

Pneumatology

The Biblical Study and
Doctrine
of The Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit

(Pneumatology – The Biblical Study and Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)

Introduction:

“We are living in the Age of the Spirit. The Old Testament period may be called the Age of the Father; the period covered by the Gospels, the Age of the Son; from Pentecost until the second advent (return) of Christ, the Age of the Spirit. All matters pertaining to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit should, therefore, be of special interest to us who live in this age of special privilege. Yet how ignorant is the average Christian concerning matters pertaining to the Spirit.” William Evans – Great Doctrines of the Bible

The nature and essential work of the Holy Spirit is one of the most vital yet misunderstood doctrines of the bible. So vitally important for followers of Jesus that He told His disciples to not attempt their commission, His work for them, (**Matthew 28:18-20**) until they had been *“baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* Luke records Jesus’ words;

“And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Acts 1:4-5

Jesus had told the disciples before his death, resurrection and ascension that he would not abandon them as orphans, (**John 14:18**) but would send “another helper” for them. That Helper is the Holy Spirit.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—“ John 14:16

Jesus also said that it was more important for us to have the Spirit’s presence than His very own physical presence.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” John 16:7

That’s how important the Holy Spirit is to our spiritual wellbeing. That is pretty radical when you give it some thought!

In this study we want to take some of the mystery out of the Holy Spirit. We will

attempt to bring clarity and insight to deepen your appreciation for the ministry of the Holy Spirit on our behalf. We will explore important aspects of the Holy Spirit in hope that you will be more aware of His presence and want to yield more fully to His work in your own life. Paul makes this statement;

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:5, 14-15

A. Who Is The Holy Spirit?

1. In the Old Testament Spirit is from the word “ruwach” (*roo'-akh*) meaning wind or breath. This word is used well over 200 times. (Genesis 1:2)

In the New Testament Spirit is from the word “*pneuma*” (*pnnyoo'-mah*) which also means wind, breath or spirit. In the NT “*hagion pneuma*” “Holy Spirit” is often used over 90 times. This helps to distinguish between “evil spirits” (Acts 19:15- 16) “unclean spirits” (Matthew 12:43)” and the “spirit of man” (1 Corinthians 2:11-12, 6:20)

2. The Holy Spirit is not!

To determine who the Spirit is, let’s start by determining who He is not.

a. He’s not just Another Name for the Father or the Son.

Sabellianism 215 AD: (also called Modalism) taught God is one divine person simply expressed in three modes, like an actor who played or appeared in different roles. The Son and the Spirit are different images or aspects of the one God.

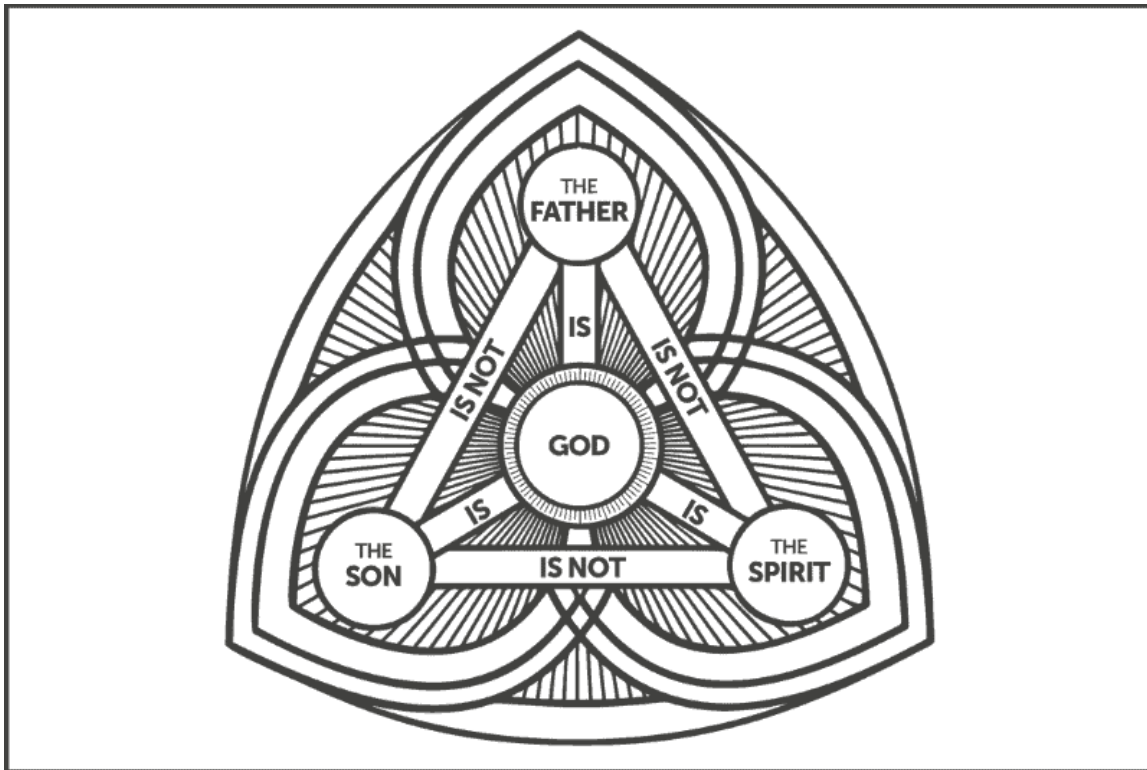
b. He’s not Merely a Force or power utilized by God.

Arianism 325 AD: taught anti Trinitarian ideas, that The Father generated (created) The Son and the Holy Spirit is not a person, only a power created by Jesus.

These two major errors were dealt with at gatherings of church leaders called “church councils” where biblical truth was determined, clarified and reaffirmed for the wellbeing of the church. The bible established:

1) The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is as distinct as the Father and Son are distinct, with a distinct personality. He is in fact a Person, a Divine person, The Third Person in the tri-unity of the Godhead.

2) The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third person with the Father and Son within the Trinity. He is therefore God, as the Father and the Son are God. All three persons of the Triune God have distinct personalities and function, yet all three are one in substance, essence and purpose.



The Athanasian Creed states; *the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods but one God.*

3. The Holy Spirit in Symbols (Luke 3:16).

It can often be difficult to explain Spiritual truth with words. Unlike the human relatable terms like Father and Son, the Holy Spirit has no comparable title. Spirit makes us think ghost and ghosts are scary. This can make the Spirit less humanly relatable. The Bible uses certain symbols or emblems when speaking of the Holy Spirit's work, which can reveal specific characteristics about Him more effectively.

Here are a few.

- a. **A Dove** (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22 John 1:32), speaks of His gentle and peaceful nature. We can know “the peace of God, which exceeds all understanding” (Philippians 4:7)
- b. **Fire** (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16), speaks of His consuming and purifying power (Acts 2:3, Isaiah 6:1-7)
- c. **Wind** (John 3:8), speaks of His regenerating power and ability to move, Himself unseen, yet evidenced in His powerful affect on Lives.
- d. **Water** (John 7:37-39), speaks of quenching our thirst for God with living water.
- e. **A Seal** (Ephesians 1:13), speaks of His ownership; it is a finished, eternal transaction.
- f. **Oil** (Acts 10:38), speaks of both His soothing and healing presence and His power to anoint for service.

Even though symbols do help us understand the Spirit to some degree, it is assuring to know the bible reveals the Holy Spirit as more than elements or mystical symbols.

4. The Holy Spirit as a Person

The Holy Spirit is described in the Bible as having personal characteristics. The Spirit has mind and will, speaks and can be spoken to, can be grieved as well as performing acts, including interceding for us to the Father. These show us that the Spirit is a person. He is a Person in the same sense that the Father and Son are. Our relationship with God, which is accomplished by Jesus through the Spirit, allows us a personal relationship.

Lets look at some of the ways the Holy Spirit is demonstrated as a Person.

a. Seen by His Personal Attributes

- 1) He has Life (Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16)
- 2) He has intelligence (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Romans 8:27)
- 3) He has emotions (Ephesians 4:30)
- 4) He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11; Act 16:6-7)

b. Seen by His Personal Actions

- 1) He speaks (Acts 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 21:11; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:7 etc.). Notice the Spirit speaks in the first person, "It was I who sent them" (Acts 10:20) "I have called" (Acts 13:2)
- 2) He guides into truth (John 16:13-14)
- 3) He restrains (Acts 16:6-7)
- 4) He convicts of sin (John 16:8)
- 5) He performs miracles (Act 8:39)
- 6) He prays (intercedes) for us (Romans 8:26)

c. Seen by His Personal Interactions

- 1) He is to be obeyed (Act 10:19-21)
- 2) He can be lied to (Act 5:3)
- 3) He can be resisted (Act 7:51)
- 4) He can be grieved (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesian 4:30)
- 5) He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)
- 6) He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31)

d. Demonstrated by Grammar used

- 1) The Greek word "*pneuma*" (breath, wind, spirit) is a neuter noun. Yet when speaking of the "*hagion pneuma*" (Holy Spirit), the New Testament writers use masculine pronouns (*ekeinos* "He" and *auton* "Him"). This indicates that the Holy Spirit is a person and not a thing, an essence or a force (John 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-14).
- 2) Jesus called the Holy Spirit by the noun "parakletos", the Comforter, Advocate or Counselor and the verb Paraclete when listing his activities of teaching (John 14:26), testifying (15:26), convicting

(16:8), guiding (16:13) and making truth known (16:14). All these demonstrate the actions of a person.

“Not only is the Spirit a Person, but He is a unique Person, for He is God.” Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology

5. The Holy Spirit as God (Deity)

The Holy Spirit is described as having all the attributes of both the Father and the Son, including being eternal, all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere present. (Psalm 139:7-12) Lets look at some of the ways the Holy Spirit’s Deity is demonstrated.

a. Seen within the Trinity

- 1) Although the word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, it is a biblical concept, stated as: one God in essence, substance, and purpose yet three distinct Persons revealed as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; three persons yet one God. Not a *tritheism* or three Gods, nor *modalism* one God expressed in three modes, but a Tri-unity.
- 2) Each member of the Trinity is deity. The Bible clearly supports the concept of the Trinity. Sometimes this can be difficult to understand but as we study God’s Word it becomes clearer.
- 3) The Trinity is seen in God’s name Elohim, as a plural word (“*im*”) and is explained with the plural pronouns of “us” and “our.” (Genesis 1:26; 3:22)
- 4) The Hebrew “shema,” which means “hear,” is a declaration of faith in one true God. “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*” **Deuteronomy 6:4.** This declaration, which is recited daily has set the Jews apart as a nation with “one God;” from all the nations with their multiple gods. Yet within the shema, the word used for “one” is “*echad*” and can mean a unity in one, as is seen in Genesis 2:24, that speaks of a husband and wife as “one” flesh.
- 5) At Jesus baptism, the Trinity is seen when the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus as a dove and the Father’s voice is heard saying “this is My Son.” (Matthew 3:16-17)
- 6) Great Commission. The Trinity is mentioned in the Great Commission when Jesus says to baptize disciples “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

b. Seen in the Holy Spirit’s Attributes

- 1) Omnipotent (all powerful) (Luke 1:35; Acts 1:8)
- 2) Omniscience (All knowing) (Isaiah 40:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11)
- 3) Omnipresence (Everywhere present) (Psalm 139:7-12)^[SEP]
- 4) Providence (all caring) (Psalm 104:30)^[SEP]
- 5) Eternal (outside of time) (Hebrews 9:14)

c. Seen in the Holy Spirit's Works

- 1) Creation (Genesis 1:2)
- 2) Preservation (Psalm 104:30)
- 3) Miracles (Matthew 12:28)^[1]_[SEP]
- 4) Regeneration (John 3:5)^[1]_[SEP]
- 5) Sanctification (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- 6) Resurrection (1 Peter 3:18, Romans 8:11)

To Summarize: the Holy Spirit is not simply an impersonal essence, force or power and is difficult to fully explain with earthly illustrations. He is in fact an intelligent being. By His attributes and actions we see He is not only a person, but in fact deity just as the father and Son are deity.

“God in three persons, blessed Trinity.” **He is our Personal Divine Helper.**

B. How has the Holy Spirit worked in the Past?

1. The Old Testament Period

a. The Holy Spirit is Named in the Old Testament

- 1) Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:11 Isaiah 63:10,11)
- 2) Spirit of the LORD (24 times; Judges 3:10; 1 Samuel 16:13)
- 3) Spirit of God (12 times; Ezekiel 11:24)

b. At Creation the Holy Spirit was There.

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the Waters.

Genesis 1:2

c. As Man is Created and Comes to Life.

*The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. **Job 33:4***

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7

*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth. **Psalms 33:6***

d. Filling Specific Individuals for special Purposes.

- 1) Some were filled with the Spirit for special purposes (Exodus 31:3; 35:31).
- 2) Some special individuals were filled with the Spirit (Genesis 41:38; Numbers 27:18; Judges 14:6, 19).

e. Including the Formulation of Scripture

Peter says, “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were

moved by the Holy Spirit." **1 Peter 1:19-21** (2 Samuel 23:2; Luke 1:70; Acts 1:16; 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Peter 1:11)

f. The Spirit has always been active in the affairs of mankind.

David says, "*Where can I go from your Spirit Lord?*" **Psalm 139:12**

2. The New Testament Period

a. At the birth of Jesus He was active.

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:36

b. During Jesus' Ministry we see the Holy Spirit.

1) The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus (Luke 3:22) and remained.

John 1:32-33

2) Jesus lived and ministered in the power of the Spirit. **Luke 4:11**

3) Jesus told Nicodemus that he "must be born again" of the Holy Spirit. **John 3:2-6**

4) Jesus said that He would give the Holy Spirit to all who asked.

Luke 11:9-13 The Holy Spirit would have a special relationship with them after He left. **John 14:15-26; 16:7-15**

c. Jesus told the Disciples how Essential the Holy Spirit was.

"I will pray the father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you." **John 14:16-17** (John 14:25-26; 16:6-15)

d. As Jesus Last Important act and Command.

"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." **John 20:22** (Matthew 28:18-20)

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." **Acts 1: 8**

e. Peter Understood the Importance of the Spirit.

On the day the Spirit was poured out, he told the crowds, "Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit for the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are a far off, as many as the Lord our God will call". **Acts 2:38-39**

f. In the Last Chapter of the Bible, the Holy Spirit is Still Active.

And the Spirit and the bride say come, and let him who hears say come, and let him who thirsts come, whoever desires let him take of the water of life freely. **Revelation 22:17**

C. What about the Holy Spirit's Present Work?

"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

When we consider the ways Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's working with us, (John 14:15-17, 16:6-15; 20:19-21, and Acts 1:4-8) we see four ideas expressed in His present work. You might think of this as the way He relates to us. This is seen more clearly with the main words (prepositions) used in the Greek. They are; "*para*", "*en*", "*mesos*" and "*epi*".

1. With You (par' humin). He deals with us externally, "along side" us.

Before we are born again the Holy Spirit is "with" or "along side" us convicting us of "sin of righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8) and then as believers, comforting us (John 14:16 parakletos). The word for "along side" is "para" in the Greek "*he dwells with you.*" **John 14:17a**

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17

2. Within You (en' humin). As believers, He dwells internally "inside us."

When we believe on Jesus for salvation we are born again (John 3:3-7). The Holy Spirit comes "into" us, to regenerate our spirit and give us new life.

The Greek word is "en", (I Corinthians 6:19) "*will be in you*" **John 14:17b**

"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22 (Genesis 2:7; Isaiah 42:5; Revelation 11:11)

3. In the Midst of You (mesos' humon or meta). In the "midst or among" us.

The expression "in the midst of you" carries the meaning of "communion or fellowship." The Holy Spirit comes to draw us near for fellowship and comfort with Jesus. (Daniel 3:25; Psalm 22:3; Zechariah 8:8; John 20:26; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21) The Greek word for "among" is "mesos from meta."

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20 (John 20:26; Hebrews 2:2)

4. On You (epi' humas). He comes "upon us" for power to witness.

In regards to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, in Mark 1:8 John said, "I indeed baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes "upon"

you." The Greek word for "upon" is "epi". (Acts 1:8; 8:14-15; 10:44; 19:1-6)

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

To Summarize, The Spirit comes along side to draw us near and to help us. He comes inside, birthing new life, sanctifying us and transforming us. He is in our midst as we gather together, working among us. And He comes on us to empower us for witness and service. Jesus has worked out every detail of our need as we walk out our life following Him and has provided by His Spirit.

D. When and in What Way do we see Him Working Today?

The Holy Spirit is working in the world with God's word and believers as ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) to call sinners to Jesus. When someone repents and puts faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit equips the new believer. As they grow, mature and become fruitful, obedient Spirit-led sons and daughters, the cycle continues.

1. For Nonbelievers

"And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.." John 16:9

a. Bringing Conviction and Fear of Judgment

- 1) Convicting of sin and unbelief. (John 16:9) ^[SEP]
- 2) Convincing sinners that Jesus alone is the basis and means of God's righteousness. (John 16:10; Romans 10:3-4; Acts 2:37) ^[SEP]
- 3) Fear of judgment in that Satan is judged and condemned and any alignment with him will bring the same judgment (John 2:5-6, 3:19-21, 16:11;)
- 4) Repentance is the ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit among unbelievers. (Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16; 2 Peter 3:9)

2. In Believers

a. The Holy Spirit Brings Regeneration

Regeneration is the act of the Holy Spirit, whereby He imparts new spiritual life and a divine nature. *"You must be born again" John 3:3*
The Greek word for "regeneration" in **Titus 3:5** is "*paligennesia*" and is from two words, "again" and "born", or "born again." It carries the idea of the new spiritual birth and life. (1 John 2:29 3:9 4:7 5:1,4,18)

b. The Holy Spirit Dwells in the Believer

As children of God, the Holy Spirit has birthed new life and taken up residence in us. (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Romans 8:9)

c. The Holy Spirit Seals the Believer

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the

redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Ephesians 1:13-14

- 1) The Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation. (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- 2) The Spirit is our deposit securing our purchase and guaranteeing our glorified inheritance. (2 Corinthians 5:4)

d. The Holy Spirit Fills the Believer.

This is not a single event but an on-going one. Whereas the dwelling in of the Spirit took place at new birth, this is a continuous filling by the Spirit. As we pour out in ministry we must be filled back up. The disciples who were filled on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:4**, were filled again some time later **Acts 4:31**.

And also those who were sealed (Ephesians 4:30) are encouraged to be filled in Ephesians 5:18. Then they are useful. (Acts 6:3, 5; 9:17; 11:24)

e. The Holy Spirit Empowers the Believer.

The empowering of the spirit has a twofold purpose. (Acts 1:8)

- 1) **Life** – Though as Christians we have a new nature, we still have a sinful nature. (Galatians 5:17-18) The power of the Spirit allows us to get victory over our fallen nature. (Romans 8:12-13)
- 2) **Service** – The Spirit gives us power as witnesses, produces His fruit in our lives and gives His gifts to serve, whether reaching the lost or serving the saved. (Galatians 5:22-25, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

f. The Holy Spirit Anoints the Believer. (2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:27)

- 1) As chosen royalty (1 Peter 2:9-10)
- 2) As empowered servants, like Jesus (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38)

g. The Holy Spirit Leads the Believer.

- 1) Reminds and guides us to all truth (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13)
- 2) Reveals things to come (John 16:13; 1 Timothy 4:1; Acts 2:17-18)
- 3) Teaches us (Luke 12:12; John 14:26)
- 4) Gives us direction in life and ministry (Psalm 37:23-24; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16, 25; Acts 8:27-29; 13:2-4; 16:6, 7)

3. In Believers Gathering and Serving

We are told the importance of gathering together as believers especially as we see the Lord's return get closer.

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Why? Because something very special happens when we come together.

God is present! God is present in us by His Spirit.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

1 Corinthians 12:27

a. Manifestations of God's Very Presence

Jesus displayed the complete fullness of the Spirit in operation in His life. All the fruit of the Spirit, all the gifts of the Spirit, all the power and ability of the Spirit, all **manifest** in Jesus.

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

Colossians 2:9-10

Now, we are the body of Christ. We are not the head, Jesus is the head, but we are His body and we are to be His hands and feet. As we come together the presence of God is among us corporately. We, by the Holy Spirit's presence in us and among us, corporately have the potential to manifest all the fruit and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit for edification and ministry as we gather together. **Think about that for a minute!**

b. Producing Fruit – The Character of Jesus

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love," Galatians 5:22

The Holy Spirit's love is *"agape"* This is an unconditional, in-spite-of love, humanly impossible to produce and sustain. This singular fruit could easily be the initial indication of a Spirit filled life with all the other fruit being facets or fragrances of the first.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

- 1) **Love** - active good will in doing what is best, expressed toward God and man ^[L]_[SEP]
- 2) **Joy** - gladness, delight, especially in response to God's grace ^[L]_[SEP]
- 3) **Peace** - tranquility, harmony, both with God and our fellow man ^[L]_[SEP]
- 4) **Longsuffering** - patience, forbearance, self-restraint in the face of provocation (Vine) ^[L]_[SEP]
- 5) **Kindness** - sweetness of temper that puts others at ease (Plummer) ^[L]_[SEP]
- 6) **Goodness** - generosity that reaches beyond just giving what is due ^[L]_[SEP]
- 7) **Faithfulness** - the virtue of reliability (Barclay) ^[L]_[SEP]
- 8) **Gentleness** - a humble and kind demeanor that helps to calm another's anger ^[L]_[SEP]
- 9) **Self-control** - the virtue of one who masters his desires and appetites (Thayer) ^[L]_[SEP]

c. Giving Gifts – The Ability and Power of Jesus

Where as the fruit of the Holy Spirit should be produced in each of us, gifts are assigned as He sees fit. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:7, "now the

manifestation (that is, the Spirit made visible) of the Spirit is given to every man to profit all", and then in 12:11 he says, "the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individual just as He wills". This is the Spirit's doing as He sees fit, knowing each of us individually and what is best for God's purpose and will.

There are four main areas of scripture that mention gifts.

- Rom. 12:6-8
- 1 Cor. 12:1-11; 12:27-31
- Eph. 4:11-12
- 1 Pet. 4:8-11

There are many different ways of categorizing the gifts of the Spirit but for the sake of this study we will look at them in three groups. Also it is important to understand that there are no strict boundaries to these groupings since many of the gifts cross over into other groupings. These categories are simply for the benefit of our understanding.

Foundational Gifts (Eph. 4:12) *(1 Cor. 3:10-11; Eph. 2:20)

- 1) **Apostles:** The word translated apostle has a more general definition than we normally think when we use the term. It simply means a delegate, or a messenger, or an ambassador who is appointed or sent with specific instructions. It is clear however, that the twelve who were chosen originally by Jesus were a special group with a special task. (Rev. 21:14) Apostolic ministry in this day might possibly best be seen in the church planting missionary.
- 2) **Prophets:** One who speaks forth the word of God. Not so much foretelling the future, although that might be the case, but more the forthtelling of God's word; speaking forth the prophetic word of God.
- 3) **Evangelists:** This gift is simply proclaiming the good news of Jesus to those who have not come into relationship with him. This gift is to be distinguished from the responsibility of every believer to share the gospel, in that the evangelist is especially gifted in bringing people to Jesus and is called specifically to this purpose.
- 4) **Pastor-teacher:** The wording in Ephesians seems to indicate that the pastor- teacher is one gift, not two separate ones as some say. The word pastor means shepherd and the shepherd was responsible for leading, feeding and protecting. In this case the word of God is what is being fed. Often in this day and age the pastor's true work of feeding, leading and protecting the sheep has been changed to become whatever the flock feels is needed. We need pastors who will faithfully teach the word of God.

Edification Gifts (1 Cor. 12:7-11)

- 1) **Word of Wisdom:** the supernatural ability to rightly use knowledge.
- 2) **Word of Knowledge:** this is a supernatural revelation of God, giving information into a particular situation.
- 3) **Discerning Spirits:** a supernatural ability to perceive what is true and false, good and evil, in particular the origin or influence of someone or thing, whether the spirit of God, the spirit of man, or Satan.
- 4) **Gift of Faith:** the supernatural ability to trust and believe God without doubt, in spite of the circumstances. This is different from saving faith which is the measure of faith (Rom. 12:3) that God gives to every man that they might believe.
- 5) **Healing:** the supernatural ability to believe for, or receive healing from God without the aid of men and medicine.
- 6) **Working of Miracles:** a supernatural ability to do work or feats that are contrary to the natural realm. "With God all things are possible".
- 7) **Prophecy:** the supernatural ability to speak forth the mind and word of the Lord. In the Old Testament time this was mainly foretelling. In the New Testament the gift is more a forthtelling God's Word.
- 8) **Tongues:** the supernatural ability to speak in a language that you have never learned.
- 9) **Interpretation of Tongues:** the supernatural ability to interpret a tongue that you have not learned.

Service Gifts (Rom. 12:6-8, & 1 Cor. 12:28)

- 1) **Ministry:** to serve; the same root word that we get "deacon" or "deaconess" from, so this term would be fitting to describe the work and service of deaconship within the body of Christ.
- 2) **Exhortation:** to comfort or console. This would be the spirit given ability to encourage people on in their walk with the Lord.
- 3) **Giving:** to share or impart or give of one's own substance. The spirit given ability to give of one's resources in faith to meet needs.
- 4) **Mercy:** to be compassionate. This would involve all kinds of needs and would obviously be spirit given since it would be manifest in an attitude of agape love, not out of duty or obligation.
- 5) **Ruling & Governments:** this is the spirit given ability to give oversight or administrate wisely. Even though these are two separate terms they are closely related and are used of individuals that the Holy Spirit has given the wisdom and ability to give good Godly leadership as servants, not as those who lord it over people.
- 6) **Helps:** to give relief or support, to come to the aid of someone. This term is very close to the first gift we looked at (ministry).

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the

profit of all:" 1 Corinthians 12:7

***All gifts are superseded by love.**

"but the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:13

Gifts will disappear - I Corinthians 12:31-13:10

Love will always remain - I Corinthians 13:13

E. What About Me Now?

1. The Promise is for you

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

2. Ask

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:13

3. Believe

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24

4. Be connected

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many." 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

F. Final Thoughts

1. Dangers to Avoid

Believers, we must guard ourselves from extremes:

Charismania

First, there is the extreme of focusing too much on the Spirit Himself and the more sensational gifts instead of Jesus and His word. The work of the Spirit is to empower, lead, guide, bring God's word to our remembrance and exalt Jesus. He does not and will not intentionally draw attention to Himself.

Pneumaphobia

Second, there is a fear of the **First**, that is, fear of the Holy Spirit. Fear that things might get out of control if we yield or explore the realm of the Holy Spirit. This fear keeps people from wanting to know more about Him and His work. Jesus said the Spirit would be essential for our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of His church. As believers we must guard ourselves from

these extreme views.

One without the other

Third, there are Christians who are lopsided, “Word” believers with only a minor in the Spirit and there are “Spirit” believers with only a minor in the Word. There is a need for balance since we need both the Word and the Spirit actively working in our lives for our spiritual maturity.

Greg Laurie once said it like this: *“Too much Word you dry up, too much Spirit you blow up, the right combination you grow up.”*

Let’s make growing up spiritually our desire!

2. Have Some Gifts Ceased?

It is apparent there are those who hold to this position. There is little if any clear scriptural basis for this idea. It does seem clear that as long as the church is still here, all that the Spirit provides is needed. *“I will not leave you orphans;”* (John 14:18). The Holy Spirit will be present: all His character, all His power and all His abilities will be present. There will come a time however, when the church is removed (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18), then and only then will His present work end. The Father alone knows when this will be. (Matthew 24:36)

Here’s an interesting point to ponder. In 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12, notice the phrase “He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” The word “way” at the end of verse 7 is “mesos” which means “midst” (as discussed previously). This is very interesting to consider in reference to when the Spirit’s work will end.

In Conclusion:

“The Spirit led life is not a special deluxe addition of Christianity. It’s part and partial, the total plan of God for all His people.” A. W. Tozer