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The Bible reveals Yahweh, the God of the universe, as the one and only God and that no other God has existed or will ever exist. The Bible also reveals that Yahweh is one in His essence or substance and, as one essence, exists as three persons called the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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## GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

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### DEFINITIONS AND DIFFICULTIES

The great God of the universe and the Bible has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Many believers have an understanding about God as their Father and Jesus the Son as their Savior but are confused about the Holy Spirit. As the believer begins the journey of understanding the Holy Spirit correctly, two things are needed: 1) A definition of terms, and 2) An understanding of some difficulties.

- I. The word “Holy” comes from the Hebrew word “qadosh” and the Greek word “hagios” which means “clean, pure, sacred, and wholly other and separate.”
- II. The word “Spirit” comes from the Hebrew word “ruach” and the Greek word “pneuma” which means “wind, breath, air, the expressions and functions of a rational being, and an immaterial substance” depending on the context.
  - A. In the ancient world, the idea of “spirit” was connected to forces that could not be seen by the human eye (John 3:8).
  - B. Our English words pneumatic, pneumonia, respiration, and inspiration all come from the concept of “spirit.”
  - C. The German word “Geist” which means “breath or spirit” was picked up as the Middle English (and Anglo-Saxon) word “Ghost” and translated into our older English versions of the Bible. Unfortunately, this has added confusion to understanding the precious Holy Spirit accurately today. Instead of the correct ideas of Biblical truth, this concept fosters the concepts of spookiness and a white sheeted flying creature with cut out eye holes.

**THOUGHT: As we undertake this study, let’s pray for clarity of thought and freedom from fleshly distractions that would hinder us from the true study of God in the person of His Holy Spirit.**

- III. An understanding of some difficulties to properly understanding the Holy Spirit
  - A. The place of the Holy Spirit in the progressive revelation of God can make Him the least understood person in Yahweh’s Trinity.
    1. Progressive revelation is the concept that God reveals more of Himself, His will, and His plan over time.
    2. The five phases of progressive revelation as it relates to the persons in Yahweh’s Trinity are as follows:
      - a. Old Testament — The Father is primarily revealed with glimpses of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
      - b. The time of Christ — The Son is primarily revealed with glimpses of the Father and the Holy Spirit.

- c. The time of the Church — The Holy Spirit is primarily revealed as He reveals the Son more fully with glimpses of the Father.
  - d. The Millennial reign of Christ — The Son is primarily revealed with glimpses of the Holy Spirit and Father.
  - e. The New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem — The Father is primarily revealed, and Yahweh as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit reveals Himself as the “all in all” throughout eternity (1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelation 21:22, 23).
3. Therefore in the history of Biblical progressive revelation, people that have studied the Old Testament and the Gospels more than the books of Acts through Revelation have spent more time getting to know the Father and the Son. Also, the way progressive revelation works, it is impossible to gain an accurate understanding of the Holy Spirit without a thorough understanding of both the Old Testament and Gospels as foundational truth. As a result, many believers are deficient or have an incorrect understanding of the person of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The concept of Father and Son from a human relational standpoint is easier for us to grasp than the Holy Spirit. A human father plans and provides. A faithful son accomplishes the tasks of the father and ends up strengthening the entire family. However, how do we relate to an immaterial Holy Spirit as humans? What does He do and accomplish in the family?
- C. The placement of the Holy Spirit in progressive revelation as well as the role of the Holy Spirit in revealing the things of the Father and Son (John 16:5-15) make Him the least conspicuous person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit functions by thrusting the Father and Son into the spotlight and keeping Himself primarily out of the limelight.

**THOUGHT: Throughout this coming week, ask Yahweh Father to help you overcome any difficulties and biases in your thinking concerning the person of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 19:14). As you read the Scriptures and go about your day, look for and speak to the Holy Spirit of Yahweh.**

### **GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRAINING PROJECT #1:**

Read and meditate on Ephesians 5:15-21 several times this week. Ask for the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind any sins which will hinder your walk with Him and confess them. Ask to be filled with the Spirit and look for specific times of spiritual songs and thankfulness between you and Yahweh throughout the day.

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## THE PERSON AND PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Many people in the world today believe that the God of the universe is primarily a creating force or power rather than a personal being who relates to His people. The idea that God is a force or power which either is the universe or part of the universe comes from the philosophy of pantheism (from the Greek words “pan” — everything and “theos” — God or “everything is God”). Forms of pantheism can have multiple gods (Hinduism) or one god (Buddhism and some New Age groups). Christians in this world need to be alert and on guard so as not to be led astray as to Yahweh the God of the Bible’s true identity. Scriptures instruct us that God created this world out of nothing (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:3); and so is both greater than and independent from His creation for all time (Yahweh’s transcendence over His creation). The Scriptures also teach us that God is a personal being who desires to relate to His people and be intimately related to His creation as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Yahweh’s immanence in His creation). Many Christian believers today can relate to the personhood of God the Father and God the Son but struggle and end up inserting some concepts of pantheism in their thoughts of the personhood of the Holy Spirit. This lesson is designed to help in the journey of understanding the person of God the Holy Spirit.

**THOUGHT: Where are you in your understanding of God the Holy Spirit? Is He a person that you relate to, talk with, and pray to on a regular basis or is He more like a force or power in your life?**

- I. The Holy Spirit does things and acts in certain ways that only are ascribed to Yahweh God.
  - A. He was involved in and continues to be involved in creation (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:1-32, especially verse 30).
  - B. He is involved in salvation by giving new spiritual life (John 3:5-8), uniting each believer into Christ’s body (1 Corinthians 12:13), and is intimately involved in the believers sanctification and resurrected new bodies (Romans 8:11; Titus 3:5).
  - C. He has given us the Scriptures (with the help of chosen co-authors) and preserved them for us (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- II. The Holy Spirit is a person in the Godhead of Yahweh who is Scripturally placed with the Father and the Son.
  - A. Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize believers in the name (singular) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).
  - B. The persons of the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father are all active in the believer’s spiritual life (1 Corinthians 12:4-6), blessings (2 Corinthians 13:14), and in relational and faith activities in the life of His believers (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- III. The Holy Spirit is a person and is described as having a mind, a will, and emotions or feelings.
  - A. The Holy Spirit reminds believers of Jesus’ words, teaches them, and knows the thoughts of the Father thoroughly (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:11).
  - B. The Holy Spirit apportions His spiritual gifts to believers as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11).

C. The Holy Spirit is grieved (Greek - “lupeo” - vex, irritate, offend, insult, cause pain, humiliation, outrage, sadness and sorrow) when we as believers don’t speak the truth, engage in fleshly anger, steal from other people, engage in corrupt communication, and become bitter and unforgiving with others (Ephesians 4:25-32).

**THOUGHT: Living the Christian life with the Holy Spirit is relational and personal. He is a person with a will, mind, and emotions. Am I being kind and courteous to the person of the Holy Spirit who is in and with me?**

IV. The Holy Spirit is a masculine “he” and not a neuter “it” according to the rules of Greek grammar.

A. Jesus specifically called the Holy Spirit a “he” rather than an “it” (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-14).

B. The Greek word for spirit is “pneuma” which is a neuter (neither male or female word). However, Jesus specifically used the masculine pronoun “he” - Greek “ekeinos” rather than the neuter Greek pronoun “ekeino” to describe the Holy Spirit as a Him rather than an it. Normal Greek would have demanded agreement in gender unless a specific point was being made by Jesus.

V. The Holy Spirit does things and performs functions that a person with a personality does.

A. He is called by Jesus “the paraclete” which comes from the Greek word “parakletos” which can mean comforter, helper, advocate, intercessor, or mediator. The Holy Spirit is a person who takes up the cause of the person He is helping and appears before the Father on a believer’s behalf (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).

B. He teaches and commands believers (John 14:26; Acts 16:6).

C. He searches the mind of the Father and helps us make skillful and wise decisions (1 Corinthians 2:10, 11).

D. He speaks to us as believers (Acts 8:29, 13:2), bears witness concerning Christ with our spirits (John 15:26; Romans 8:16), and prays and intercedes for us (Romans 8:26, 27).

**THOUGHT: Throughout this coming week, ask Yahweh Father to help you comprehend the awesome gift of the person of the Holy Spirit which He has given to indwell you as His child in the name of Jesus Christ.**

## **GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRAINING PROJECT #2:**

Read and meditate on John 14:26, 27 several times this week. Seek to listen for the Holy Spirit’s teaching and instruction in a special way this week. Ask for the Holy Spirit to bring His peace to your inner being and mind as you walk with Him.

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE TIME OF THE CHURCH

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The books of Acts through Revelation are written to show how the person of Jesus, the Old Testament Messiah, perfectly accomplished His mission through His life, death, burial, and resurrection (also known as the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) and as a result brought about His New Testament Church as well as His coming earthly and eternal kingdom programs. The time of Christ's Church on earth or "Church age" begins at Pentecost (Acts 2) and continues through its time of being "caught up" or raptured into heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 7:9-17) and consists of all believers in Jesus and the truth of His Gospel (Ephesians 3:1-13). At the beginning of Christ's Church on earth, all believers will be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8) making them individual members of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:13).

According to the Scriptures, this baptism with the Holy Spirit will give believers an amazing assortment of empowerments, abilities, leadings, and giftings to carry out Christ's work and will bring about the permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit's person and an increased conviction to this world of Christ's truth (John 16:8).

- I. The New Testament books of Acts through Revelation seem to have three main sections: 1) The book of Acts is primarily early church history; 2) The books of Romans through Jude are primarily letters and deal primarily with doctrine and church practice; and 3) The book of Revelation is primarily prophecy. Examining the first and last occurrences of the Holy Spirit in each of these sections can help us get an overview of His person and work.
  - A. In Acts, the Holy Spirit is first seen as the One through whom Jesus gave His commands to His apostles during the forty days after His resurrection which included for them to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2-4). The Holy Spirit is last seen as the One who inspired Isaiah 6:9-10 which is quoted by the Apostle Paul to explain why the Gospel would from that time of the Church forward be primarily preached to Gentiles (Acts 28:25-28).
  - B. In Romans through Jude, the Spirit of holiness (Holy Spirit) is first seen as the One who declared Jesus to be the Old Testament prophesied Messiah by the authority of His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). The Holy Spirit is last seen in Jude verse 20 where the Church is admonished to keep "praying in the Holy Spirit" in order to have effective ministry and avoid church divisions.
  - C. In Revelation, the Holy Spirit is probably first seen as the "seven spirits" in Revelation 1:4 if taken in the context of the One anointing the Messiah in Isaiah 11:2 or as the One whom the Apostle John was intimately communicating with on the Lord's day in Revelation 1:10. The Holy Spirit is last seen in Revelation 22:17 where the Spirit and the bride ask for the return of Jesus to set up His Kingdom on this earth and carry it on throughout eternity in the New Earth, New Heaven, and New Jerusalem.

**THOUGHT: A quick overview of the books of Acts through Revelation reveals the Holy Spirit as the promised gift of the Father who has been given to each believer in Christ's finished work, He is the person who leads and empowers the preaching of the Gospel to all people, He authenticates the message of Jesus Christ as well as convicts this world of sin, He desires to keep the Church effective and free from fleshly divisions, and works for and yearns for Christ's kingly rule on this earth and future eternal kingdom. Do you know Him in these ways?**

- II. The prophesied baptism with the Holy Spirit by both John the Baptist (Mark 1:8-10) and by Jesus (Acts 1:4-8) was a fulfillment to the Old Testament prophecies found in Joel 2:28-32 according to the Apostle Peter (Acts 2:16-21).
- A. According to Peter, the work and resurrection of Jesus Christ along with His exaltation to the Father's right hand allowed the gift of the Holy Spirit to be given to the Church in a special way (Acts 2:22-41). This also agrees with other Old Testament passages found in Jeremiah 31:31-33 and Ezekiel 36:27 and 37:14.
- B. The baptism with the Holy Spirit was going to give New Testament believers extra power to be witnesses of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8) and came to the Church in a miraculous way (Acts 2:1-4).
- III. This baptism with the Holy Spirit coincides with the exaltation of Christ to the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33) as the High Priest of all believers and the inaugurator of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-35; Hebrews 8:1-13). The inauguration of Jesus as both High Priest and coming King has opened up for the Church the gift of the Father (which is the baptism with the Holy Spirit) which brings many wonderful blessings to Yahweh's people as well as increased conviction and judgment to this world (Acts 2:16-40; Hebrews 1:1-14; Revelation 1:4-7).
- A. Jesus proclaimed that when the Holy Spirit comes, He brings increased conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment because He increases ability to comprehend the person and finished work of Jesus Christ (John 16:5-15).
- B. Jesus also said that when the Holy Spirit comes, believers will have a greater understanding and power in prayer, a helper and advocate that speaks the truth to us, and the permanent indwelling presence of God Himself (in the person of the Holy Spirit) (John 14:12-17).
- C. Other blessings of the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers include:
1. His work in our regeneration and new life (Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:2).
  2. His baptizing us into Christ's spiritual body at the very moment of our belief and transactional trust in Christ's finished work (1 Corinthians 12:13).
  3. His guaranteeing and sealing us in Christ and assuring us of our eternal salvation (Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30).
  4. His work in bringing us the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21) and teaching the truth of Scriptures through proper exegesis and Holy Spirit gifted teachers (John 16:12-15; Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11).
  5. His work in leading us through our daily lives (Romans 8:14), anointing us for the work He leads us to do (1 John 2:20), empowering and filling us as we are in obedience to Him (Ephesians 5:18), gifting us for the assigned work (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31), unifying us (Ephesians 4:13), and interceding for us (Romans 8:26).

**THOUGHT:** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know Him and His blessings better this week as He leads you.

**GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRAINING PROJECT #3:**

Read and meditate on Romans 8:1-17 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself and His work to the inner core of your being. Practice walking with and being led by the Spirit this week as the truth of these verses speak to you.



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## THE ANOINTING AND SEALING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a sovereignly timed event that has been planned by Yahweh's great wisdom which:

- I. Celebrates the finished work of Jesus Christ in heaven including His exaltation and inauguration as eternal High Priest and King (Joel 2:27-32; Acts 2:29-39).
- II. Officially begins the prophesied New Covenant and New Covenant Age (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; Hebrews 8:8-13).
- III. Begins the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers lives and unites believers in Christ's body called the Church (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9-17; 1 Corinthians 12:13).
- IV. Begins the first phase of the New Covenant Age which is called the Age of Grace or Church Age (Ephesians 1:13-14, 3:1-12, 4:4-7).

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is poured out upon Christ's believers at the first Pentecost after Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation (Acts 2:1-39) and subsequently upon each individual believer at the time of individual belief or transactional trust in Christ's finished work (Romans 8:9-17; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13). As has been stated by the above third point, the baptism with the Holy Spirit guarantees the Holy Spirit's permanent and eternal indwelling in each believer's life and unites each believer's life with Christ's body. These happen immediately upon belief in Christ's gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). There are many other aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry to grasp and understand as believers that have been blessed with this precious gift of the Holy Spirit and have been united in Christ's body. Two aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives as believers include His anointing and sealing. The anointing and sealing ministries of the Holy Spirit happen at belief but grow in depth and meaning for believers as they hear, grasp, and apply these to their lives. This lesson is designed to help in the journey of understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit in terms of His anointing and sealing.

- I. The anointing ministry of the Holy Spirit has taken on different forms in the Old Testament, during the Gospel times, and during this New Covenant Church Age. If the anointing ministry of the Holy Spirit is understood correctly, it should bring renewed understanding, ability, and strength to our daily lives as well as our work in Christ's body.
  - A. The Old Testament Hebrew word for anoint is the word "mashach" and is where the word Messiah comes from. It means to draw the hand over, to smear or rub with oil, to consecrate. Therefore, the Messiah means the "anointed one." This Hebrew word's equivalent in the Greek is "chrisas" or "chrisma" and is where the word "Christ" comes from.
  - B. In the Old Testament and Gospels, anointing a person or thing with olive oil (usually) set the person or thing apart for Yahweh's purpose (Exodus 40:9-15). Prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil which symbolized the Holy Spirit's person in their lives and power for special service (1 Samuel 10:1, 1 Samuel 16:13; Zechariah 4:1-14). The promised New Covenant Messiah was called the Anointed One (Psalm 2:2; Isaiah 61:1) because the Holy Spirit was to be upon Him without measure (Luke 4:18; John 1:41, 3:34).

C. In the New Testament, a believer's anointing from the Holy Spirit begins at the moment of belief and continues (or abides) forever (2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:20-27). Because all believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit permanently and eternally, the Holy Spirit has completely set each one aside for His special purposes and giftings (John 14:16-17; Rom. 8:9-17; 1 Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit's ministry of anointing should:

1. help a believer to understand Christ's truth as set forth in Scripture (John 16:12-15; 1 John 2:20-27)
2. help him or her plan their life according to truth (2 Corinthians 1:15-22, 2 Corinthians 3:16-4:6),
3. bring teaching, comfort, encouragement and healing as life is lived inside Christ's body (2 Corinthians 1:21-24; Ephesians 4:7-16; James 5:13-20).

**THOUGHT: Praise Yahweh! (Hallelu-Yah!) for the Holy Spirit's permanent and eternal anointing in your life. Ask Him to help you to recognize His wonderful ministry of anointing as you go about your day and interact with the Scriptures.**

II. The sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit provides each believer with the knowledge of perfect assurance and guaranteed hope so that all true motivation to work in and for Christ's kingdom can be love and gratitude based.

A. In the time of the Old Testament all the way through the time of the Gospels, all important documents or transactions had a seal placed upon them.

1. The ancient seal was usually a symbol or name that was made out of stone, brass, silver, or gold and placed in a ring on the finger or hung from the neck as a necklace (Genesis 38:18, 41:42).
2. When the transaction had taken place, either heated wax or soft clay was made and placed over the document or around a sealed area and the ring was pressed into it. This was many times more important than a signature and used in place of it (1 Kings 21:8; Job 38:14; Matthew 27:66; Revelation 5:1). It was binding between the transactional parties, and the seal guaranteed it was true by the one sealing it. This would guarantee either future payment in full, ensure protection for goods in transit, or officially recognize granted authority or office.

B. When believers receive the testimony that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, they set their seal that God is true (John 3:33). It is Jesus, the Son of Man, whom the Father has set His seal upon, and it is only through belief in Christ's work alone that is the work of God that endures to eternal life (John 6:27-29).

C. There are three verses which explain to New Covenant believers the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit during this Church Age which are found in 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; and Ephesians 4:30. There is a fourth verse found in Revelation 7:2 for a special group of Israelite believers that begins the next phase of Yahweh's New Covenant Age.

1. At the moment we first believed, we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) who is the guarantee (deposit or pledge) of our full inheritance until we acquire possession of it (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:14) on the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).
2. Today we as believers participate and enjoy the wide range of blessings that have come to us as a result of the gift of the Holy Spirit and union with Christ (referred to by the Apostle Paul as the first fruits of the Spirit in Romans 8:23a). However, we groan inwardly while we await our full adoption as sons which will express itself in receiving our fully resurrected bodies and serving with Christ as His heirs throughout eternity (Romans 8:14-17, 23b; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; Revelation 20:6-22:5).

**THOUGHT: Meditate on the Scriptural truth that you are right now sealed with the Holy Spirit and guaranteed full adoption, resurrected bodies, and reigning with Christ forever.**

#### **GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRAINING PROJECT #4**

Read and meditate on Romans 8:23-28. Communicate with and pray to the Holy Spirit about any "inward groaning" you are having as you walk with Him this week. Realize that He is constantly interceding and praying for your walk and that you are not alone.

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## THE GIFTS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The work of Jesus Christ in regards to His redemption and glorification have granted forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes in His name (Acts 2:38-39). This New Covenant gift of the Holy Spirit includes all believers receiving the Holy Spirit's permanent indwelling which seals and anoints them eternally as members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14). The beginning phase or dispensation of the New Covenant can be called either the Age of Grace (Ephesians 3:2) or the Church Age (Ephesians 5:23). During this time, Christ's Church (body) on earth grows by the person and work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15) as the earth awaits Christ's physical return from heaven to rule and reign (Acts 2:41-47, 3:18-21). Also during this Church Age, each believer has received one or more spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to equip the Church in order to strengthen it to carry out its assigned ministry (1 Corinthians 1:7, 12:7; Ephesians 4:12). Along with being blessed with a multitude of spiritual gifts, these gifts seem to come with the possibility of special Holy Spirit activities or manifestations which can make Yahweh visible to the Church as well as to the people the Church body has contact with (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). This lesson is designed to help in the journey of understanding the gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7).

- I. There are six places in New Testament Scriptures that give believers partial lists of gifts, ministries, and manifestations of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 7:7-11, 12:8-10; 12:28-30; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11).
  - A. They are difficult to organize and prioritize because the Holy Spirit distributes His "grace" gifts (Romans 12:3) for the "common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7) of the body "to each one of us" (Ephesians 4:7). Therefore, each believer and each local congregation will have a different mixture assigned by the measuring hand of Yahweh Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Rom. 12:3; Ephesians 4:7).
  - B. The New Testament Scriptures reveal around 22 gifts, ministries, and manifestations of the Holy Spirit, some of which are repeated in several lists. Since none of the lists are the same, the Holy Spirit seems to be instructing us not to be overly rigid in analyzing His activity in us and Christ's Church. Rather we are to learn what we can and be like our fellow Old Testament believers who were "carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).
  - C. In 1 Corinthians 12:1-7, the Apostle Paul instructs us concerning the things of the Holy Spirit which in the Greek is the word "pneumatikon" (1 Corinthians 12:1). This word can also be translated spirituals, spiritual things, or spiritual matters. He then tells us about three aspects of the things of the Holy Spirit called gifts, ministries, and manifestations (also called activities or energizings) (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).
    1. Gifts come from the Greek word "charismaton" (1 Corinthians 12:4) which originated from the word "charis" meaning grace or unmerited favor. Therefore, these are favors and gifts freely and graciously bestowed upon believers by Yahweh Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each believer has at least one gift given at the time of belief (Romans 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:7).
    2. Ministries or service come from the Greek word "diakonion" (1 Corinthians 12:5) and means servant, helper, or an official who was placed in authority to help or serve in certain ways. These seem to be gift mixes sovereignly given by Yahweh to certain people in the Church to be servant leaders to others (Ephesians 4:11-13).

3. Manifestations come from the Greek word "phanerosis" (1 Corinthians 12:7) meaning reveal, make known, make visible, and disclose. This seems to be used in the same way as the activities or energizings of the Holy Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12:6. Manifestations seem to be Holy Spirit inspired activities which make His work visible and known to believers in the Church as well as unbelievers in contact with the Church body who witness these activities (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).

D. The six lists partially covering the gifts, ministries, and manifestations of the Holy Spirit during this Church Age are:

1. Romans 12:6-8: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leading, mercy
2. 1 Corinthians 7:7-11: marriage, celibacy
3. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10: utterance of wisdom, utterance of knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, distinguish between spirits, various kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues
4. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healings, helping (helpful deeds, assistance), administering, various kinds of tongues, interpreting tongues
5. Ephesians 4:11: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (or teaching pastors)
6. 1 Peter 4:11: whoever speaks, whoever serves

E. My current thoughts on the six lists which hopefully will help your understanding:

1. I view Romans 12:6-8 as the seven clear and precise gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the Church until Christ returns. I believe Rome was a fairly mature church when the Apostle Paul wrote deep and rich theology and doctrine to them around 57 A.D. Therefore, in a mature church, each believer should discover that they have been given at least one of these seven spiritual gifts which their personal ministry in Christ's Church operates from. I also view the New Testament gift of prophecy in the same way as Dr. Wayne Grudem which is "telling something which God has spontaneously brought to mind." Therefore, it is not to be treated as the Old Testament prophet who recorded God's very word but rather as a word which is to be weighed and tested by other spiritually minded believers (1 Corinthians 14:29-30; 1 Thessalonians. 5:20-21).
2. I view 1 Corinthians 7:7-11 as gifts dealing with the sexual lives of believers. As each believer prays through their situation in this world, they should discover whether they have more of a gift toward marriage (especially looking to marry another believer) or whether they are called to singleness which will give them more time to use for Christ's Church.

3. I view 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 as primarily manifestations of the Holy Spirit to be used in the Church and sometimes outside the Church in specific ways. In other words, a believer gifted with the gift of prophecy, teaching, or mercy might manifest his or her gift in an experiential way to a group (or someone) in the Church as an utterance of wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, or distinguishing of spirits depending on the situations. A believer with a gift of mercy might be led to manifest faith or healings. If the believer has been given the ability to pray in an unknown tongue as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, then that believer should also pray for the power to interpret that tongue to bring understanding and the goal of building up Christ's Church (1 Corinthians 14:12-16).
4. I view 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 as a combination of Holy Spirit gifts (possibly prophets, teachers, helping, administration), ministries (possibly apostles, prophets, teachers) and manifestations (miracles, healings, tongues, and interpretation of tongues). The purpose of this passage is to instruct a fairly immature Church in Corinth (written to by the Apostle Paul around 55 A.D.) that the goal of all the Holy Spirit's gifts, ministries, and manifestations is the building up and maturing of Christ's Church in love (1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13).
5. I view Ephesians 4:11 as five (possibly four if teaching pastors are combined) gifted leader types with their own unique gift mixes and manifestations who have been given ministries to the Church for the purpose of equipping and maturing it (Ephesians 4:11-16). The apostles are primarily those that knew Christ personally and were sent out by Christ to lay the foundation for His Church (Acts 1:21-25; Ephesians 2:20). If a church planter is sent out, that person has an apostolic-like ministry but should be distinguished from those who had the original authority to write New Testament Scripture and establish the foundation of Christ's entire Church. The Ephesian church was very mature when the Apostle Paul wrote to it around 60 A.D.
6. I view 1 Peter 4:11 as the Apostle Peter simplifying down all the gifts, ministries, and manifestations of the Holy Spirit into two groups who speak and serve in order to glorify God through Jesus Christ.

**THOUGHT: Do you as a believer know your gift or gifts and how they usually manifest themselves?**

- II. Final considerations for the Church concerning the Spirit's gifts and manifestations.
  - A. They will last in their present form until Christ returns and then be superseded by something more complete and greater since we will see Christ face to face (1 Corinthians 1:7, 13:10).
  - B. Demonstrating love to other believers by helping to encourage them, mature them, and equip them for increased ministry in the Church is the goal of using them (1 Corinthians 14:1; Ephesians 4:12).
  - C. Avoid confusion and strive for peace or shalom (1 Corinthians 14:32). All things should be done decently and in order in Christ's Church (1 Corinthians 14:40).

D. Believers should not forbid any of the Holy Spirit's gifts or manifestations (1 Corinthians 14:39) as long as they are done Scripturally. Forbidding the Biblical use of tongues or despising prophecies can quench (put out) the Holy Spirit's fire (1 Thessalonians. 5:19, 20).

E. Believers should test everything and hold fast to what is good (1 Thessalonians. 5:21).

## **GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRAINING PROJECT #5**

Read and meditate on 2 Timothy 1:6, 7 and ask the Holy Spirit for boldness to know and actively use your God-given spiritual gifts, ministries, and manifestations. Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as you read more about spiritual gifts and talk with others about how the Holy Spirit uses you to minister to and bless other people in and outside the Church.

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## THE FILLING WITH, WALKING WITH, AND FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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As we have already learned, the baptism, indwelling, anointing, and sealing with the Holy Spirit all happen in each believer today at the moment of belief and regeneration (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13). Also, as members of Christ's body, each believer has been given certain gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit primarily to strengthen, encourage, equip, and build up other believers (Romans 1:11,12; 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-16) until the coming of the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18). There are three remaining aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry to each believer which potentially begin at first belief but move to their full potential as individual maturity and growth takes place. These are Scripturally referred to as a believer being "filled with," "walking with" or manifesting "the fruit of" the Holy Spirit. This lesson is designed to help in the journey of understanding these three maturity and growth driven aspects of the Holy Spirit. As each believer grows in greater obedience, submission, and surrender to the Holy Spirit in their personal lives, each of these will grow.

- I. Believers can either be "full of" the Holy Spirit in the sense of a life characterized by the Holy Spirit or "filled with" the Holy Spirit as a special post-conversion empowerment.
  - A. Jesus (Luke 4:1), Stephen along with the first church deacons (Acts 6:3, 8; 7:55) and Barnabus (Acts 11:24) were all said to be "full of the Holy Spirit." This meant that each of their lives were like vessels which displayed or characterized the Holy Spirit in this world. Scriptures teach us that Jesus perfectly lived through the Holy Spirit's fullness (John 3:34; Hebrews 4:15).
  - B. The Apostle Paul admonishes believers to continually let themselves "be filled with" the Holy Spirit rather than getting themselves drunk with wine and living a life filled with this world's excesses (Ephesians 5:19). Believers can do things to grieve (Ephesians 4:30) or quench (1 Thessalonians 5:19) the Holy Spirit in their lives and need to learn how to be filled with Him in a moment by moment way to control their attitudes, words, and relationships (Ephesians 5:19-21).
  - C. The best Scriptural term for post-conversion empowerments, powerful manifestations, and increased boldness for witnessing is the term "filled with" the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 4:8,31; 9:17; 13:9, 52).

**THOUGHT: The Holy Spirit indwells your life as a believer. Are you letting Him fill you with His presence? Have you personally experienced the Spirit keeping you from difficult sins or giving you power to witness boldly?**

- II. Believers who "walk with" or in the Holy Spirit are learning on a moment by moment basis how best to please the Holy Spirit rather than their own flesh or old self (Galatians 5:16, 17).
  - A. The word "walk" is the Greek word "peripateo" which means to go about or walk around. Paul commands believers in Galatians 5:16 to live lives in an intimate, moment by moment, relational way with the Holy Spirit.
  - B. The walk with the Holy Spirit will bring to a believer:
    1. increased holiness and righteousness (Romans 6:4; Galatians 5:16-26).



2. a new way of living which is free from Old Covenant rules and regulations (Romans 7:6; 13:8-10; Galatians 5:18; Hebrews 8:13).
3. the fruit of the Holy Spirit which includes His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22,23).
4. real and progressive life change from one degree of glory (brightness, splendor, radiance) to another (2 Corinthians 3:18).
5. an ability to search out the depths of God (1 Corinthians 2:10), restore believers caught in sin (Galatians 6:1) and reap eternal life by way of rewards in the life to come (1 Corinthians 3:14; 2 Corinthians 5:5-10; Galatians 6:8-10).

**THOUGHT: How would you explain to someone else how to walk with the Holy Spirit? Have you personally seen the fruit of the Holy Spirit grow in your life?**

## **GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TRAINING PROJECT #6**

Read and meditate on Romans 5:5 and Jude 1:17-23 and ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your understanding of these verses. As you "walk" in the Spirit and are "filled" with His power this week, ask the Spirit how you can best express God's love that is inside of you to those you come in contact with through His leading.