all the cunning devices of our enemies. He will expose the deceitfulness in order to spare us from defeat. Isn't it great to know that no weapon formed against us will prosper.

3. Ananias - To Lead us into Effective Ministry

*"The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.
12. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on his to restore his sight."*

Acts 9:11,12

God used both a vision and the Word of Knowledge to communicate the way for Ananias to go as well as to prepare Saul to receive him.

4. Jesus - To Convince People of the Need of Salvation

*"I have no husband, she replied.
Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband.
18. The fact is that, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.
What you have just said is quite true.
19. 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet."*

John 4:17-19

There has been and continues to be a close relationship between the gift of the Word of Knowledge and the ministry of a prophet. In the O.T. they used to describe the prophets as "seers" which simply meant "**one who sees.**"

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE (Contd.)

C. Modern Accounts

1. Mr. W. Burton -

*** A number of years ago a missionary by the name of W. Burton was working for the Congo Evangelistic Mission. He became dreadfully ill and was lying upon his death bed.

For no apparent reason he rose up instantly from the bed in perfect health. A few months later he returned on furlough to England.

He compared diaries with a woman from Preston who had seen the whole situation. The times and the details were exactly the same.

God had this woman enter into a deep time of prayer in which she agonized in an unknown tongue for a man she had never known. She prayed until she saw him get up in perfect health.***

2. Alice Frodsham -

*** Stanley Frodman was an esteemed Assembly of God pastor for many years. He and his wife had been used to help a young man in breaking away from his sinful past.

One day the Lord showed Alice Frodsham the need to pray for the young man who was being tempted to return to his old ways. She began praying in the spirit and watched as he turned and walked into an open-air meeting. She continued to pray until the young man fully surrendered his life to God.

That evening he listened in astonishment as she recited the days happenings of what she had seen to the young man. ***

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE (Contd.)

C. Modern Accounts (Contd.)

3. Sharon & Me

*** One day Sharon and I felt a strong leading of God to get into our car and go to find Sharon's brother who had been staying with us. We had no idea where to go.

We got in the car and literally asked God to guide the car. We drove downtown and felt to turn into an area that neither of us had ever been in. As we turned into a small trailer court God told me to stop. I got out of the car and began to walk toward a trailer that I never knew even existed up to that day.

As I did Sharon's brother came out of the trailer with a look of surprise. He was with the wrong crowd and he knew it.

We told him what God had done. He stood amazed realizing that God cared enough about him that He would bring us right to the very place where he was sinning. ***

4. Myself -

*** I was attending a service at Edmonton Gospel Temple in the mid 1980's when a teenage boy came forth for prayer. He had a cold and asked me to pray that God would heal him.

As I began to pray, God began to reveal me something of a greater need in this young man's life. I shared with the young man what God placed upon my heart and mind to share.

The young man stepped back with his jaw dropping and asked me, "*How do you know these things?*" I told him that I have no idea about his life other than what God has told me.

He surrendered his will to the Lord that night as he wept a remorseful and then joyful cry. God set this young man free that night from deception. ***

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE (Contd.)

C. Modern Accounts (Contd.)

5. Sharon -

*** One morning we were attending the same church and God spoke to Sharon about someone who had pain in their right arm. She spoke it forth and told the person that God was going to heal him.

About 15 minutes later a man began running back and forth at the front of the church shouting, "*I'm healed, I'm healed!*" ***

He had been praying that God would heal him that day. Sharon and I had no way of knowing that he was suffering and talking to God. In fact, several people were healed that same morning because of the manifestation of spiritual gifts.

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge is equally serving the body of Christ as it did 1000's of years ago. It is available for everyone who has been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Have you been asking God to use you in the use of the gifts of the Spirit? If not, why not?!!!

Let the Gifts of God be used to glorify His name!

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART II

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Text: I Corinthians 12:8b

Key Word: Knowledge

Ky Thought: The Second Gift of the Holy Spirit Is Knowledge

The most common classification of Spiritual Gifts is **Gifts of Revelation** (Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, & Discerning of Spirits); **Gifts of Power** (Healings, Miracles, & Faith); **Gifts of Utterance** (Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy).

II. THE WORD (MESSAGE) OF KNOWLEDGE

A. Definitions -

It is also **NOT something that someone recalls** because that would be **Memory** instead. It is **NOT natural ability**, or natural learning. It is **NOT a profound knowledge of Bible truth or theology**.

B. Biblical Examples

There are a host of examples in the both the O.T. and N.T. writings of the Bible. When we see the gift at work it makes it easier to understand how God uses it for His glory.

1. Elisha - To Expose Deception - II Kings 5:25-27; Peter also used this spiritual gift to expose the deception of Ananias and Saphira (*Acts 5:1-11*).

2. Elisha - To Uncover our Enemy's Plans - II Kings 6:9-12

3. Ananais - To Lead us into Effective Ministry - Acts 9:11,12

4. Jesus - To Convince People of the Need of Salvation - John 4:17-19

C. Modern Accounts

1. Mr. W. Burton -

2. Alice Frodsham -

3. Sharon & Me -

4. Myself -

5. Sharon -

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART III THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

Text: I Corinthians 12:10

Key Word: Discerning

Ky Thought: The Third Gift of the Holy Spirit Is Discerning of Spirits

Anyone who begins to read the first few chapters of the Bible realizes that it is important to be able to discern the difference between good and evil. Eve, the mother of mankind was searching for the difference between good and evil. She did not avail herself to God's knowledge and therefore, sinned.

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits is the 3rd and final gift in what we have titled "**The Revelation Gifts.**" We will see by the end of this lesson how everything within the realm of Knowing - facts, events, purposes, motives, origins - human, divine or devilish, natural or supernatural; past, present or future comes within the range of these 3 Gifts.

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

A. Description/Definition -

Whereas the Word of Wisdom and Knowledge cover a vast field of information; the Discerning of Spirits is like a microscope that restricts its view to a limited area in order to expose something with great detail.

"The Gift of Discerning of Spirits gives supernatural insight into the realm of spirits/Spirit."

Harold Horton
"Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 70

It will reveal the kind of spirit that is involved in any manifestation of supernatural knowledge or power. Through it we can tell whether the source is human, divine (God or angel) or satanic. It is **NOT** the Gift of Discernment - it **IS** the Gift of Discernment of Spirits.

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS (Contd.)

B. Popular Misconceptions

1. It is NOT the Ability to See Faults in Others

"Not one of us requires the baptism in the Holy Spirit to endow us with the gift of criticism and faultfinding."

Harold Horton
ibid
p. 73

The Holy Spirit has come to destroy the "*gift of criticism*" and replace it with a God-given forbearance for others. **This gifts discerns SPIRITS not characters or faults.**

2. It is NOT Spiritist Phenomena

Clairvoyance, psychism, hypnotism, magic, occultism, witchcraft, sorcery and spiritism are all supernatural phenomena **BUT** are Satanic in origin. **Discerning of spirits strips the mask of these manifestations off and exposes their source.**

Mediums and spiritists make use of lying or familiar spirits. Those who communicate with the dead are simply working with these fallen angels. It is pure hoax.

"The Old Testament has frequent references to what is called in older versions '*familiar spirits*,' or in modern versions, '*mediums, fortune tellers, wizards, sorcerers, or witches*.' Other Biblical designations include: demonic spirits, spirits of devils [or demons], spirit of error, seducing spirits, or lying spirits. Natural human insight is certainly incapable of judging in this realm."

Kenneth Hagin
"*The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*"
p. 78

People who read minds do NOT have the Gift of Discerning of Spirits. **God's gifts are not for entertainment or public sensation.**

3. It is NOT Related to Psychiatry

Psychiatrists follow trained patterns of human behaviour to discover why people may be emotionally disturbed. Often a person's childhood is probed to reveal certain answers to mental blocks. Most Psychiatrists do not use Christian principles.

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS (Contd.)

C. Uses of the Gift

There is probably more need for this gift today that we could ever come to believe. The Scriptures show how the gift was used to expose the source of people's problems. Today, I wonder how many people are being treated for their symptoms while the cause of their sicknesses are overlooked?

1. To Heal the Demon-Possessed

In Mark chapter 5, Jesus was approached by a man who had lived in tombs and had been able to break the chains that had bound him (vs 3,4). He would cry out and cut himself at night (vs 5). After the spirit manifested itself Jesus said,

"Come out of this man, you evil spirit."

Mark 5:8

The result of Jesus using this gift as well as other spiritual gifts was that the man was restored to good health.

"they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid."

Mark 5:15

This man was set free from cruel, and tormenting spirits.

2. To Expose Unclean Spirits

We have a nation of many people who have been seduced by unclean spirits. Our youth are being viciously attacked in their minds through the media often led by these spirits.

"Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil [unclean] spirits, and all of them were healed."

Acts 5: 16

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS (Contd.)

C. Uses of the Gift (Contd.)

3. To Loose the Mouths of the Dumb and Cause the Blind to See

During our Lord's time many people were unable to speak because they were being controlled by "a dumb spirit." Jesus discerned the source of the problem before healing them.

"Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see."

Matthew 12:22

4. To Open the Ears of the Deaf

Some people were unable to hear. Jesus drove out the demon that caused them to be deaf so they could hear.

"You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

Mark 9:25

5. To Heal from Limb Distortions

There were people who had been born or "picked up" a disease which caused their limbs to be distorted.

*"On the Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,
11. and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.
12. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.'
13. Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God . . .
16. Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan has kept bound** for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her."*

Luke 13:10-13,16

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS (Contd.)

C. Uses of the Gift (Contd.)

6. To Discover a Servant of the Devil

Paul was "*filled with the Holy Spirit*" when he exposed Elymus the sorcerer on the island of Cyprus. This was a "*discovery*" not a "*deliverance*." Elymus had willingly subjected himself to demonic authority. Paul was shown the truth through the Gift of Discernment of Spirits.

"You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"

Acts 13:10

7. To Stop the Advance of Divination

While Paul was at Philippi he had to deal with a young girl who could have destroyed his ministry. He was able, through the Gift of Discernment of Spirits, to recognize and expose the evil spirit that was empowering her to speak. Even though what she was saying was true, Paul did not need an endorsement from hell.

*"Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.
17. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.
18. She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her."*

Acts 16:16-18

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS (Contd.)

C. Uses of the Gift (Contd.)

8. To Expose Error

"There is many a foul demon under a clerical cloak today preaching with pleasing voice and specious illogic lies instead of truth; denying the divinity, the virgin birth, the miracles, the saving blood of the Lord; denying the reality of sin, the devil, divine wrath, coming judgment and eternal hell.

And when these devilish doctrines are accompanied as they are in many forms of spiritism with devilish signs and wonders there needs to be this blessed Gift to discern the evil talon in the soft wool."

Harold Horton
ibid
p. 76

Paul makes it very clear that these will be the kinds of things we will have to face in the last days.

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

2. Such teaching comes through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."

I Timothy 4:1,2

9. To Unmask Demon-Working Miracle-Workers

Wherever there is something which is true and of value, there is always the strong possibility that a counterfeit will try to gain from it.

"The coming of the lawless one will be with in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders."

II Thessalonians 2:9

III. THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS (Contd.)

C. Uses of the Gift (Contd.)

This gift will unmask those who try to imitate the working of God. Not everyone who has this gift has the power to cast out the spirits.

*** Back in the late 1980's I was given a cassette tape of John Todd to listen to. He claimed to be a converted Satanist High Priest.

On the tape he described a number of things that were being done in the dark world of Satanism. He travelled throughout the USA and Canada with his message to the Church. Many large churches from Pentecostal background were welcoming him to speak from their pulpits.

Within 5 minutes of listening to the tape my stomach was in knots. I couldn't understand how the Church was being deceived. I was told that I was not understanding him or his message.

God gave me an instantaneous discernment of the spirit behind this man. I knew that I was not wrong. Within a few months he was exposed as never having left Satanism. He was working for the church of Satan while all the time posing as a Christian. His messages of fear were unable to sway what God was telling me. ***

I believe that this is one of the most important gifts required by the Church in the days we are living in. We must know the source of what is being portrayed as from God today.

Satan will use every tactic he can to destroy God's Church. I know he is active today in his deceit. Not everything in the Church today is from God. Some things are wreaking the awful stench of the flesh. Some is downright Satanic. But there is the authentic as well.

God will let us know what is from Him and what is not. We need to listen carefully to His voice. **Long term fruit will indicate the source of the matter.**

Lets be open to allow God to work through His spiritual gifts. ***If you have been given or are given this gift in the future, use it with caution and maturity.*** Most will not understand your concerns. Be gracious and use it for the glory of God and the protection of His Church.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART III THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

Text: I Corinthians 12:10

Key Word: Discerning

Ky Thought: The Third Gift of the Holy Spirit Is Discerning of Spirits

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A. Description/Definition - "gives supernatural insight into the realm of spirits/Spirit."

B. Popular Misconceptions

1. It is NOT the Ability to See Faults in Others
2. It is NOT Spiritist Phenomena
3. It is NOT Related to Psychiatry

C. Uses of the Gift

1. To Heal the Demon-Possessed - *Mark 5:8; Mark 5:15*
2. To Expose Unclean Spirits - *Acts 5: 16*
3. To Loose Mouths of the Dumb and Cause the Blind to See - *Matthew 12:22*
4. To Open the Ears of the Deaf - *Mark 9:25*
5. To Heal from Limb Distortions - *Luke 13:10-13,16*
6. To Discover a Servant of the Devil - *Acts 13:10*
7. To Stop the Advance of Divination - *Acts 16:16-18*
8. To Expose Error - *I Timothy 4:1,2*
9. To Unmask Demon-Working Miracle-Workers - *II Thessalonians 2:9*

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART IV

GIFTS OF HEALINGS (Part 1)

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

Key Word: Healings

Key Thought: The Fourth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gifts of Healings

This message moves us into "**The Gifts of Power.**" There is probably more mentioned in Scripture about this gift than any other. Yet people seem to have great difficulty accepting its use today. There is an increasing demand for it within the body of Christ and the world as a whole.

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1)

The late Harold Horton wrote,

"These gifts . . . are the miraculous manifestation of the Spirit for the banishment of all human ills whether organic, functional or nervous; acute or chronic."

Harold Horton
"The Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 106

In the 3 references to the gift (I Corinthians 12:9,20,28), the Greek language shows in the original that both terms are plural. We are speaking therefore, about the **GIFTS OF HEALINGS** not the **Gift of Healings** or the **Gifts of Healing**. Those who have received this manifestation of the Spirit have been given an assortment of individual healing portions for those in need. **It is a multiple gift.**

"Every healing is a special gift. There are no healers."

Eldin R. Corsie
"The Ministry Gifts"
p. 110

"The whole procedure is an instance of divine charismata, and therefore neither the personal merit of the one ministering the gift, nor that of the one receiving the healing portion, is the basis of bestowment. At both levels, it is, as it were, divine charity rather than human merit or even human faith."

L. Thomas Holdcroft
"The Holy Spirit"
p. 154

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1) (Contd.)

Another very important point to make is that these gifts are also entirely supernatural in character.

". . . we must emphasize the entirely supernatural character of the Gift. For these Gifts of Healings are commonly confused with a high degree of medical or surgical or manipulative or scientific ability. . . Healings through these Gifts are wrought by the power of Christ through the Spirit, by ignorant believers with no knowledge of physiology, disease, symptoms, drugs or surgery."

Harold Horton
ibid
p. 95

Medical science can be thanked for its contribution to helping the sick and needy, but those of the medical profession are not exercising these gifts. God does not require drugs or scalpels to perform His healings. We are no more healthy today than in the days of our grandparents even with the advancement of the medical profession.

God is raising up a generation of believers who are being endowed with these gifts. The outcome is bringing phenomenal results that cannot be understood outside of the acknowledgment that God is at work healing the sick through His people.

What is the purpose of these Gifts of Healings?

1. To Deliver the Sick and Destroy the Works of the Devil in the Human Body.

We have many in our generation who are suffering from incurable diseases. It does not matter whether they have been self-inflicted or not. Whoever wishes to acknowledge Jesus Christ can receive their healing.

"A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.

*3. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said, '**Be clean!**' Immediately he was cured of his leprosy."*

Matthew 8:2,3

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1) (Contd.)

1. To Deliver the Sick and Destroy the Works of the Devil in the Human Body (Contd.)

The LORD has declared through His words and actions that He wishes to heal. We must come to Him in faith to receive.

*** A number of years ago, the late Gordon Lindsay, founder of Christ for the Nations was conducting a series of meetings in Lima, Peru. A man was in the service who had lost his sight 25 years previous.

Bro. Lindsay never made it a point to pray for those who were totally blind the first time they attended. He recognized that they were engulfed in darkness and lacked hope let alone any faith.

He had been blinded by an evil spirit just like the man who was brought to Jesus in Matthew 12:22ff. His optic nerves had been oppressed by a spirit.

After being prayed for he was asked if he could see. He opened his eyes with great anticipation and eagerness. It was apparent that he could still not see. Yet the man would not admit that he was still blind.

He stood just smiling as Bro. Lindsay began praying for others who had come forward. All at once a tremendous shouting was heard. The man was counting the lights,

"Una, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco etc!" The whole congregation rose to its feet and began shouting and worshipping God.

A look of bewilderment came over the healed man's face and he began to shake his head. The interpreter was asked to find out what the problem was. After an exchange in Spanish the interpreter told what the man was saying,

"I can see, but all the lights are great long tubes." At the time he became blind, fluorescent lights had not been invented.

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 125-126

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1) (Contd.)

2. To Establish to Claims of Jesus

One thing about divine healing is that it gets people's attention. People find it harder to doubt after they see someone who has been sick with an incurable, visible sickness being healed.

"Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

38. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

John 10:37,38

When Jesus entered Capernaum some town folk brought a man who was a paralytic (sick of the palsie). Jesus recognized that faith had stirred in this man's friends. Jesus used this healing to establish that He had authority given by God the Father.

"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.'

..
5. Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'

6. But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . . Then he said to the paralytic, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.'

7. And the man got up and went home."

Matthew 9:2,5-7

3. To Authorize the Message of God's Servants

Anyone who preaches the Word of God today can expect opportunities to abound for God to manifest His power. Spiritual gifts offer an avenue for God's Word to be practised.

When Philip travelled into Samaria, God back up His Word through the Gifts of Healings.

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1) (Contd.)

3. To Authorize the Message of God's Servants (Contd.)

"Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

6. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

7. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

8. So there was great joy in that city."

Acts 8:5-8

*** A remarkable healing took place in the John G. Lake Healing Rooms in Spokane, Washington. The woman who was ministered to was named Lena Lakey.

While working as a cook at a lumber camp she became violently insane. Several men were required to overpower her and tie her in bed. But she was able to get free and tore the bed to pieces. She struck one man with a piece from the bed and rendered him unconscious. She sent another one to the hospital for 3 weeks.

She escaped into the woods in a drenching rain where she eventually fell exhausted and unconscious for 6 hours until a searching party found her.

She was tied with ropes and brought to Spokane. Before taking her to court to have her committed to an insane asylum, they decided to bring her to the Dr. Lake.

He placed his hands upon her in prayer, and immediately the insane demons were cast out and she was healed. An abscess on her side that she had suffered with for 15 years totally disappeared in 24 hours. She was also cured within 48 hours of a rheumatic bone deposit that had wedged its way between her fingers and toes that her joints had been forced apart. ***

Gordon Lindsay
ibid
p. 128-129

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1) (Contd.)

4. To Lead People to God

Spiritual gifts are not to be flaunted in showmanship. The main purpose of God's hand being extended is to lead people to salvation in Christ.

"As Peter travelled about the country, he went to visit the saints at Lydda.

33. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years.

34. 'Aeneas,' Peter said to him, 'Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat.' Immediately Aeneas got up.

35. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord."

Acts 9:32-35

5. To Inspire Faith and Courage in God's People

In the early Church the disciples needed constant assurance that God was in their midst. They were commissioned to carry a message to an un-receiving people.

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Acts 4:29-31

Every Pentecostal assembly in the world will provide a multitude of illustrations of those healed of incurable diseases and infirmities. Some take place in "normal" services while others are a result of visiting ministries.

IV. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 1) (Contd.)

5. To Inspire Faith and Courage in God's People (Contd.)

******* I watched with anticipation one evening as we had a visiting speaker in Fort McMurray. One man had entered the service with a painful injury that had caused his back vertebra to mis-align. His one leg was over 3 inches shorter as a result. His name was Randy Pinksen.

Randy stood during the testimony service and proclaimed that he knew in that service that he would be healed.

I don't remember much about what the preacher - Gratin Gilles, said that night. I know that he instilled faith to arise in all of us.

When it came time to pray for the sick Randy slowly made his way to the platform. The preacher had him sit upon a chair. He lifted his legs and it was clear that one was at least 3 inches shorter than the other. Anyone who wanted to see God work was asked to come forward.

I was keenly concerned about this. As the preacher finished a short prayer, there was an immediate 3 snaps. With each snap I watched the leg grow out about an inch each time.

We all began to praise God for His wonderful works among us. Many people with shortened limbs were healed that night. A gift of healing was active in that service. *******

The gifts of healings are definitely needed in our churches. God gives gifts to those whom He chooses. We need to be open to receive what He is about to do.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART IV

GIFTS OF HEALINGS (Part 1)

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

Key Word: Healings

Key Thought: The Fourth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gifts of Healings

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What Is the Purpose of These Gifts of Healings?

1. To Deliver the Sick and Destroy the Works of the Devil in the Human Body -
Matthew 8:2,3

2. To Establish to Claims of Jesus - *John 10:37,38; Matthew 9:2,5-7*

3. To Authorize the Message of God's Servants - *Acts 8:5-8*

4. To Lead People to God - *Acts 9:32-35*

5. To Inspire Faith and Courage in God's People - *Acts 4:29-31*

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART V

GIFTS OF HEALINGS (Part 2)

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

Key Word: Healings

Key Thought: The Fourth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gifts of Healings

Last week we looked at some reasons why the Holy Spirit has given us the Gifts of Healings. Tonight I want to illustrate how these gifts work within the body of Christ.

I wish to re-emphasize that the Gifts of the Healing are not what we see in operation throughout the medical profession. Luke was the only disciple that we know of who could have practised medicine since he was a physician. We have no record of him ever using medical procedures to minister to the sick.

When Paul and Luke arrived on the island of Melita, it was not Dr. Luke who opened his medical chest for those who were desperately sick.

*** One of the greatest preachers our world has ever seen, Smith Wigglesworth, was speaking on Psalm 103. When he came to verse 3, the verse he cherished the most which says, "**Who healeth all thy diseases,**" he joyfully commented, "*I believe in divine healing.*"

A man in the front row shouted out a loud, "*Hallelujah!*" (must have been a Pentecostal). The congregation was one that was not used of these sorts of outbursts.

The preacher handled it so delightfully careful. He remarked, "*But then, I believe all healing is divine.*"

The people crowded into the pews were amused and began to chatter amongst themselves. It grew to a chorus of laughter.

The speaker turned to the man and said, "*Why don't you shout Hallelujah now?*" ***

In the ultimate sense all healing is from God. This does need explanation though. We understand that every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights. Yet we have had certain voodoo priests and New Age teachers who claim to be able to bring physical healing. Does this mean that they are being used of God? Of course NOT. **Without God putting certain laws into order in His creation no one could be healed.** So ultimately healing is not the devil's creation.

We Need to Ask How God Heals!

V. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 2)

1. Through Personal Prayer

"Is any one of you in trouble? ("afflicted" - KJV) He should pray."

James 5:13

This portion of the Scripture is often not mentioned when we deal with sickness. Before we ask for others to join with us in prayer, we need to pray for ourselves. This, of course, would be overlooked if the person was too ill to pray for themselves.

God has offered us many rich and precious promises if we simply activate our faith and believe that He will stand upon His Word. We are NOT to look to our sense of knowledge. God has often demonstrated His power to heal in very unusual ways (spit & mud in blind eyes).

The scriptures tell us that the prophet Isaiah was sent to King Hezekiah to tell him to put his house in order because he was going to die (II Kings 20:1). The king was not willing to accept the prognosis.

*"Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,
3. 'Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with whole-hearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly."*

II Kings 20:2,3

God's response to the prayer came before Isaiah had a chance to leave the middle court.

*"I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; **I will heal you.** On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD.
6. I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."*

II Kings 20:5,6

God used the shadow of the sun going back 10 steps on the stairway of Ahaz as a sign.

V. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 2) (Contd.)

2. Through the Laying on of Hands

The Bible makes it very clear about what signs shall follow those who believe.

"And these signs will accompany those who believe.

*18. . . they will place their hands on sick people,
and they will get well.*

Mark 16:17,18

Our hands simply become the contact place for our faith to be activated from. God still flows through people who believe. I remember many nights laying our hands upon our sick children and watching them immediately become well.

*** During one service we prayed for a woman who had an internal growth. She allowed us to place our hands upon her and pray for a healing. During the prayer she felt a warm, almost burning sensation at the area of problem. She knew she was healed.

She was told to return to her doctor to confirm what had taken place. Her doctor could not understand how a growth that large could simply disappear. It never returned while we pastored in that assembly. ***

*** Another lady for our church attended a convention with the P.A.O.C. in Vancouver. She was a diabetic and had to use a needle to give herself insulin.

She went forward for prayer and also experienced a touch of Jesus through the hands of other believers. Her daily blood glucose checks indicated that she no longer required insulin.

Upon returning home she made an appointment with her doctor who confirmed that she was no longer a diabetic. Tears flowed down her face when she told of how God miraculously healed her through the laying on of hands. ***

3. Through the Spoken Word

When Jesus returned home to Capernaum, a centurion came asking help of Jesus. He explained,

"my servant lies at home paralysed and in terrible suffering."

Matthew 8:6

V. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 2) (Contd.)

3. Through the Spoken Word (Contd.)

Jesus was willing to go to the home of the centurion to heal the servant. The centurion's response was very surprising.

"Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

Matthew 8:8

He went on to explain that as a Roman leader he recognized that certain lines of authority were given to leaders. When they gave orders, their soldiers would respond. This centurion was telling Jesus that he believed that through His Word Jesus could heal his servant. He didn't expect Jesus to come to his home. Jesus recognized that this man had exercised great faith in making that statement.

*"Then Jesus said to the centurion, **"Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.** And his servant was healed that very hour."*

Matthew 8:13

*** During my intern year of ministry, a young man came forward during a service and asked me to join him in prayer for his mother. She was not a woman that missed a service, so I knew she was quite ill.

We joined hands together and believed for her complete healing. They called me after I arrived home from the morning service. I could hear shouting in the background.

I remember looking at my watch when we prayed for her. She also looked at her clock when she felt the healing power of God enter her body. It was the exact minute that we were praying.

She attended the evening service and gave testimony of what God had done. ***

David knew that God worked this way when he wrote Psalm 107.

*"Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.
20. He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave."*

Psalm 107:19,20

V. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 2) (Contd.)

4. Through an Anointed Cloth

This is perhaps the least way that healing takes place today. **It was never given as an instruction to follow.** Yet God can still use **any particular method He chooses.** I do feel that mass-cloths are not appropriate. It may be still used in single cases though.

It is not the oil on the cloth that makes it effective. **It is the anointing that has been upon the person owning the cloth which brings about the healing.**

One of the most unusual cases took place in the O.T. during the time of Elisha the prophet. Elisha had died and was buried according to the custom of the day (II Kings 13:20).

The Bible tells us that the Moabites would often raid the country. Once when they were raiding, the Israelites were in the process of burying a man. In their fear they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb.

"When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet."

II Kings 13:21

There was more anointing in Elisha's dead body than there is in most of our living bodies. It took the contact with Elisha's body (draped in cloth) to bring the restoration of life.

Another case of this type of healing took place with Jesus. He was on His way to raise Jarius' daughter from the dead. As Jesus made His way through the crowds a woman who had suffered from a bleeding disorder for 12 years reached out to touch Jesus.

*"Because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.
29. Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.'"*

Mark 5:28,29

This unusual way of healing continued as the people saw how effective it was.

"And wherever he went - into villages, towns, or countryside - they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed."

Mark 6:56

V. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 2) (Contd.)

4. Through an Anointed Cloth (Contd.)

God used the apostle Paul in this very unusual way as well. Paul was not able to go to everyone who was sick. When he was told of a specific need he responded by sending a pieces cloths.

"God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12. so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them."

Acts 19:11,12

5. Through the Anointing of Oil

This is perhaps the most common approach taken to bring about healing today.

When Jesus sent out His 12 disciples they went with an anointing to perform great miracles.

"They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them."

Mark 6:13

The early church was given specific instructions if someone was sick among them.

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."

James 5:14,15

Without doubt, one of the common truths behind all healing is faith. It may be **substitutionary faith** (Mark 2:5); **faith of the sufferer alone** (Matthew 9:22); **faith of the minister alone** (Matthew 9:25); **combined faith of the minister and the sufferer** (Matthew 9:28,29). **Faith is indispensable for healing.**

Everyone can be healed of every sickness. We will not give up on anyone who has any kind of sickness or disease. God is still is able to do abundantly more than we could ever ask or think about. Let faith arise and our enemies be scattered!

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART V

GIFTS OF HEALINGS (Part 2)

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

Key Word: Healings

Key Thought: The Fourth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gifts of Healings

V. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS (PART 2)

We Need to Ask How God Heals!

1. Through Personal Prayer - *James 5:13; II Kings 20:1; II Kings 20:2,3; II Kings 20:5,6*

2. Through the Laying on of Hands - *Mark 16:17,18*

3. Through the Spoken Word - *Matthew 8:6; Matthew 8:8; **Matthew 8:13**; Psalm 107:19,20*

4. Through an Anointed Cloth - *II Kings 13:21; Mark 5:28,29; Mark 6:56; Acts 19:11,12*

5. Through the Anointing of Oil - *Mark 6:13; James 5:14,15*

It may be **substitutionary faith** (Mark 2:5); **faith of the sufferer alone** (Matthew 9:22); **faith of the minister alone** (Matthew 9:25); **combined faith of the minister and the sufferer** (Matthew 9:28,29). **Faith is indispensable for healing.**

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VI THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

Text: I Corinthians 12:10a

Key Word: Miracles

Key Thought: The Fifth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Working Miracles

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES

The spiritual gift of "*the working of miracles*" is one that works in a wide operation. There are times when it merges with the "**Gifts of Healings**" while other times it is evident along with the "**Gift of Faith**."

There are many evidences that this gift is at work. At times we have witnessed the raising of the dead; miracles of supply; miraculous deliverance; special judgements against wicked persons or nations.

This gift is not to be used for public display. Jesus answered the irreverent demand of the Pharisees by saying,

"A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah."

*Matthew 16:4
cf. 12:38-42*

The sign they were given was when Jesus was placed into the tomb for 3 days and later resurrected. They wouldn't believe the sign He gave them.

The devil tempted Jesus to make bread out of a stone (Luke 4:3). Jesus refused to demonstrate His power before the devil in the power struggle. Instead Jesus said,

"Man does not live by bread alone."

*Luke 4:4
cf. Deuteronomy 8:3*

Yet when there were 5,000 and 4,000 men following Him to hear His words Jesus miraculously fed them from a few loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-9).

The devil also tempted Jesus to defy the law of gravity and cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple (Luke 4:9-13). Jesus would not fall for the devil's cunning temptation.

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

Yet we know that Jesus defied the law of gravity by walking on the water to come to the aid of His disciples who were being buffeted by the waves (Matthew 14:22-33).

Miracles are describe by many people is many different ways. Sometimes we use the word quite loosely. I've heard people describe the beauty of a sunset, calling it a miracle. The miracle which I am referring to is different than that.

"A miracle, therefore, is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order; and interruption of the system of nature as we know it. . . A miracle is a sovereign act of the Spirit of God irrespective of laws or systems. A miracle does not, as some cynical unbelievers say, demand the existence of an undiscovered law to explain it."

Harold Horton
"Gifts of the Spirit"
p 109

The working of miracles serves 2 purposes. *First*, it is used to provide for special needs. *Secondly*, it is to confirm the gospel witness to those who will believe. These miracles are dramatic, outward visible signs.

"The difference between the gift of faith and the working of miracles is that the gift of faith receives a miracle and the working of miracles works a miracle."

Kenneth Hagin
"The Holy Spirit & His Gifts"
p.92

The word used for "*miracles*" is translated from the Greek work "*dunamis*" (cf. dynamite). It is used to describe the powerful workings of God.

There seems to be a number of distinct classifications that miracles fall into.

- A. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY
- B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD
- C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT
- D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

Just when we think we have all that God can do in tidy little pockets He tends to something which is very unique which can include several spiritual gifts at once. Such is the case of Ronnie Coyne.

*** In May 1950, the Coyne family moved to Sapulpa, Oklahoma. In August of that year the mother was aroused from her nap by her crying son, Ronnie.

He had stuck a wire into his eye accidentally. He was taken to the best eye specialist in Tulsa called Dr. Otis Lee at the Springer Clinic. Once the seriousness of the accident was diagnosed they rushed Ronnie to St. John's Hospital.

Surgery was performed in an attempt to save the eye. During the operation it was discovered that an abscess had formed and there was no way to drain it. The infected eyeball had to be removed.

A plastic eyeball was later fitted into the eye socket. He lived with his handicap for 10 months. Through that time Ronnie was saved. A travelling evangelist named Sister Gillock visited Supulpa.

Ronnie went forward for prayer because of an infection in his tonsils. Sister Gillock noticed that something was wrong with his eye and asked if he believed the Lord could heal him. She didn't realize at the time that he had a plastic eye.

After praying a short prayer Ronnie began to see objects from his right eye. He saw the steps, the microphone and was able to count fingers.

They tested him for several days. The local newspapers (Tulsa World; Tulsa Tribune) wrote articles about the miracle. They began travelling around speaking in vast audiences demonstrating the miraculous power of God.

In December 1952, they attended the Voice of Healing Convention in Dallas showing that he could see equally well at of both eyes.

Ten years later he spoke at the same convention which was held at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He spoke though as a fiery young evangelist that God used to proclaim the message of salvation. He was experiencing a continuous miracle from God. ***

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Spirit"
pp. 9-11

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

A. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY

1. Manna - One of the most unique miracles recorded in the Scriptures took place while the children of Israel travelled for 40 years in the wilderness. God supplied them with manna every day except the Sabbath.

"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them to see if they will follow my instructions.

5. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

Exodus 16:4,5

God wanted to teach them to depend upon Him for their daily needs. The manna that had come over 12,000 times stopped when they entered the promise land.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the same way,

"Give us today our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11

2. Clothing - God also performed another 40 year miracle of supply.

"During the 40 years I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet."

Deuteronomy 29:5

3. Meal in the Barrel - The prophet Elijah was sent to the widow at Zarephath after the water dried up at the Brook Cherith. The widow was gathering some sticks to cook her last meal. The prophet had her make a meal of bread for him before supplying for her son and herself. God performed a miracle through Elijah because of their obedience.

"The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the earth."

I Kings 17:14

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

A. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY (Contd.)

4. Coin in Fish - The children of Israel once asked the question , "**Can God set a table in the wilderness.**" People have continued to ask whether God could supply for their needs. The answer is an overwhelming **YES!**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

When Jesus sent forth His disciples He told them not to take gold or silver with them (Matthew 10:9,10) to prove that He could miraculously supply for their needs. Later He did allow them to take their money bags (Luke 22:35,36).

Once while visiting in Capernaum the disciples were approached by the tax collectors for the 2 drachmas or ½ shekel (2 days wage) annual temple tax. In order not to offend the publicans Jesus said,

"go to the lake and throw out your line, Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four drachma coin. Take it and give it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Matthew 17:27

B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD

This exercising of the gift of miracles does beyond what the "**Gifts of Healings**" do. For someone to be raised back to life their departed spirit must return to their body. This is determined by God alone. Only God can restore life. There are various Scriptural accounts of someone being raised back to life.

1. The Widow's Son - This is the first detailed account in Scripture of someone being raised from the dead. The same widow that had supplied for Elijah now witnessed the death of her son. There are times when even great men of faith do not prevent trouble from entering our lives. The woman felt that Elijah was sent to expose some past sin of hers that was still weighing upon her conscience (I Kings 17:18). The prophet did 3 things to raise the boy back to life.

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD (Contd.)

1. The Widow's Son (Contd.) -

a. He Secluded Himself - He took the boy away from his mother. He went up to his room and laid the child on the bed. It is important to find ourselves in places where our faith is not hindered when invoking God's divine power. Even Jesus could do only a few miracles because of the people's lack of faith.

b. He Reasoned with God - Elijah had to understand the cause of the child's death. He believed that God had taken the child's life.

"O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"

I Kings 17:20

Sometimes we need to reason with God to discover the facts of the matter. God is not the only one who kills. The devil also has the power over death.

*"so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil -
15. and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*

Hebrews 2:14,15

c. He Exercised His Faith - Elijah recognized that there was an anointing that rested upon him. As that anointing touch the boy it served as a contact for his faith to be released.

*"Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, 'O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!
22. The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived."*

I Kings 17:21,22

This miracle proved to the widow without a shadow of doubt that Elijah was a man of God. Scriptures also record the raising of the Shunammite widow's son by the prophet Elisha in II Kings 4.

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD (Contd.)

2. Tom Welch - Some people doubt that God still performs such miracles in our day and age. The story of Tom Welch tells me of the compassion of Jesus is still flowing.

*** At 18 years of age, Tom Welch went to work at a lumber mill in Bridal Veil, Oregon. One day while working 55 feet above the ground on a steel trestle, he lost his footing and fell, striking several cross-members before hitting the ground.

His battered body, with broken bones and a severe skull fracture lay for a period of 20 minutes in a pool of dirty engine water.

His life was sweeping away and the reality of a hell he had always disbelieved now became very focussed in his mind. He cried out to God for mercy.

The minutes passed. Then, he saw Jesus passing his way. When Tom felt that Jesus would not notice him because he had almost disappeared from view, Jesus turned and looked right at him. Compassion filled the heart and eyes of our Lord.

At that moment Tom's life came back to his body. At the very moment, Mrs. Finn Brocke, whose husband was an engineer, was praying intently. She had taken an interest in this orphan boy.

They took Tom to the hospital. During the next 4 days Tom did more thinking about God than he had ever done before. God asked him if he would preach the gospel. The answer was clear - YES!

At the end of those 4 days the miracle was complete. It was of such nature and so well documented that it amazed the physicians as well as hundreds who knew what had happened. Every broken bone was healed in the 4 days. Tom testified of the miracle in a church service shortly after. He kept his word to preach the gospel. He began ministering with Rev Gordon Lindsay the founder for Christ for the Nations. ***

Gordon Lindsay
"Gifts of the Spirit" Vol 3
p. 23-25

3. Jarius's Daughter - Jesus raised Jarius' daughter (Luke 8:41-56) back to life as well as Lazarus from the grave after being dead for 4 days (John 11).

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD (Contd.)

4. Dorcus - Peter was used in Acts 9:36-43 to raise Dorcus [Greek] (Tabitha - Aramaic) back to life. She had been a woman who had served the Lord faithfully (Acts 9:39) by making clothing for those in need. It was an untimely death. God used this miracle to cause many to believe on the Lord (Acts 9:42).

5. Eutychus - Paul also was used to raise the dead. As he was speaking one night at Troas a young man by the name of Eutychus fell asleep and landed hard enough from the 3 stories that he died.

Most of us would give up any hope at that time. Paul was different.

"Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'He's alive!'

11. Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

12. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted."

Acts 20:10-12

Jesus restored the widow's only son during the funeral procession in the town of Nain.

"Then he went up and touched the coffin and those carrying it stood still. He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!'

15. The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother."

Luke 7:14,15

The miraculous power of God is still available and is being exercised by those who will trust God.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VI THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

Text: I Corinthians 12:10a

Key Word: Miracles

Key Thought: The Fifth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Working Miracles

VI. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES - *Matthew 16:4 cf. 12:38-42; Luke 4:3; Luke 4:4; cf. Deuteronomy 8:3; Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-9; Luke 4:9-13; Matthew 14:22-33*

The spiritual gift of "*the working of miracles*" is one that works in a wide operation. There are times when it merges with the "**Gifts of Healings**" while other times it is evident along with the "**Gift of Faith.**"

There Seems to Be a Number of Distinct Classifications That Miracles Fall Into.

- A. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY
- B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD
- C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT
- D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

A. MIRACLES OF SUPPLY

1. **Manna** - *Exodus 16:4,5; Matthew 6:11*
2. **Clothing** - *Deuteronomy 29:5*
3. **Meal in the Barrel** - *I Kings 17:14*
4. **Coin in Fish** - *Philippians 4:19; Matthew 10:9,10; Luke 22:35,36; Matthew 17:27*

B. MIRACLES OF RAISING THE DEAD

1. **The Widow's Son** - *I Kings 17:18*
 - a. **He Secluded Himself** -
 - b. **He Reasoned with God** - *I Kings 17:20; Hebrews 2:14,15*
 - c. **He Exercised His Faith** - *I Kings 17:21,22; see also II Kings 4*
2. **Tom Welch** -
3. **Jarius's Daughter** - *Luke 8:41-56; John 11*
4. **Dorcus** - *Acts 9:36-43; Acts 9:39; Acts 9:42*
5. **Eutychus** - *Acts 20:10-12*
6. **The Widow's Son** - *Luke 7:14,15*

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VII THE WORKING OF MIRACLES (Contd.)

Text: I Corinthians 12:10b

Key Word: Miracles

Key Thought: The Fifth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Working Miracles

Last time I spoke on the working of miracles we looked at the "miracles of supply" and the "miracles of raising the dead." Since it was not possible to cover all the topics in one lesson I decided to divide it into 2 parts. Tonight we are going to look at 2 more groups of miracles.

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES

C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT

1. Judgment of Pharaoh/Egyptians (Exodus 14:10-31)

Can you picture for a few moments the scene before us? Millions of men, women and children with their flocks and herds encamped beside the Red Sea. Finally they had escaped the cruel grip of Pharaoh. Or did they? A cloud of dust and the rumble of chariots and horses from the west placed a sickening feeling in the stomachs of the Israelites. Trapped! An impassable sea. An inescapable enemy. Feelings of helplessness and hopelessness gripped their thoughts. The people cried out in despair. Even Moses complains.

God speaks! A rod is lifted. The east wind breaks in upon the calm waters of the sea. It begins to swirl in turbulence. Mountains of water form a wall. A wall of protection for the Israelites but a wall of destruction for the unknowing Egyptians.

Who is like unto the Lord - doing wonders. Jehovah's arm is not shortened to save His people. His breath is not exhausted. The sea bed is dried up as a paved highway for His people to cross. The Egyptians foolishly attempt to find safety in their madness. Their carcasses become proof the God performs miracles of judgment.

"Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first and the lesson afterward."

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT (Contd.)

The thunder god went for a ride
Upon his favourite filly
"I'm Thor," he cried.
The horse replied,
"You forgot your thaddle, thilly."

Last of Clean Jokes
p. 49

God uses miracles of judgment to wake up a sleeping nation and bring humility to its leadership. I believe that God can use disasters to bring nations to repentance.

2. Judgment of Korah (Numbers 16)

The day came when pride and rebellion found root in the hearts of Korah.
The scriptures made it very clear.

"you have gone too far. . ."

Numbers 16:3,7

I finally believe that some in our society are beginning to understand that they've gone too far. The day is soon coming for those who refuse to hear His voice when God will issue another command much like that in the days of Moses.

*"Then the LORD said to Moses,
24. Say to the assembly, 'Move away
from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram."*

Numbers 16:23

The ground began to rumble. A force greater than any man opened the ground surrounding the rebellious families. It swallowed up all of them along with their households and possessions (Numbers 16:32). When the earth had its fill, it returned to its original position.

Before the people could catch their breath, fire came down from heaven and consumed the 250 other men who foolishly burned incense before God.

God used every means available before resorting to divine judgment. Every means of persuasion was used to secure repentance and submission to no avail. God's authority was defied and His mercy was rejected. Judgment was God's only alternative.

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT (Contd.)

2. Judgment of Korah (Numbers 16) (Contd.)

*** On the shores of Lake Kisali in Mr. Hodgson's section of the Congo Evangelistic Mission, of which Mr. Burton was chief, lived a number of witch-doctors who were opposing the gospel.

They threatened to annihilate the families of believers who were attending the mission meetings. They even schemed to destroy the evangelists.

One evening a native evangelist found sorcerers taking scrapings from his bed and threads from his coat in which to "bewitch" him.

"At last" shouted the chief sorcerer as he was exposed, "we have all that is necessary to bring about your end. You will fall dead at sunrise tomorrow morning."

Next morning a large crowd gathered at the door of the evangelist's hut to see if the witch doctor's magic would accomplish its goal.

At sunrise the evangelist opened his door, and went to beat his drum to summon the people to the sunrise prayer meeting.

At that moment awful cry was heard from the far end of the village. The sorcerer was seen running from his hut. He suddenly threw his arms into the air with a shriek of agony and fell back dead." ***

Harold Horton
"Gifts of the Spirit"
p. 114

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

One of the signs that Jesus said would take place in the last day would be those in the heavens. This is nothing new for God.

1. Elijah's Drought

This miracle was actually 2 miracles. These miracles were separated by 3 ½ scorching years. God had enough of the wicked reign and rebellion of king Ahab and his wife Jezebel. The prophet took a great chance when he stood up against the idolatrous king. The message from heaven made its way into the chambers of Ahab's palace.

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE (Contd.)

1. Elijah's Drought (Contd.)

"As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

I Kings 17:1

This was not some whimsical act of the prophet. It was God who directed him to speak such words of warning.

"O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command."

I Kings 18:36

The notorious wicked acts of Jezebel had reached their peak in the halls of heaven. **She had introduced the worship of Baal and outlawed the worship of Jehovah.** God's people were forced to find refuge in caves. No black magic could change the judgment call of God.

God used a new method to send forth His answer to the cries of His obedient servant, Elijah.

"Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench."

I Kings 18:38

Soon the rain was drenching the sun scorched land. James made it very clear what had happened.

*"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.
18. Again he prayed, and the earth produced its crops."*

James 5:17,18

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE (Contd.)

2. Falling of the Walls of Jericho

This is one of the most dramatic miracle in the O.T. The liberal mind has made several attempts to explain what happened. I've heard everything from a natural fault that happened to let go and also by the weakening that took place with the rhythmic trampling of the soldiers. Others suggest that a disintegration took place because of the sudden blast of the horns combined with the incredible sound of the people shouting.

All of the excavations of the site have had to lead the archaeologists to conclude that God's Word is true. A further point of truth was that no one would build the city.

"Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: 'A the cost of his firstborn son will he lay the foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."

Joshua 6:26

It was 666 years later that Hiel the Bethelite refused to listen to the warning of God and it cost him the life of his eldest and youngest sons (I Kings 16:34).

Today God is supernaturally tearing down the walls of petition which have divided His Church.

******* Our church witnessed the walls of division being torn down just before we moved over from the Best Western Parkway. I received a call from Pastor Roy Stevenson and he asked if a few couples from his church could attend our service and pray for us..

Of course, I wanted them to be with us. On the Sunday morning I welcomed Norm & Linda Augie along with Dick and Margo Delacio to our service. They began by congratulating us for the many years of service in our city and were excited to hear that we had been able to purchase the land and building on Mohawk Drive in Cornwall.

Before ending, Norm reached into his pocket and pulled out an envelop. He mentioned that during their morning service they took up an offering to help us in our purchase. In the envelop was a cheque for \$10,740.00. You can easily know that God is working in our city and churches when these kinds of actions are taking place. I can't wait until our church is in a financial position to bless others as well. *******

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES (Contd.)

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE (Contd.)

I could go on to speak of the story of the sun standing still in Joshua chapter 10 or the stilling of the winds and waves that tried to overcome the disciples in Matthew 8.

God still has dominion over the earth He created.

You may need a miracle today. God is still able to perform one. He is no respecter of persons. Allow Him to have His way in your life. Believe that He is able to do what He said He could do.

Miracles are NOT something of the past. They will become a common occurrence in the last day for those to believe God is able.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VII THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

Text: I Corinthians 12:10b

Key Word: Miracles

Key Thought: The Fifth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Working Miracles

VII. THE GIFT OF WORKING MIRACLES

Last time I spoke on the working of miracles we looked at the "miracles of supply" and the "miracles of raising the dead." Since it was not possible to cover all the topics in one lesson I decided to divide it into 2 parts. Tonight we are going to look at 2 more groups of miracles.

C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

C. MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT

1. Judgment of Pharaoh/Egyptians (Exodus 14:10-31)

2. Judgment of Korah (Numbers 16) - *Numbers 16:3,7; Numbers 16:23; Numbers 16:32*

D. MIRACLES OF OVERRULING NATURE

One of the signs that Jesus said would take place in the last day would be those in the heavens. This is nothing new for God.

1. **Elijah's Drought** - *I Kings 17:1; I Kings 18:36; I Kings 18:38; James 5:17,18*

2. **Falling of the Walls of Jericho** - *Joshua 6:26*

It was 666 years later that Hiel the Bethelite refused to listen to the warning of God and it cost him the life of his eldest and youngest sons (I Kings 16:34).

I could go on to speak of the story of the sun standing still in Joshua chapter 10 or the stilling of the winds and waves that tried to overcome the disciples in Matthew 8.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VIII THE GIFT OF FAITH

Text: I Corinthians 12:9a

Key Word: Faith

Key Thought: The Sixth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Faith

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH

It has been suggested that through the Gift of Faith any believer can have whatever they want. Some teach that faith is the basis of receiving from God. If a person therefore has a great deal of faith they can move the hand of God to supply anything they want. This is of course a misinterpretation of the Word of God. There are many scriptures that show that great men and woman of faith did not receive all they asked for. This was not due to their lack of faith.

The "Hyper Faith Teaching" to some extent was needed in the Church. The problem was that their Faith Teaching got out of balance. It has caused a great deal of hurt and guilt to come upon those who have practised its extremes.

There is no doubt that faith is a foundational truth. We often talk about the Christian faith. Faith is required to become and remain a Christian.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:5

"let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith."

Hebrews 10:22

"The righteous will live by faith"

Romans 1:17

The entire book of Romans deals with teaching on faith. I do not have a problem in encouraging people to walk by faith in God. What I have had a problem with is that some very precious saints have been beguiled and actually are placing their faith in the "Hyper Faith Teaching" and not in God. Some have had "faith in faith" instead of "faith in God."

There is another concern that has arose over the past number of years perhaps in order to bring balance to the "Hyper Faith Teaching." The problem with this teaching is that it has swung the pendulum to far to the left. It teaches that faith is a Passive Gift from God.

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

I believe that the Gift of Faith is as active as the Gift of Miracles. The problem is that it APPEARS to be passive. In other words, we don't often see it working after we engage our faith in God. An illustration in the life of Jesus may clarify this problem.

A. JESUS AND THE FIG TREE (Mark 11:12-25)

This portion of Scripture has been often quoted by those who are the "**Right Wing Faith Teachers.**" They try to take everything Jesus said at surface value. They have taught that we can literally move great mountains if we have enough faith. I do not believe that this is what Jesus intended for us to believe. If Jesus really meant it literally He probably would have used a great mountain and not simply the Mount of Olives.

The fig tree is a symbol of the nation of Israel. These trees normally sprout their leaves in March or April and begin to have fruit in June once the leaves are fully out. This tree had pre-mature leaves but no fruit. It symbolized how the nation of Israel appeared before God. They had all the outward beauty and distinction of religion but they were not producing the fruit of righteousness.

This portion leads right into the account of Jesus clearing the temple of money exchangers. People were coming to the temple hungry for God and had to get through all the outward appearances before trying to get fed spiritually. Jesus used the fig tree to show what God saw of their pitiful state. He saw the religious system of Israel as being rotten to the roots and withered in their faith. They were unable to bear fruit.

The key to the whole discourse is found in verse 22.

"Have faith in God."

Mark 11:22

Do not have faith in faith. Do not have faith in what mighty acts you can do. **HAVE FAITH IN GOD.** With that kind of faith the Mount of Olives could be cast into the Dead Sea where it belonged. The Mount of Olives was Jesus' place of prayer. It was also a place of religious ceremony and prayer. The MOUNTAIN OF RELIGIOUS PRACTISE could be cast into the DEAD SEA if they only allowed their faith in God through sincere prayer to become activated.

It was by faith that Jesus cursed the Fig tree. The results were not seen immediately but the Gift of Faith was fully at work. The Gift of Faith was active setting the stage for Jesus to teach this important truth. The Revised Version brings out the fullness of what Jesus was trying to say by translating His words as "**HAVE THE FAITH OF GOD.**"

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

A. JESUS AND THE FIG TREE (Mark 11:12-25) (Contd.)

1. The Key of God's Will - One key of having the Gift of Faith actively working is whether God's will is being done. If God does not want it to be done, no amount of faith will cause it to happen. Therefore, Jesus taught the importance of prayer when dealing with faith.

"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Mark 11:17

"whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Mark 11:24

There is no doubt in my mind that we must pray God's will NOT ours if we expect the answer to come from God. In other words, the thing that we are praying about must come from the heart of God before it is planted into our hearts and minds.

2. The Key of Forgiveness - One of the best ways to keep this channel of communication open is by forgiveness.

"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Mark 11:25

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Matthew 6:14

I learned something new about my computer program years ago. It is what is called "*Search and Replace.*" I believe that God has activated a spiritual program like this in our lives the moment we begin to pray. If we have something against our parents, spouse, children, etc the Holy Spirit searches it out. He brings it to our attention. It's like a little "beep" in our minds.

If we choose not to deal with it and go on in life God allows us to go on but it will affect the quality of prayer life. **God knows that unforgiveness will hinder us from having the Gift of Faith in its full potential.**

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

A. JESUS AND THE FIG TREE (Mark 11:12-25) (Contd.)

2. The Key of Forgiveness (Contd.)

*** I met with a woman one day who was becoming frustrated in her prayers. She felt like God wasn't listening to her anymore.

I knew of the situation she was living in so I asked if she had forgiven her husband. Her facial expression immediately changed. I hit "*the wrong button.*" At least she felt it was the wrong button. In reality it was the key area that was hindering her communication with God and therefore her faith in God.

I tried to convince her that what he was doing had nothing to do with her place in God. She had to forgive him in order to see her level of faith increase.

God's gift of faith was being activated but also being hindered because of her unforgiveness. She felt that she had no faith when in fact her faith was being matured.

Her faith was not passive - in fact it was very active. It was trying to grow. It was bringing her to a point of confrontation with her attitude towards her ungrateful, irresponsible, unloving, critical, unfaithful husband.

I told her to forgive him so that her faith could grow and turn him over to God. If she kept control God wouldn't interfere. She was successful for a short time and saw results. Yet she found it very hard to leave it with God. Every time she took over her faith was hindered. It took time but, she eventually gave into God and saw the results of her prayers of faith.

Faith was active all the time. It simply needed **the road of obedience** to the will of God through forgiveness to bring her to a point of victory. ***

3. The Key of God's Word

Faith is activated by God's Word first and foremost. If God's Word does not say it, we will labour in vain at setting the Gift of Faith into motion.

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

Romans 10:17

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

A. JESUS AND THE FIG TREE (Mark 11:12-25) (Contd.)

3. The Key of God's Word

If we cannot find the basis for our faith in the Word of God we will not access the hand of God. James and John had to learn this lesson. When Jesus was travelling on His last journey to Jerusalem He sent some of His disciples ahead to make preparations. The Samaritans would not welcome them after learning that Jesus was going to Jerusalem. James and John took the matter to heart and said to Jesus,

*"Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy (consume) them.
55. But Jesus turned and rebuked them."*

Luke 9:54,55

They should have asked what God wanted done and followed His word without going to Him with their words of judgement. If God would have allowed their bitterness to determine the outcome, it would have changed the face of church history. Instead, God refused to follow their words and later sent Philip to preach the gospel and lead the people into a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Be very careful in trying to make God's Word fit into your situation. People often take a particular event and try to apply it to their lives. Isn't it interesting that it is often words of judgement or chastisement that these people receive to be directed toward others and not themselves. It is always the dramatic. God is going to do a GREAT thing for them because they have such great faith.

Faith must have a basis to work from. These three keys are not an exhaustive set on God's key chain. There are other keys to open the door of faith. Yet these are some of the VITAL KEYS to opening the door of faith. God wants to give us spiritual Gifts more than we probably desire them.

The Gift of Faith is so important if we are going to accomplish God's will in this world. Faith is the active principle which will work behind the scenes to bring about the will of God. Do we want to be a Church that allows faith in God to be exercised within the limits of Scripture?

What Kind of Faith Do We Want?

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

1. Little Faith - Matthew 14:31
2. Mustard Seed Faith - Matthew 17:20
3. Shipwreck Faith - I Timothy 1:19
4. Wavering Faith - James 1:6
5. Increased Faith - Luke 17:5
6. Working Faith - James 2:17
7. Tested Faith - I Peter 1:7
8. Diligent Faith - Heb 11:6
9. Righteous Faith - Philippians 3:9
10. Victorious Faith - Daniel 3:17

Let the faith of God rise within you to stand against the evil influences of this world. Don't get sidetracked. We desperately need a baptism of dynamic faith in our churches. A faith that will lift God's people out of the clutches of depression. Faith that will stand when the enemy hurls his fiery darts towards us. Faith that breaks the grip of sickness and disease and sweeps God's people into divine health. Faith that destroys the chains of discouragement and defeat and lift us to the road of victory and triumph. Faith that supplies in the hour of need. Faith that opens prison doors, calms the raging seas, and binds the powers of darkness that attempt to overtake us. Let us pray for the kind of faith that was activated through men and women that the Scriptures say,

"who through faith conquered kingdoms administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouth of lions, 34. quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned into strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36. Some faced jeers and flogging, while others were chained and put in prison. 37. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated - 38. the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. 39. These were all commended for their faith . . ."

Hebrews 11:33-39

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART VIII THE GIFT OF FAITH

Text: I Corinthians 12:9a

Key Word: Faith

Key Thought: The Sixth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Faith

VIII. THE GIFT OF FAITH - *Hebrews 11:5; Hebrews 10:22; Romans 1:17*

A. JESUS AND THE FIG TREE (Mark 11:12-25)

The key to the whole discourse is found in verse 22.

"Have faith in God."

Mark 11:22

1. The Key of God's Will - *Mark 11:17; Mark 11:24*

2. The Key of Forgiveness - *Mark 1:25; Matthew 6:14*

3. The Key of God's Word - *Romans 10:17; Luke 9:54,55*

What Kind of Faith Do We Want?

1. Little Faith - Matthew 14:31
2. Mustard Seed Faith - Matthew 17:20
3. Shipwreck Faith - I Timothy 1:19
4. Wavering Faith - James 1:6
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9. Righteous Faith - Philippians 3:9
10. Victorious Faith - Daniel 3:17

- Hebrews 11:33-39

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART IX THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

Key Word: Faith

Key Thought: The Sixth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Faith

IX. THE GIFT OF FAITH

We began our study by looking at the 3 Gifts of Revelation which the Bible calls the Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of Spirits. We then turned our attention to the Gifts of Power. Here we studied the Gifts of Healings, Working of Miracles and now the Gift of Faith. Last week I introduced the Gift of Faith by explaining that although it appears to be a passive gift (cursing of the Fig Tree), it is working even when we don't recognize it.

Faith is mentioned in 3 different ways in the Bible. There is first of all a **SAVING FAITH** which is required for us to make the necessary steps to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. There is secondly **THE FRUIT OF FAITH** which is given to build Christian character into our lives. Lastly, there is **THE GIFT OF FAITH** which is given to overcome the enemy and the problems of life.

SAVING FAITH must be exercised before we become a Christian. Therefore, this type of faith is given to unbelievers in order for them to begin their walk of faith.

THE FRUIT OF FAITH comes after salvation in order to help us live in a manner which is pleasing to God. It is what God uses to develop a new personality within us.

THE GIFT OF FAITH comes after the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is used to exercise God's will in ways that we would not have any other means of doing so. It opens up the storehouse of God's power to enable a common believer to do things that are usually only attributed to God.

The 3 different types of **FAITH** may be understood with a simple illustration. Faith begins like a seed of tree. This is the **SAVING FAITH**. The other types of faith cannot grow without the **SEED FAITH** planted into our hearts. Once it finds root it quickly begins to grow.

If it were a Fig Tree seed we would soon see it sprouting from the ground and eventually growing into a strong Fig tree. This is like the **GIFT OF FAITH**. The Gift comes fully matured but we must grow in Christian maturity in order to exercise it.

The final step of maturity is that the Fig Tree bears its fruit. This is like the **FRUIT OF FAITH**. The more mature we become, the more the **FRUIT OF FAITH** is evident in our lives. The **GIFT OF FAITH** provides the branches for the **FRUIT OF FAITH** to mature upon.

IX. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

Lets look again to the Scriptures to see how this GIFT is exercised among the saints.

A. For Supernatural Blessing (Genesis 27:28-29)

*** Dr. John Trent wrote a book a few years ago titled "*The Blessing*." He basically surveyed the Bible to discover the important truths behind passing on a blessing to our loved ones.

There are many accounts of a father's blessing which unveil the heart of God concerning this matter. ***

One such account takes place as Isaac becomes old and blind (Genesis 27:1). His younger son Jacob worked along with his wife Rebekah to deceive him. Jacob pretended to be his older brother Esau in order to receive the eldest son's blessing. Esau had already sold his birthright for some bread and lentil stew (Genesis 25:32-34). By doing so Esau exposed his heart. He had no respect for the covenant promises which were associated with his birthright.

The story goes on to tell us that Isaac by faith passed on a blessing to whom he thought was his eldest son, Esau. There was only one **blessing (berakah)** because there was only one **birthright (bekorah)**. Isaac was betrayed by a kiss (Genesis 27:27). Jesus who also was betrayed by the kiss of Judas (Matthew 26:48-49) was able by the GIFT OF FAITH to obtain His Father's blessing.

Isaac's blessing was very important for the nation of Israel.

*"May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's riches -- an abundance of grain and new wine.
29. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be Lord over your brothers and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."*

Genesis 27:28,29

"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future."

Hebrews 11:20

IX. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

B. For Personal Protection

Political (or any) jealousy may seal the "mouth of a lions den" by the GIFT OF FAITH is able to break its cursed pronouncement over our lives. The ungodly of this world think they have shut the mouths of God's people and confined them to a den of death. They have gathered their arsenal of hungry lions in hope of sealing the fate of our message and lifestyle.

King Darius suffered a night of torment in his palace (Daniel 6:18) while Daniel slept with assurance in the den of lions. Faith arose in the heart of the humble servant of God. His righteousness shone like the noon day sun exposing the darkness of the administrators and satraps.

The message from the cursed den was loud and clear.

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

Daniel 6:22

Little do we often realize the powerful protection afforded to those who exercise their GIFT OF FAITH. Jesus re-instituted this message into the halls of Satanic deception when he was tempted of the devil for 40 days.

"and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with wild animals, and angels attended him."

Mark 1:13

4595 Kicking the Bird Trap

******* William Gladstone told the story one day of a little girl who really believed that God would answer her prayers.

Her brother had made a trap that was catching sparrows and so she prayed that it would fail. A short time later he facial expressions changed and she was radiant with absolute faith in the futility of the trap.

Her mother noticed and asked, "*Julie, how can you be so positive?*"

She smiled and said, "*Because, dear Mama, I went out three days ago and kicked the trap to pieces.*" *******

IX. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

C. For Supply During Times of Famine

Our nation is going to need this GIFT OF FAITH in full operation to meet the needs which are surfacing, as God tarries. Our world is being hurled into an economic earthquake with such magnitude that nothing will compare with it.

Much of what still is to take place will be caused by God in order to shake this world into its senses. Men and women of the calibre of Elijah will rise to their spiritual feet and declare God's judgement over the nations of the world because of their iniquity. Signs will follow to confirm the Word of the Lord.

"As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

I Kings 17:1

These words will echo into the halls of education, commerce as well as the seats of the politicians. No one will escape the ravages of this upcoming famine. Those who exercise their faith will find that God will supernaturally supply for their needs.

"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook."

I Kings 17:6

Faith will support those who are **faithful to God**. Faith calmly faces any type of peril or lack of supply.

*** Stories still abound of the faith that George Muller exercised while living in Bristol, England. He had set up a large orphanage and refused to turn to anyone but God for help.

Many nights with hundreds of hungry little faces staring at empty plates would this man of faith stand strong in prayer.

He would pray God's blessing upon the cups and plates. As he prayed churns of milk were delivered to one door while baskets of bread arrived at another door.

He would continue to pray until all the children were filled to overflowing with the abundance of God's provision. ***

IX. THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)

D. For Supernatural Victory

Leading millions of people through the Sinai desert can result in times of great trials. Moses faced many of them. It caused his faith to be exercised.

"By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."

Hebrews 11:27

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible"

When the Amalekites send out their forces against God's people (Exodus 17:11) to prevent them from going on, Moses and his people needed the GIFT OF FAITH. We need those like Aaron and Hur to stand along the Moses in their upper room while the battle occurs in our Rephidim. Faith must arise for our enemies to be scattered. The altars of "*Jehovah Nissi*" (17:15) must be built to declare that "*the Lord is our Banner.*" The memory of the Amalekites needs to be blotted out from the minds of men (17:14).

It is through faith that our feeble hands will be raised and the victory will be won. **It is through faith** that the sons of salvation will find their place beside the sons of deliverance. **It is by faith** that we will see through our enemies cunning devises.

Years ago we were competing with Russia in space. Now we are linking arms and saying to the world that we will reach our destiny in unity. I'm not fooled by the deceptive plans of our Cold War enemies. They still make strange bed-fellows. I'd rather hold up the hands of those who declare righteousness as their banner.

The Church must take its position on God's mountain and lift one another into victory through faith in God.

Lets not return to the days of old when the GIFT OF FAITH only came for a limited time on those who served God's purposes. Today it is meant for all who will receive God's rich Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Covet the best gifts.

**THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART IX
THE GIFT OF FAITH (Contd.)**

Text: I Corinthians 12:9b

Key Word: Faith

Key Thought: The Sixth Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Faith

IX. THE GIFT OF FAITH

Lets Look Again to the Scriptures to See How this Gift Is Exercised among the Saints.

A. For Supernatural Blessing (Genesis 27:28-29)

Genesis 27:1; Genesis 25:32-34; Genesis 27:27; Matthew 26:48-49; Genesis 27:28,29; Hebrews 11:20

B. For Personal Protection - Daniel 6:18; Daniel 6:22; Mark 1:13

C. For Supply During Times of Famine - I Kings 17:1; I Kings 17:6

D. For Supernatural Victory - Hebrews 11:27; Exodus 17:11; 17:15; 17:14

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART X THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES

Text: I Corinthians 12:10d

Key Word: Tongues

Key Thought: The Seventh Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues

Since becoming a Christian, I believe that the evening God filled me with His Holy Spirit, was the most significant development in my spiritual growth. It opened the door to a storehouse of blessings as well as opportunities.

I never realized though that there was such an opposition to this Biblical teaching until the Lord broadened my eyes to see what others have been taught and believe. As I've studied this doctrine, I have become more convinced that there is absolutely no reason to doubt this teaching, since the Scriptures are so abundant and plain.

Let us first consider a working definition for The Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues.

“It is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker – not understood by the mind of the speaker – nearly always not understood by the hearer.

It has nothing whatever to do with linguistic ability nor with the mind or intellect of man. It is the manifestation of the mind of the Spirit of God employing human speech organs.”

Harold Horton
“*The Gifts of the Spirit*”
p. 132

Before plunging into this matter too deeply, I would like to emphasize that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit along with the subsequent gifts was not something that the Church brought into being. It was and remains a sovereign act of God. God continues to be the leader and we simply avail ourselves of His will in this matter. It was Jesus who told us,

“ and these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues.”

Mark 16:17

If Jesus wanted His Church to speak in new tongues, there must've been a purpose. [Let's consider for a few moments some of the Scriptural purposes of this Spiritual Gift.](#)

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART X THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES

Text: I Corinthians 12:10d

Key Word: Tongues

Key Thought: The Seventh Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues

Since becoming a Christian, I believe that the evening God filled me with His Holy Spirit, was the most significant development in my spiritual growth. It opened the door to a storehouse of blessings as well as opportunities.

I never realized though that there was such an opposition to this Biblical teaching until the Lord broadened my eyes to see what others have been taught and believe. As I've studied this doctrine, I have become more convinced that there is absolutely no reason to doubt this teaching, since the Scriptures are so abundant and plain.

Let us first consider a working definition for The Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues.

“It is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker – not understood by the mind of the speaker – nearly always not understood by the hearer.

It has nothing whatever to do with linguistic ability nor with the mind or intellect of man. It is the manifestation of the mind of the Spirit of God employing human speech organs.”

Harold Horton
“*The Gifts of the Spirit*”
p. 132

Before plunging into this matter too deeply, I would like to emphasize that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit along with the subsequent gifts was not something that the Church brought into being. It was and remains a sovereign act of God. God continues to be the leader and we simply avail ourselves of His will in this matter. It was Jesus who told us,

“ and these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues.”

Mark 16:17

If Jesus wanted His Church to speak in new tongues, there must've been a purpose. [Let's consider for a few moments some of the Scriptural purposes of this Spiritual Gift.](#)

1. It was the only Scriptural Evidence that Someone had been Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–4; 10:46; 19:6)

The beginning of this spiritual phenomena is a strong defence for why we should stand by this fact. In Acts 2:1–4 there is no doubt that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came with “*other tongues.*” It was eight years later in Caesarea at the Gentiles received the same outpouring with the same initial evidence (Acts 10:46). Again , 23 years later after Pentecost, the church at Ephesus received the Holy Ghost (Acts19:6) with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues.

The clear implication throughout the book of facts is that those who received the infilling of the Holy Spirit spoke in other tongues. No other sign was used to clearly identify that the believer had received the precious Gift of God.

2. That Believers May Speak Supernaturally to God (I Corinthians 14:2)

I have yet to meet a sincere Christian who is not had a desire to open his /her heart to God in the level of communication and adoration that could not be quenched by anyone or anything.

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries in his spirit.”

I Corinthians 14:2

The Gift of Tongues liberates the communication highway between the believer and God.

“Other tongues will capture the escaping thought, the elusive expression , the inarticulate longing, lending worthy and soul-satisfying utterance to profoundest gratitude and worship.”

Harold Horton
“The Gifts of the Spirit”
p. 135

An error often believed is that on the Day of Pentecost the disciples preached the gospel to the foreigners in their foreign language .What actually was taking place was that these newly filled disciples were speaking to God and magnifying His name. This of course, caught the attention of the crowds. At no time were the disciples given a “Crash Course “ to be able to speak in foreign languages for the purpose of preaching the Gospel.

3. That Believers May Magnify God (Acts 10:46)

The group that gathered at the home of Cornelius were there for one main purpose and that was to meet with God and respond to what He had to say to them through the apostle Peter.

“ now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

Acts 10:33b

We need to again proclaim to all those who love His salvation – LET GOD BE MAGNIFIED. Lets not allow a curse and no praise to adorn our Lord. Jesus the adorable! Jesus the wonderful! Jesus the magnificent! Jesus a beautiful! Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,! It takes the Holy Spirit to quicken our vocal cords into songs that reach into our galleries of worship and praise.

No greater unadulterated worship can be surrendered to the Lord than that which is proclaim through the Gift of Tongues. No demon can defile it. No doubt can quench it. No one can interfere with its messages of grander. Indeed God is magnified in Spirit and in truth! Karl Barth referred to tongues as *“an attempt to express the inexpressible.”*

4. That Believers May Edify Themselves

Have you ever had days when you’ve had to speak to your soul to get it out of a spiritual slump?

“ why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”

Psalm 42:5,11; 43:5

God has placed the well of refreshing within every Spirit –filled Christian that the enemy wants to keep covered. He does not want us to put our bucket down and gain from its blessing.

“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”

I Corinthians 14:4

It should never be our final goal though . It is simply to be a stepping stone to be effective to minister to others.

4. That Believers May Edify Themselves (Contd.)

“Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.”

I Corinthians 14:12

*** I have watched God accomplish both of these acts at one time. A parishioner who had come to one of our services was down both emotionally and spiritually. As the service continued there was a real sense that God was going to manifest His Word through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I noticed a rich anointing beginning to be poured out upon this woman who had come with great needs. The Holy Spirit began to come alongside her and bear the weight of her burden.

A refreshed woman began to rise up and shortly after that a beautiful message of encouragement came to the congregation. It lifted the hands of those that were hanging down. Our voices began to proclaim in one accord the glory due to the name of the Lord.

Tears of joy begin to flow down the cheeks of those who were surrendering their cares to the Lord. A Spirit of liberty captivated the hearts of the congregation. The aisles began to be filled with those who were experiencing the edification of their tired spirit.

Some were witnessing a beautiful time of quiet communion while others were sensing a need to openly express their freedom. All was done decently and in order. God received the glory.***

5. That Believers May be Tested in Their Obedience to God’s Word (I Corinthians 14:27, 28,32, 33)

In any great move of God there is an opportunity for man to take over. What God starts, we often like to try to add to.

“Are you so foolish ? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?”

Galatians 3:3

Spiritual Gifts have often been misused because people do not understand the Scriptures or are unwilling to abide by them. One area of concern is in how many messages in tongues can be given in one service. The Lord gave us His instructions through the apostle Paul.

5. That Believers May be Tested in Their Obedience to God's Word (I Corinthians 14:27, 28,32, 33) (Contd.)

“ if anyone speaks in a tongue, two – or at the most three – should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.

28. If there was no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God . . .

32. The spirits of the prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

33. For God is not a God of disorder but a peace.”

I Corinthians 14:27,28, 32,33

People who do not follow these instructions are simply out of order in the church. I don't care how much a person feels God has given an additional message – after three messages in tongues or prophecy or a combination of them - there must be no more.

Anything that comes without proper order is to be judged according to the Scriptures.

“Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully (judge - KJV) what is said.”

I Corinthians 14:29

At no time should we accept “unscriptural freedom” as being a “move of God” when it breaks away from the boundary set within the Word of God.

Either 3 Messages in tongues\interpretation

2 Messages in tongues\interpretation & 1 prophecy

1 Messages in tongues\interpretation & 2 prophecies

0 Messages in tongues\interpretation & 3 prophecies

Or none at all. No other possibility exists in the Word of God.

God needs to give us grace to admit our faults and mercy to change from them. There is a bottom line in exercising Spiritual Gifts.

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

I Corinthians 14:40

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART X THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES

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Key Thought: The Seventh Gift of the Holy Spirit Is the Gift of Speaking in Other Tongues

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Let's Consider for a Few Moments Some of the Scriptural Purposes of this Spiritual Gift.

- 1. It was the only Scriptural Evidence that Someone had been Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–4; 10:46; 19:6)**
- 2. That Believers May Speak Supernaturally to God (I Corinthians 14:2)**
- 3. That Believers May Magnify God (Acts 10:46) - Acts 10:33b**
- 4. That Believers May Edify Themselves - Psalm 42:5,11; 43:5; I Corinthians 14:4
I Corinthians 14:12**
- 5. That Believers May be Tested in Their Obedience to God's Word
(I Corinthians 14:27, 28,32, 33) - Galatians 3:3; I Corinthians 14:40**

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART X THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES (Contd.)

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We now look at the 3 Gifts of Utterance (Speaking in Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues and Prophecy). Our tongues are one of the most unique organs of our body. Jesus warned the Pharisees that they were in danger of committing the unpardonable sin when making the charge that it was a work of the devil (Matthew 12:24, 31).

I also realize that we do have some who foolishly act in the flesh and try to give God the “credit.” God does not need our help in exercising His gifts. He knows whom He wants to give them to and when they should be used.

With all the questions and concerns about speaking another tongues, we need to also ask a question. The question is,

Why should every Christian receive the Holy Spirit and speak in other tongues?

1. Because if Christ and His Apostles Needed the Holy Spirit, So Do We (John 1:33, 34; Acts 1:13–14; 2:1– 4)!

Before Jesus began His public ministry, a significant event took place. He travelled to the Jordan River where His cousin, John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing in water. God pointed out to John that the Messiah was going to come to take away the sin of the world. The sign of His coming was very clear.

*“The man on whom you see the Spirit come down
and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy
Spirit.
34. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of
God.”*

John 1: 33:34

Within three years of time, Jesus was ascended into heaven and begin to fulfill that Word completely. The 12 apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:13–14 ; 2:1–4) along with the other women and the mother of Jesus.

It was never to be an isolated act.

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:39

2. Because the Holy Spirit gives us Power to Witness (Acts 1:8)

One of the amazing facts which is often overlooked is that this group of lowly disciples, who according to the religious leaders were *“unlearned (on school) and ignorant men”* (Acts 4:13), were able to withstand a very severe opposition.

At the turn of last century as well the truth was duplicated. Pentecost began again to be preached in tents, storefronts in almost any place they could use. Out of this insignificant beginning, has grown the most influential Christian movement of this world.

The greatest act of the Infilling of the Holy Spirit is that He changes us to make us become a more powerful witness of whom God is and what He is doing.

3. Because the Holy Spirit gives us Power to Live a Holy Life (Romans 8:1,2,13)

How many people have you met who try to live a holy life by their own strength ? There comes a time in all of their lives that this ability is challenged. We need to realize that we can never become self-righteous.

Even “Spirit – filled” believers must be careful in this area. Some foolishly think that since they are filled with the Holy Spirit that they are protected from ungodliness. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, they have now become targets that the enemy tries to destroy because he realizes the potential in them to destroy his kingdom.

The Holy Spirit gives us the **POTENTIAL** to live a holy life by His **POWER**. We are the ones who choose either to avail ourselves of His power or to walk in our own strength.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7

4. Because We All Need a Constant Comforter (John 14:16)

The comfort that the Holy Spirit gives us is that He stands as our advocate against the insulting accusations of the devil.

*** A number of years ago we were bombarded with the details of a legal trial in the case of O. J. Simpson. Evidence was constantly being brought forth in order to convince the jury that the defendant should be convicted of a heinous crime.

Every day even the smallest possible links were blended into the story in order to gain ground. ***

The devil has been doing this kind of thing since the beginning of time. He has perfected his skills when accusing the brethren. None of us are capable of withstanding the devil's assaults against our name and reputation without the Holy Spirit.

5. Because We All Need Times of Refreshing (Acts 3:19)

The early church faced most of its opposition from those who were trapped in religious legalism. When God's hand began to be extended through spiritual gifts, the people were astonished.

Our world should've received the message by now that we are not refreshed by fulfilling all of our ungodly desires. Look at those who have committed suicide after proclaiming a lifestyle of sin (Marilyn Monroe, Jimmy Hendrix , Kurt Cobain). Doctors like Jack Kevorkian will someday understand the great mistake made in assisted suicides.

I remember when we were living in Alberta in 1980 – 1981 that the 24-hour distress line received a 30% increase (44,598 calls) in one year. This increase was a result of the downturn of the economy. It was during this time that interest rates rose over 21%. Men's hearts began to fail because they had put their trust in the things of this world.

The Holy Spirit is able to offer us something that will quench our thirst forever.

“If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink.

38. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.

39. By this he meant the Spirit whom those who believed in him were later to receive.”

John 7:37, 38

6. Because He Will Quicken Our Mortal Bodies (Romans 8:11)

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life (quicken) to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

Romans 8:11

*** Dr. A. B. Simpson (founder of the Christian Missionary Alliance) in his younger years was plagued with a frail body. It would usually take him until the middle of the week to recover his strength after the Sunday Services.

Most people had pity on him which complicated the problem and brought him almost to the point of despair. During this time God illuminated his heart and mind to the truth contained in the Bible.

Not only was he healed, but God also brought him daily health (III John 6). Within three years he preached over 1000 sermons. God restored life to his feeble body through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. ***

7. Because He Will Lead Us into All Truth (John 16:12,13)

I have watched with great concern at the denominations that have despised the teaching of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and His Gifts for the believer. Since they couldn't accept the truth they have endorsed a lie. They don't believe the Bible to be God's infallible Word. They deny miracles. They mock those who try to live a godly life in Christ. They work diligently at making loopholes in the teachings of Jesus and His disciples. They are now ordaining homosexuals. They have and will reap what they've sown. In fact, they have sown the wind but will reap a whirlwind.

I am so thankful that Jesus said,

“but when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

John 16:13

I have watched new Christians dropping off the old lifestyle of smoking, drinking, cussing, patronizing worldly amusements without anyone telling them that they had to. Some have told me that they don't think they should participate in Halloween, the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus any more.

Even after the times of the apostles, we have historical writings declaring that the Holy Spirit was still being poured out upon the people. All we have to do is read such men as Irenaeus (Against all Heresies); Justin Martyr (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 1); Origen (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 1V); Augustine (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 1V).

The testimonies of great men and women keep coming. One of the greatest preachers that our world has known was Charles G. Finney. His memoirs leave us with a great desire to receive all that God has for us.

*** *“As I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such for me, without recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended on me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul.*

I could feel the impression like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love, for I could not express it in any other way. It seemed like the very breath of God. I can recollect distinctly it seemed to fan me like immense wings.

No words can express the wonderful love that was in my heart. I wept aloud with love and joy; and I do not know but I should say that I literally bellowed out unutterable gushing of my heart.

These waves came over me, and over me, and over me, one after another, until I recollect I cried out, “ Lord, I cannot bear anymore,” yet I had no fear of death. How long I continued in this state, with this baptism continuing to roll over me and go through me, I do not know.” ***

Gordon Lindsay
“Gifts of the Holy Spirit”
pp. 55 – 56

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PART X
THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES (Contd.)

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