

THE HOLY SPIRIT

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THE DEITY AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit knows everything (omniscient)

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 But God has shown us these things through the Spirit. The Spirit searches out all things, even the deep secrets of God. ¹¹ Who knows the thoughts that another person has? Only a person's spirit that lives within him knows his thoughts. It is the same with God. No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

This scripture clearly says that the Spirit searches all and knows all, even the thoughts of God.

John 14:26 But the Helper will teach you everything and will cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name.

If the Spirit teaches everything, He must know everything.

John 16:12-13 I have many more things to say to you, but they are too much for you now. ¹³ But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.

B. The Holy Spirit is everywhere at the same time (omnipresent)

Psalms 139:7-10 Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there. ⁹ If I rise with the sun in the east and settle in the west beyond the sea, ¹⁰ even there you would guide me. With your right hand you would hold me.

Isaiah 66:1 This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. So do you think you can build a house for me? Do I need a place to rest?"

Jeremiah 23:24 No one can hide where I cannot see him," says the Lord. "I fill all of heaven and earth," says the Lord.

C. The Holy Spirit is all-powerful (omnipotent)

Luke 1:35 The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit and the power of God are connected.

Romans 15:19 because of the power of miracles and the great things they saw, and because of the power of the Holy Spirit. I preached the Good News from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, and so I have finished that part of my work.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 because the Good News we brought to you came not only with words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with sure knowledge that it is true. Also you know how we lived when we were with you in order to help you.

1 Corinthians 2:4 My teaching and preaching were not with words of human wisdom that persuade people but with proof of the power that the Spirit gives.

D. The Holy Spirit is eternal

Hebrews 9:14 How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He offered himself through the eternal Spirit as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will make our consciences pure from useless acts so we may serve the living God.

E. These Old Testament verses talk about God. These New Testament verses talk about the same thing, but say it is the Holy Spirit.

1. Isaiah 6:8-10 Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, "Whom can I send? Who will go for us?" So I said, "Here I am. Send me!"⁹ Then the Lord said, "Go and tell this to the people: 'You will listen and listen, but you will not understand. You will look and look, but you will not learn.'¹⁰ Make the minds of these people dumb. Shut their ears. Cover their eyes. Otherwise, they might really understand what they see with their eyes and hear with their ears. They might really understand in their minds and come back to me and be healed."

2. Acts 28:25-27 So they argued and began leaving after Paul said one more thing to them: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, saying,²⁶ 'Go to this people and say: You will listen and listen, but you will not understand. You will look and look, but you will not learn,²⁷ because these people have become stubborn. They don't hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might really understand what they see with their eyes and hear with their ears. They might really understand in their minds and come back to me and be healed.'

Isaiah said it was the voice of the "Lord," but Paul said it was the Holy Spirit.

3. Exodus 16:7 Tomorrow morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard you grumble against him. We are nothing, so you are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.

4. Hebrews 3:7-8 So it is as the Holy Spirit says: "Today listen to what he says.
⁸ Do not be stubborn as in the past when you turned against God, when you tested God in the desert."

F. The Holy Spirit is connected with the Father and the Son

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 There are different kinds of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ways to serve but the same Lord to serve. ⁶ And there are different ways that God works through people but the same God. God works in all of us in everything we do.

Matthew 28:19 So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G. The Holy Spirit is the same as God

Acts 5:3-4 Peter said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your thoughts to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep for yourself part of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Before you sold the land, it belonged to you. And even after you sold it, you could have used the money any way you wanted. Why did you think of doing this? You lied to God, not to us!"

THE TITLES AND SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Names

The Father and the Son have certain names given to them. Those names describe their nature and work. Also, the Holy Spirit has names that describe His character and work.

This list gives the major names in Scripture

1. The Spirit of God: Genesis 1:2 The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.
2. The Holy Spirit: Luke 11:13 Even though you are bad, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!
3. The Spirit of Grace: Hebrews 10:29 So what do you think should be done to those who do not respect the Son of God, who look at the blood of the agreement that made them holy as no different from others' blood, who insult the Spirit of God's grace? Surely they should have a much worse punishment.
4. The Spirit of Fairness and the Spirit of Fire: Isaiah 4:4 The Lord will wash away the filth from the women of Jerusalem. He will wash the bloodstains out of Jerusalem and clean the city with the spirit of fairness and the spirit of fire.

Here we see the character of the Spirit. He cleans up all the filth from our lives. And He owns us completely.

(See also Matthew 3:11-12)

5. The Spirit of Truth: John 14:16-17 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and he will be in you.

John 16:13 But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.

He has all the truth, He shows us the truth, He leads us into the truth, He speaks the truth, and He defends the truth. He is against the spirit of error.

6. The Spirit of Life: Romans 8:2 Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit that brings life made you free from the law that brings sin and death.

The Spirit introduces us to the kingdom of eternal life, and He is the energy in the

believer's experience that leads him into life, liberty, and power.

7. The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation: Ephesians 1:17 asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know him better.

Wisdom and knowledge and revelation are the results of being filled with the Spirit.

(See also Isaiah 11:2; 61:1-2)

8. The Spirit of Promise: Ephesians 1:13 So it is with you. When you heard the true teaching—the Good News about your salvation—you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised.

Joel 2:28 After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

Ezekiel 36:27 I will put my Spirit inside you and help you live by my rules and carefully obey my laws.

Receiving the Spirit is the fulfillment of Christ's promise to send another comforter.

(See Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; Galatians 3:14)

9. The Spirit of Glory: 1 Peter 4:14 When people insult you because you follow Christ, you are blessed, because the glorious Spirit, the Spirit of God, is with you.

10. The Spirit of Christ: Romans 8:9 But you are not ruled by your sinful selves. You are ruled by the Spirit, if that Spirit of God really lives in you. But the person who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ.

11. The Comforter/Helper: John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—

"Helper" means "someone called to stand by another; to always be between us and the enemy, giving aid and help."

12. The Spirit of Adoption: Romans 8:15 The Spirit we received does not make us slaves again to fear; it makes us children of God. With that Spirit we cry out, "Father."

B. Symbols:

Remember, these are not names, they are symbols. These symbols show the many parts of the nature of the Holy Spirit. These symbols also show how the Holy Spirit works.

1. Fire: Isaiah 4:4 The Lord will wash away the filth from the women of Jerusalem. He will wash the bloodstains out of Jerusalem and clean the city with the spirit of fairness and the spirit of fire.

Matthew 3:11 I baptize you with water to show that your hearts and lives have changed. But there is one coming after me who is greater than I am, whose sandals I am not good enough to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The main emphasis of fire in the Scripture is removing, purification, burning out garbage, etc. Fire will be involved in the final judgment.

2. Wind: Ezekiel 37:7-10 So I prophesied as I was commanded. While I prophesied, there was a noise and a rattling. The bones came together, bone to bone.⁸ I looked and saw muscles come on the bones, and flesh grew, and skin covered the bones. But there was no breath in them.⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, human, and say to the wind, 'This is what the Lord God says: Wind, come from the four winds, and breathe on these people who were killed so they can come back to life.'"¹⁰ So I prophesied as the Lord commanded me. And the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a very large army.

John 3:8 The wind blows where it wants to and you hear the sound of it, but you don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit.

Acts 2:2-3 Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there.

Wind symbolizes the recreating work of the Spirit. Wind gives the idea of His mysterious, independent, searching work.

3. Water: John 7:38-39 "If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that person's heart, as the Scripture says."³⁹ Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory. But later, those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit.

John 4:14 but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life.

(See also Exodus 17:6 with 1 Corinthians 10:1-3; Ezekiel 36:25-27 with Titus 3:5)

Water cleanses and washes away our mistakes; it purifies; it satisfies the thirst; it refreshes and maintains life and makes fruitful. Without water, there would be no natural life; without the Spirit there would be no spiritual life.

The Spirit is like “living water” or “life producing” water. Water is the center of life.

Notice, if it is to remain “living” or “life-producing” water, it must be continually bubbling up or flowing - not a stagnant marsh or lake in our lives.

4. A Seal: Ephesians 1:13 So it is with you. When you heard the true teaching—the Good News about your salvation—you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised.

The special mark (seal) means a pledge or a down payment. God will claim us as His own and complete the purchase of His possession. (Ephesians 1:14)

The message of the special mark gives us great assurance and makes it a fact beyond any doubt or wavering that we are His.

5. Oil: In the Old Testament, all the prophetic, kingly, and priestly ministers were anointed with special oil. This anointing represented a separation and sanctification of the person to a holy purpose. It also represented the divine enablement and qualification for that ministry. No one dared enter one of these particular ministries without the anointing oil.

1 John 2:27 Christ gave you a special gift that is still in you, so you do not need any other teacher. His gift teaches you about everything, and it is true, not false. So continue to live in Christ, as his gift taught you.

(See also Psalms 89:20; 92:10; Matthew 25:3)

Oil also speaks to us of strengthening, healing, soothing, and illumination.

6. The Dove: Matthew 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven opened, and he saw God’s Spirit coming down on him like a dove.

The nature of the Holy Spirit is like a dove. That is a beautiful truth. It speaks to us of gentleness, tenderness, sensitivity, innocence, purity, peace, and patience.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTED TO CREATION, NATURE, AND ALL HUMANITY

As we study the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we discover that the Holy Spirit and the spoken Word of God work closely together. Everything God does is spoken into being by the creative word. Christ is the Word in a person. (Revelation 19:13; John 1:14)

This shows us how important our speech and confession are. It reminds us about the necessity of prayer. We must speak the creative word before the Spirit is released to work miracles.

In the beginning, the Spirit vibrated over the face of the waters, but the earth was still a disordered mess until God SPOKE. Then the Word and the Spirit combined to bring the universe out of chaos. We could say that the Spirit is the administrative agent of God. The Holy Spirit is the One who carries out, or puts into effect the works of God. This means the Holy Spirit has the power and resources necessary to put God's Word into action.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all involved in creation. In Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness..."

A. Creation and Nature:

1. The Universe: Psalms 33:6 The sky was made at the Lord's command. By the breath from his mouth, he made all the stars.

In Genesis chapter 1 we can see how the Lord creates. We can see that the Spirit was involved in the same way in the creation of the entire universe.

2. The Earth: Genesis 1:2 The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.

Psalms 104:30 When you breathe on them, they are created, and you make the land new again.

3. Man: Job 33:4 The Spirit of God created me, and the breath of the Almighty gave me life.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the tame animals, over all the earth, and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."

4. Sea Life: Psalms 104:24-30 Lord, you have made many things; with your wisdom you made them all. The earth is full of your riches. ²⁵ Look at the sea, so big and wide, with creatures large and small that cannot be counted. ²⁶ Ships

travel over the ocean, and there is the sea monster Leviathan, which you made to play there. ²⁷ All these things depend on you to give them their food at the right time. ²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up. When you open your hand, they are filled with good food. ²⁹ When you turn away from them, they become frightened. When you take away their breath, they die and turn to dust. ³⁰ When you breathe on them, they are created, and you make the land new again.

If this is true of sea life, it would be only normal to assume that it relates to all other forms of life as well.

5. Preservation of Nature: Hebrews 1:3 The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like. He holds everything together with his powerful word. When the Son made people clean from their sins, he sat down at the right side of God, the Great One in heaven.

In the beginning God spoke the worlds into beginnings, and His same words connected everything together, and set up what we call “laws of nature.”

(See Genesis 1 on each creative pronouncement of the seven days - all these are still in effect.)

B. All Humanity:

After the universe and man were created and set into motion, Adam realized he was separated from God. What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit to humanity?

John 16:7-11 But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. When I go away, I will send the Helper to you. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come. ⁸ When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment. ⁹ He will prove to them that sin is not believing in me. ¹⁰ He will prove to them that being right with God comes from my going to the Father and not being seen anymore. ¹¹ And the Helper will prove to them that judgment happened when the ruler of this world was judged.

16:8 “...prove to the people of the world the truth about sin...”

16:9 shows that the root of sin is not believing in Christ. That is rejecting the Gospel.

The Spirit proves or convicts people of sin through the Word and by touching their hearts and consciences.

“Prove” here is a legal term. It has the idea of a judge adding up all the evidence and convicting a person as guilty. When the Holy Spirit proves, He makes it impossible for people to try to justify their sins. Then a person stands exposed and proven guilty. The

Holy Spirit makes the judgement clear to the sinner's own heart.

Before the Holy Spirit becomes a comforter/helper, the Spirit must convict us.

16:8 "...being right with God comes from my going to the Father and not being seen anymore..."

This can be understood in two ways: Christ's personal righteousness, and Christ's righteous that He has given to us.

The Spirit must convince people that His divine righteousness is available to them, and convince them that they need of it.

His resurrection and acceptance by God also makes us confident about our justification through Christ. If Jesus had not gone to the Father, then we could not believe His message.

16:11 "...the ruler of this world was judged..."

The Spirit witnesses to and convinces us that Satan's power is broken.

The same thought is brought out in John 12:31 "...now the ruler of this world will be thrown down."

The death of Christ overthrew Satan. Satan no longer has power over the souls of men. Satan is no longer able to deceive the nations or enslave them in spiritual darkness.

(Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; Colossians 2:15)

Christ has broken the power of Satan. Judgment is coming for all who do not accept Jesus. If the power of Satan himself was overcome by Christ, then we can be certain that no other power can stand before Him. Judgment is certain and will definitely come. There will be no way to escape the judgment.

It is the ministry of the Spirit to bear witness to people of their sin and of Christ's righteousness, and that "everyone must die once and then be judged" (Hebrews 9:27)

After preaching all these truths before the Sanhedrin, Peter said, "We saw all these things happen. The Holy Spirit, whom God has given to all who obey him, also proves these things are true." (Acts 5:32)

The Holy Spirit worked the same way in the Old Testament. Genesis 6:3 tells us, "My Spirit will not remain in human beings forever..."

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO THE BELIEVER

A. Makes us new:

Titus 3:5 he saved us because of his mercy. It was not because of good deeds we did to be right with him. He saved us through the washing that made us new people through the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word for "made us new" here is *palingenesia*, and means "to be birthed again." It speaks of the announcement of new life. (See 2 Corinthians 3:6)

John 3:3 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot be in God's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 12:13 Some of us are Jews, and some are Greeks. Some of us are slaves, and some are free. But we were all baptized into one body through one Spirit. And we were all made to share in the one Spirit.

NOTE: By comparing these references with 1 Peter 1:23 we see that the two powers working are the Word and the Spirit. This truth applies to the new birth, the creation, and all of the works of God.

It is very important that we be prepared with the Word so that the Spirit will be made alive in us and released to work. The Spirit is not released to save men by the preaching of any gospel, but rather THE Gospel. The same is true about all the truths of the Bible. If we want to see the Spirit released to perform His work, we must be speaking the right Word.

B. Lives in the believer:

John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and he will be in you.

- Romans 8:9 But you are not ruled by your sinful selves. You are ruled by the Spirit, if that Spirit of God really lives in you. But the person who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ.

2 Timothy 1:14 Protect the truth that you were given; protect it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

"lives in us" means He has permanent residence in us. It is the same as to live in, just like a family lives in a house.

C. Makes us free from the powers of sin and death:

Romans 8:1-2 So now, those who are in Christ Jesus are not judged guilty.
² Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit that brings life made you free from the law that brings sin and death.

Ephesians 3:16 I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit.

Ephesians 1:19 And you will know that God's power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength

We are no longer limited to natural powers in order to live up to God's standards. God has planted within us all of the spiritual resources of the Holy Spirit. We can no longer say that we are "just human", for we are humans owned and filled by the Holy Spirit.

Because of the Holy Spirit in our lives, God has broken our bondage. We are not slaves of sin anymore. We are now in another Kingdom and enabled to serve a new Master. (Romans 6:13-18)

Romans 12:1-2 So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. ² Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.

1 Corinthians 3:18 Do not fool yourselves. If you think you are wise in this world, you should become a fool so that you can become truly wise,

(See also 1 Corinthians 4:16; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:23)

This involves transformation and change in the heart, attitudes and personality.

We are transformed and grow to be mature daily. A person who is saved for one week will not be required to have the same level of maturity as someone saved for five years. The demands of God on our lives follow the principle, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." The Scriptures point out that being brought to maturity is a process, not an event.

The clear will and purpose of God is to bring each Christian to the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10) This takes place here in this life, and not suddenly at the second coming. God wants us to yield to His changing in this life so that all that will need to be changed at the second coming will be our bodies.

The emphasis of the Scriptures is not the idea of being changed in the eternities of the future, but rather during this life. The Spirit becomes life and liberation within us working out the very image of Christ. (Galatians 4:19; 2:20)

D. Makes us sure of our salvation:

Romans 8:16 And the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say we are God's children.

Ephesians 1:13-14 So it is with you. When you heard the true teaching—the Good News about your salvation—you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised. ¹⁴ That Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive what God promised for his people until God gives full freedom to those who are his—to bring praise to God's glory.

He constantly reminds us of our relationship with God. We actually go through many experiences with the lord through the Spirit. It is a real and active relationship and not just a doctrine.

E. Fills the believer:

Acts 2:4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them.

Acts 4:31 After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God's word without fear.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit.

Notice that in this verse being filled with the Spirit is not presented as an option, but a command. At least nine times the New Testament speaks of being filled with the Spirit. It speaks of being inwardly saturated. The word means "to completely or abundantly fill and permeate and influence."

F. Makes the believer ready for service:

Acts 1:8 But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, for

the common good. ⁸ The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom, and the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And, to another, that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. ¹⁰ The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy. And he gives to another the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages and to another the ability to interpret those languages. ¹¹ One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things, and the Spirit decides what to give each person.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 lists the different gifts of the Spirit given among the believers for ministry. We will be dealing later with each of these in detail. It is through these gifts that the Spirit ministers to the Body, and manifests Himself.

(See also Romans 12:3-8; Matthew 25:15; 1 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 4:11)

G. Produces Christlike fruit in the believer:

Galatians 5:22-23 But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong.

Philippians 1:11 that you will be filled with the good things produced in your life by Christ to bring glory and praise to God.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This wisdom is always ready to help those who are troubled and to do good for others. It is always fair and honest.

This speaks of the very nature and personality of the Lord being expressed through believers.

(See also Colossians 1:10; Psalms 92:13-14; Matthew 13:23; John 15:2; Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 6: 6; 1 Peter 1:5-1)

H. Makes possible all forms of communion with God:

Jude 20 But dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:26 Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain.

Philippians 3:3 We are the ones who are truly circumcised. We worship God

through his Spirit, and our pride is in Christ Jesus. We do not put trust in ourselves or anything we can do,

John 4:23-24 The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

(See also 1 Corinthians 12:15-17)

Ephesians 5:18-20 Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. ²⁰ Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:16 Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and instruct each other by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1 Corinthians 14:15 So what should I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

I. Guides the believer's life and ministry:

Romans 8:14 The true children of God are those who let God's Spirit lead them.

John 16:13 But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.

This shows us that He guides us into truth.

Acts 10:19-20 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Listen, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Get up and go downstairs. Go with them without doubting, because I have sent them to you.”

This shows us that He controls the movement of believers in their ministry. (Also see Acts 16:6)

Acts 13:2 They were all worshiping the Lord and fasting for a certain time. During this time the Holy Spirit said to them, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul to do a special work for which I have chosen them.”

He directs in the selection and sending out of leaders.

J. Makes the believer's body alive again at the resurrection:

Romans 8:11 God raised Jesus from the dead, and if God's Spirit is living in you, he will also give life to your bodies that die. God is the One who raised Christ from the dead, and he will give life through his Spirit that lives in you.

The word "give life" here means "to make alive." It is the new life which our bodies will take on, rather than physical healing or preservation that is being referred to here, similar to the reference to the bodily resurrection of Christ in the same verse. (See also 1 Peter 3:18)

2 Corinthians 3:18 Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

It will be the Spirit who will also perform the final change. In fact, John 14:16 leads us to believe that the Spirit will stay in us even in eternity. Is it possible that blood will no longer make our bodies alive, rather it will be kept alive by the Spirit?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RELATION TO THE SCRIPTURES

A. The Holy Spirit wrote the Scriptures:

2 Peter 1:21 No prophecy ever came from what a person wanted to say, but people led by the Holy Spirit spoke words from God.

Revelation 2:7, 17, 29 Every person who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To those who win the victory I will give the right to eat the fruit from the tree of life, which is in the garden of God.

¹⁷ “Everyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. “I will give some of the hidden manna to everyone who wins the victory. I will also give to each one who wins the victory a white stone with a new name written on it. No one knows this new name except the one who receives it.

²⁹ Everyone who has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

In the Scriptures, there are around 3,800 times where we see statements like “The Spirit entered into me,” “Jehovah spoke to Moses,” “The Lord said to Isaiah,” “The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah,” etc.

(Also see Acts 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:16)

B. The Spirit inspires the presentation of the Scriptures:

2 Samuel 23:2-3 The Lord’s Spirit spoke through me, and his word was on my tongue. ³ The God of Israel spoke; the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘Whoever rules fairly over people, who rules with respect for God,

1 Timothy 2:4 who wants all people to be saved and to know the truth.

Acts 4:8, 13 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and you elders, ¹³ The leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak, and they understood that these men had no special training or education. So they were amazed. Then they realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

Acts 6:10 But the Spirit was helping him to speak with wisdom, and his words were so strong that they could not argue with him.

This shows the anointing that is on the person who is preaching the Word. Any minister of the Gospel can testify of the Spiritual zeal which often accompanies the presentation of the Word.

(See also Matthew 10:20; Luke 4:18; 1 Timothy 4:1)

C. The Spirit leads people to respond to the Word that is presented:

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they felt guilty and asked Peter and the other apostles, "What shall we do?"

Acts 13:42-43, 48 While Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people asked them to tell them more about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the meeting was over, many people with those who had changed to worship God followed Paul and Barnabas from that place. Paul and Barnabas were persuading them to continue trusting in God's grace. ⁴⁸ When those who were not Jewish heard Paul say this, they were happy and gave honor to the message of the Lord. And the people who were chosen to have life forever believed the message.

Acts 12:24 God's message continued to spread and reach people.

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening.

(Also note Acts 17:1-4; Ephesians 6:17; 1 Peter 1:22; Acts 18:4-8)

D. The Spirit makes the Scriptures come alive to the believers so they can understand it better:

He is actively involved in communicating spiritual insights and making the Word become clear to the hearts and minds of believers. He does this within each believer depending on his maturity, experience, and yieldedness to walk in the Spirit.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh doesn't give life. The words I told you are spirit, and they give life.

1 Corinthians 2:10-14 But God has shown us these things through the Spirit. The Spirit searches out all things, even the deep secrets of God. ¹¹ Who knows the thoughts that another person has? Only a person's spirit that lives within him knows his thoughts. It is the same with God. No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we did not receive the spirit of the world, but we received the Spirit that is from God so that we can know all that God has given us. ¹³ And we speak about these things, not with words taught us by human wisdom but with words taught us by the Spirit. And so we explain spiritual truths to spiritual people. ¹⁴ A person who does not have the Spirit does not accept the truths that come from the Spirit of God. That person thinks they are foolish and cannot understand them, because they can only be judged to be true by the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:6 He made us able to be servants of a new agreement from himself to his people. This new agreement is not a written law, but it is of the Spirit. The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

Nehemiah 9:20 You gave your good Spirit to teach them. You gave them manna to eat and water when they were thirsty.

1 John 2:27 Christ gave you a special gift that is still in you, so you do not need any other teacher. His gift teaches you about everything, and it is true, not false. So continue to live in Christ, as his gift taught you.

That does not mean that we do not need teachers. God has put teachers in the church. the teachers are supposed to be a benefit to the all the people in the church.

The context of 1 John 2:27 is that the anointing will teach us truth from error. In other words, no one who is a liar or has the spirit of antichrist will be able to deceive us.

THE PROMISE AND FULFILLMENT OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

To see the importance of the outpouring of the Spirit on every believer we must understand the relationship of the Spirit to God's people in Old Testament times.

In the Old Testament, some men were filled with the Spirit. (Exodus 28:3; 31:3; 35:31; Deuteronomy 34:9) But these were not common. They were isolated cases and for a particular ministry.

The Scripture also said that men had the Spirit in them. (Numbers 27:18; Isaiah 63:11) David prayed, "Do not send me away from you or take your Holy Spirit away from me." (Psalms 51:11)

The Scripture said that the Spirit came upon, or clothed men. (Judges 6:34; Numbers 11:17, 25, 26, 28. 24:2; Judges 11:29)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament times was not as common or as often as it is for believers today.

Having the Holy Spirit upon you or in you was not a general experience for all believers. It was mostly to the judges, kings, prophets, priests, etc.

A. The promise of the outpouring:

1. The witness of the prophets:

The prophets spoke of a new day when God would put His Spirit upon and within all His people. In other words, the unusual experience of the isolated few in the Old Testament times was going to become the normal experience available to all His people. Also New Testament believers would have an even greater relationship with God.

Ezekiel 36:24-27 I will take you from the nations and gather you out of all the lands and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and your idols. ²⁶ Also, I will teach you to respect me completely, and I will put a new way of thinking inside you. I will take out the stubborn hearts of stone from your bodies, and I will give you obedient hearts of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my Spirit inside you and help you live by my rules and carefully obey my laws.

Joel 2:28-29 After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. ²⁹ At that time I will pour out my Spirit also on male slaves and female slaves.

Ezekiel 37:14 And I will put my Spirit inside you, and you will come to life. Then I will put you in your own land. And you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it, says the Lord.

2. The witness of John the Baptist:

Matthew 3:11-12 I baptize you with water to show that your hearts and lives have changed. But there is one coming after me who is greater than I am, whose sandals I am not good enough to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² He will come ready to clean the grain, separating the good grain from the chaff. He will put the good part of the grain into his barn, but he will burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be put out.

(Also Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16-18; John 1:29-34)

3. The witness of Christ:

John 14:16-17, 26 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and he will be in you.

²⁶ But the Helper will teach you everything and will cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name.

Acts 1:4-8 Once when he was eating with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem. He said, "Wait here to receive the promise from the Father which I told you about. ⁵ John baptized people with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ When the apostles were all together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, are you now going to give the kingdom back to Israel?" ⁷ Jesus said to them, "The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. ⁸ But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."

Luke 24:49 I will send you what my Father has promised, but you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven.

(Also John 15:26-27; 16:7-14; 7:37-39)

B. The fulfillment of the outpouring:

1. Pentecost

What happened on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) was the beginning of the fulfillment of what the prophets predicted and Christ promised.

Acts 2:16 But Joel the prophet wrote about what is happening here today

Acts 2:33 Jesus was lifted up to heaven and is now at God's right side. The Father has given the Holy Spirit to Jesus as he promised. So Jesus has poured out that Spirit, and this is what you now see and hear.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself."

Other references showing that the promised outpouring continued on include Acts 8:17; 9:17; 10:44; 11:15-17; 19: 6.

References which refer to it are: 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Romans 8:15; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

NOTE: Historians record many experiences of the Pentecostal outpouring. This is true throughout history, and especially history since the Reformation (about 1520-today).

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS DIFFERENT FROM REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is always after repentance. Sometimes it is before water baptism, and sometimes it is after water baptism.

What really happens when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit?

What evidence should we expect when you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

First, look at Scriptural evidences which show that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience.

A. A distinct experience by New Testament example:

1. Christ

We see this taught in the life of Jesus. Before Jesus began His public ministry, He was baptized in water, and then the Spirit came “down on him like a dove.” (Matthew 3:15-17; Mark 1:10-11; John 1:32-34)

Luke 4:1 records that after this experience, Jesus was “filled with the Holy Spirit.” After this that He was given the power to defeat every test Satan presented to Him in the wilderness. Later, Jesus returned in the “power of the Holy Spirit.” (Luke 4:1-14)

Jesus was the sinless Son of God and He was “strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s goodness was upon him.” (Luke 2:40). But it was not until after He received the Spirit that the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: “The Lord God has put his Spirit in me, because the Lord has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken, to tell the captives they are free, and to tell the prisoners they are released.” It was not until the Spirit came upon Him that He began to perform miracles and preach with great authority.

2. The disciples

The disciples' names were already written in heaven in the Lamb’s Book of Life. They certainly had a strong spiritual experience before the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost

1. They were in unity (Acts 1:14, 21)
2. They were in prayer (Acts 1:14).
3. They received revelation from the Scriptures (Acts 1:15-22).
4. They were continually in the temple praising and blessing God (Luke 24:53).
5. They were absolutely obedient to the command of Christ to wait for the

promise of the Father, even though it meant waiting in prayer and praise for ten days after His final words and ascension.

Christ not only instructed them to wait, but gave them the reason: for the “promise from the Father” (Acts 1:4). Acts 2:1-4 then records the fulfillment of the promise.

Christ did not instruct them to wait for salvation or the new birth, but for a gift of power to be witnesses. (Acts 1:8) As He later taught, those who were already His children should ask for His Spirit.

3. The Samaritans

In Acts 8:1-14 Philip preached Christ and saw many people converted and healed. He cast out devils and many received water baptism, yet they had not received the Holy Spirit. Peter and John later came down, laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This gives clear proof that the baptism in the Spirit was a separate experience, different from salvation. And there was clearly some time between salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:1-14 was about seven years after the day of Pentecost.

4. Paul

In Acts 9:3-14, Paul experienced a marvelous and dramatic conversion on the Damascus Road. He prayed and sought God for the next three days. Yet he did not receive the Spirit until Annanias came and prayed for him.

5. The Ephesians

In Acts 19:1-7, verse 1 says that they were “followers” (disciples). Also, it is not recorded that Paul preached the Gospel to them as though their need was conversion. But Paul asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

Clearly Paul accepted them as believers who had been baptized in the past by John's baptism. Paul's question implies that a person could be a Christian without having received the Spirit. If the Spirit automatically fell on a person when he believed, then Paul would not have asked this question.

Acts 19:1-7 took place about twenty-one years after the day of Pentecost.

B. Old Testament types show that the Holy Spirit baptism was separate from salvation:

1. The feasts

The feast of Passover is a type of the slain lamb and His death as a substitute for our death that was for our redemption. (Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:7)

The feast of Pentecost (day of first-fruits), which came 50 days later, is a type of the outpouring of the Spirit.

2. The blood and oil

Exodus 8 For Aaron and his sons to become consecrated for the service of the sanctuary they were washed, clothed in holy garments, had blood applied to their right ear, thumb, and big toe, and immediately on top of the fresh blood, holy anointing oil was placed. (God wants to fill believers when they accept the blood, not years later.) There was oil only where there was first blood.

The sprinkled blood is a type (a representation) of salvation. The anointing oil is a type of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 4:18) (Other references to this anointing are: 1 John 2:20, 27; 2 Corinthians 1:21.)

For Aaron, the oil was poured on his head as a type of Christ, our high priest receiving an abundance of the Spirit; the anointing without measure. (Psalms 133; John 3:34-35)

3. The baptism of the cloud and the sea

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 the nation of Israel experienced a type of both water and Spirit baptism. The crossing of the sea was a type of water baptism, and the cloud was a type of the baptism in the Spirit (heavenly baptism).

The New Testament links the water experience with the Spirit experience. (John 3:5; Acts 10:44-47; 1 John 5:8)

Both these experiences took place after the Passover lamb had been slain, which was a type of the blood of Christ for salvation.

God Himself was present in the cloud that guided Israel on their journey. The cloud took on two forms: by day a cloud of shade, comfort, and protection; by night, a cloud of fire giving light and warmth. Scripture calls the Spirit our "comforter" and "guide." The promised outpouring of the Spirit was said to involve "fire." (Matthew 3:11)

SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

The Pattern of the Book of Acts:

A Pentecost

Acts 2:4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them.

NIV: ...began to speak in other tongues...

KJV: ...began to speak with other tongues...

NASB: ...began to speak with other tongues...

In this verse, being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues (different languages) are clearly connected. The experience on the Day of Pentecost is the purest example of what happens when people are filled with the Holy Spirit. It was God's supreme pattern. This was the way God introduced the Holy Spirit filling into the Church.

B Samaria

Acts 8:15-19 When Peter and John arrived, they prayed that the Samaritan believers might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ These people had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, but the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them. ¹⁷ Then, when the two apostles began laying their hands on the people, they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Simon saw that the Spirit was given to people when the apostles laid their hands on them. So he offered the apostles money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands will receive the Holy Spirit."

NOTE: The word "tongues" is not mentioned in these verses. But notice that Simon saw something amazing when the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. He had already seen healings. He had already seen demons being cast out. But, he had never seen anything like what happened when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. We can only assume that he saw the same signs which occurred in the other four Pentecostal experiences in the book of Acts. To assume anything else would not be scripturally dependable.

C Paul (Saul)

Acts 9:17 So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again

and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank God that I speak in different kinds of languages more than all of you.

We know Paul spoke in tongues. It is reasonable to assume that Paul first spoke in tongues at the time he received the Holy Spirit. Other references confirm that this was God’s pattern.

D Cornelius’ household

Acts 10:44-46 While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been given even to the nations. ⁴⁶ These believers heard them speaking in different languages and praising God. ...

Again the evidence of the gift of the Holy Spirit was speaking in other tongues. The tongues were the sign to Peter and the Jews which caused them to know clearly that these Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit.

Peter did not specifically mention tongues when he reported the incident at Cornelius’ household to the Jews in Jerusalem.

Acts 11:15 When I began my speech, the Holy Spirit came on them just as he came on us at the beginning.

They understood that the baptism of the Holy Spirit and tongues were not separate. It was not necessary to mention all the details because they understood the acts of the Holy Spirit.

E. in Ephesus

Acts 19:1-2 ...Paul was visiting some places on the way to Ephesus. There he found some followers ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They said, “We have never even heard of a Holy Spirit.”

Acts 19:6 Then Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them. They began speaking different languages and prophesying.

Tongues are connected with receiving the Spirit. We must, therefore, conclude that tongues are the Scriptural evidence that a person has been filled with the Holy Spirit.

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) there was a noise like a strong blowing wind and flames of fire that stood over each person. Those signs were seen and heard at Pentecost, but did not happen again as a sign. But tongues are the sign and evidence of the baptism of the Spirit that happens again and again.

It seems that spiritual realities and experiences have natural and physical signs in our lives. For example,

- If we really have God's love in us, it shows because we have love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- The thoughts of our hearts are expressed by our words.
- True repentance is expressed by water baptism and public confession.
- Receiving the Holy Spirit is shown by speaking in tongues. It was both "seen" and "heard." (Acts 2:33; 10:45-46)

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TONGUES AS THE INITIAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT AND SPEAKING IN TONGUES AS THE "GIFT OF TONGUES"

Receiving the Holy Spirit was not called the "gift of tongues," but it was called the "gift of the Holy Spirit." That included speaking in tongues. Scripture teaches us that all believers should speak in tongues when they receive the Spirit. But Paul shows that there is also a gift of speaking in tongues among the many gifts given to the church for body ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:10, 30; 14:5, 26)

Paul taught us about our private use of tongues in prayer and praise to the Lord. He calls this praying in the Spirit and singing in the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 14:15) In other verses we learn that we should do it. For example,

Ephesians 5:18-19 Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:18 Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people.

Jude 20 But dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up, praying in the Holy Spirit.

THE PURPOSES OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said much more about the promise of the Father than is recorded in Acts 1:8. He said we would receive power to be witnesses. That was really a very broad statement. He did not give details about how it would happen. To be witnesses for Christ involves our total lives. It was really an “all inclusive” summary of the Spirit's ministry.

The purpose of believers receiving the Spirit has many parts to it, but can be summarized as receiving “power”: being power-packed witnesses on earth for the Lord. This not only involves our spoken testimony, but a quality of life which produces the visible testimony Jesus speaks of in Matthew 5:16: “be a light for other people. Live so that they will SEE the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.” Even the phrases “filled with the Spirit” or “baptized with the Spirit” are general in our understanding until we combine all the Scriptural references which teach specifically what these experiences involve.

The Scripture emphasizes this experience on a broader, more permanent and continuous scale than is usually understood. The emphasis has often been strong on the initial act of receiving the Spirit, but weak on the continuous effects it is to have on our lives. Receiving the promise of the Father and being “filled” with the Spirit speaks of the invasion of our total life and walk by the Spirit of God. It means being immersed in, or plunged into, the realm of the Spirit. By separating the first experience of being filled with the Spirit from the daily fillings with the Spirit, we cause people to stop short. By stressing the beginning of the journey and not the journey itself, we have a wrong focus, which produces a wrong emphasis in our practical lives. We must connect the beginning with the permanence. We must see how the Spirit changes every day of our lives after we are filled with the Spirit.

This is the way the Apostle Paul treated divine truths. In Romans 6, Paul taught us that being filled with the Spirit is supposed to change everything in our lives. (Romans 6:1-18) This same teaching appears over and over in his writings. In fact, one of Paul's greatest emphases throughout his writings is summarized by Galatians 5:25: “We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the Spirit.” In other words, it is not enough to start experiencing the Spirit. We must continually walk under the Spirit's influence.

The main message of the baptism of the Spirit is that its purpose is power and spiritual enablement. In the Old Testament, the anointing oil prepared each priest for priestly service. Christ received this prior to His ministry (in the dove experience at the Jordan). The oil speaks to us strongly of qualifying and empowering for ministry. No Old Testament priest dared try to minister without this enabling.

In the same way, this power from the Holy Spirit has two parts: the oil both soaked and flowed out; there is to be absorption and radiation, charge and discharge. That is, it both affects the person's inner life and produces an effect and response on the part of those to whom he ministers. It changes the person into the character of Christ, and draws

others to Christ.

We are both baptized in (submerged) and filled with the Spirit. Being filled implies that we actually contain Him. The Spirit not only surrounds us as water does when being baptized, but He fills us. He both soaks our exteriors and floods our interiors; not only waters to swim in, but waters flowing out of the belly (Ezekiel 47; John 7:38).

These are the major characteristics which the Scriptures reveal as God's purposes in giving us the "promise of the Father:"

A. To be "another Helper":

John 14:15-27 Christ spoke about sending the Spirit in connection with His going to the Father. He told His disciples that the Spirit would take His place among them. "Helper" (*parakletos*) here means "called to one's side, or aid." This word was used in a court of law, meaning a legal assistant, defendant or lawyer. It speaks of one who helps, comforts and supports.

Through the Spirit we have the ever-present ministry of Christ in our lives and in the building of His Church. (Matthew 16:18; Revelation 1:13, 20). In the person of the Spirit Christ has chosen to carry on His work through the believer.

John 14:21 Those who know my commands and obey them are the ones who love me, and my Father will love those who love me. I will love them and will show myself to them.

This shows that the Spirit is the way that Christ and the Father are shown to the believer.

B. To teach us of the things of God:

John 14:26 But the Helper will teach you everything and will cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name.

Jesus stressed three areas of knowledge which the Spirit was to reveal:

- (1) Continue teaching them all things
- (2) Bring to remembrance what Jesus had taught them
- (3) Teach them "what is to come." (John 16:13)

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 Now we did not receive the spirit of the world, but we received the Spirit that is from God so that we can know all that God has given us. ¹³ And we speak about these things, not with words taught us by human wisdom but with words taught us by the Spirit. And so we explain spiritual truths

to spiritual people.

The Holy Spirit must give us power and light up our hearts in order to understand the things of God.

John 14:17 and 16:13 call Him the “Spirit of truth.” His ministry involves illuminating truth to the minds and hearts of His people. Those believers who are not baptized in the Spirit do not realize how limited they are in spiritual understanding. The things of God cannot be received by the natural mind of a Christian any more than by the natural mind of an unbeliever. 1 Corinthians 2:13-14 shows clearly that the Holy Spirit must teach us spiritual things.

NOTE: In John 16:12-15 Jesus said that there were many things which He did not tell them because they could not then receive them, but which, when the Spirit would come to them, He would show to them. This same truth must be recognized today: you cannot persuade people concerning divine things and get them moving in present day truth before they are filled with the Spirit. That is why we have seen such a world-wide reviving of this experience; it is preparatory and preliminary to the further works of the Lord in restoration.

C. To put His laws inside our hearts:

Ezekiel 11:19-20 I will give them a desire to respect me completely, and I will put inside them a new way of thinking. I will take out the stubborn heart of stone from their bodies, and I will give them an obedient heart of flesh. ²⁰ Then they will live by my rules and obey my laws and keep them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 “Look, the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the agreement I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt. I was a husband to them, but they broke that agreement,” says the Lord. ³³ “This is the agreement I will make with the people of Israel at that time,” says the Lord: “I will put my teachings in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

The most outstanding feature of the New Covenant is receiving His Spirit to live in us. Its purpose was said to be to write His laws on our hearts and cause us to walk in His ways. This is a very important part of power to witness. In fact, this is just as necessary as the anointing to preach. It speaks of heart revolution: a complete change from simply knowing the law of God in our minds to establishing His laws and standards in our hearts. This refers to an actual change in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Having the Laws of God in our hearts means we are godly in heart and in attitude of life. It means we have been empowered to live out God's required way of life. It means "the law of the Spirit that brings life made you free from the law that brings sin and death." And that "we do not live following our sinful selves, but we live following the Spirit." Romans 8:2-4

D. It is the baptism in the Holy Spirit and "Fire"

Matthew 3:11-12 "I baptize you with water to show that your hearts and lives have changed. But there is one coming after me who is greater than I am, whose sandals I am not good enough to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² He will come ready to clean the grain, separating the good grain from the chaff. He will put the good part of the grain into his barn, but he will burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be put out."

Fire is used for many purposes, but the fire itself burns up and refines. There are areas in the believer's life which the Spirit burns up at conversion, and it is also a continuing activity in the life of the believer. Salvation involves a death as well as a birth (Romans 6:3; 7:4), and Romans 8:13 tells us we are to continue to put to death the acts of the flesh by the power of the Spirit.

E. The coming of the Helper was to prove to the world the truth about sin, righteousness and judgment through the word preached:

John 16:7-8 But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. When I go away, I will send the Helper to you. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come.⁸ When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment.

Notice, this is the ministry of the Spirit to the world. But He does His work through believers.

John 15:26-28 I will send you the Helper from the Father; he is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me,²⁷ and you also must tell people about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

We see the Spirit doing this through Peter while he preached on the day of Pentecost. It is also in other places in the book of Acts. When the apostles preached the Word, people were convicted and greatly moved by the knowledge of personal accountability before God. As the Spirit worked through the Apostles, He produced a supernatural boldness in their lives as they witnessed to the world. (Acts 4:13; 4:31; 9:29; 14:3; 19:8)

F. It brings power for the Gifts of the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 12:1-12 Now, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand about spiritual gifts. ²You know the way you lived before you were believers. You let yourselves be influenced and led away to worship idols—things that could not speak. ³So I want you to understand that no one who is speaking with the help of God's Spirit says, "Jesus be cursed." And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," without the help of the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. ⁵There are different ways to serve but the same Lord to serve. ⁶And there are different ways that God works through people but the same God. God works in all of us in everything we do. ⁷Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, for the common good. ⁸The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom, and the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And, to another, that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. ¹⁰The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy. And he gives to another the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages and to another the ability to interpret those languages. ¹¹One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things, and the Spirit decides what to give each person. ¹²A person's body is one thing, but it has many parts. Though there are many parts to a body, all those parts make only one body. Christ is like that also.

These are not just human talents. Using these gifts requires the direct activity and influence of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:7) They have to do primarily with "body ministry," or the believer's ministry in the church. They are "tools" designed to build up the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 14:12)

The gifts also enable the local church to form a spiritual body, demonstrating the complete ministry of Christ in a given area. The Body of Christ is not only designed as a body to meet the needs of its organs, but to present Christ in fullness to the community.

G. Power to manifest the Fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23 But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong.

Through the baptism of the Spirit God gives us great power from His nature to help defeat our human natures. The Church must not only demonstrate the fullness of Christ in ministry, we must also demonstrate the character of Christ. Only then is the fullness of Christ seen in His Body. It is by the Spirit and through the Spirit that we are able to take on the personality of Christ.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The general conditions necessary:

Repentance and water baptism. That involves a confession of faith in Christ as lord and a step of obedience to His lordship.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

B. The response of faith:

Galatians 3:2 Tell me this one thing: How did you receive the Holy Spirit? Did you receive the Spirit by following the law? No, you received the Spirit because you heard the Good News and believed it.

Faith is the condition upon which we receive everything from God. (Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-8) People tend to depend on senses and emotions. Therefore, if we do not feel worthy, we close off from the blessings of God.

It is very important to notice the word "gift" in Acts 2:38. God stated that it was to be a gift given, not purchased. We don't buy the gift; we simply receive it.

Repentance and the new birth prepare a person to be filled with the Spirit. You cannot earn it or get filled because of your great Christian character and maturity. We can only receive God's gifts by faith, the same way we were saved. It is this faith condition, which is the requirement for salvation, for being filled with the Spirit, for healing, to operate gifts, etc.

We don't need to "wait" for the Spirit. The believers in the early church did not teach or practice this. However, we may make a waiting period necessary through unbelief or by trying to become worthy before receiving. One of the greatest lessons we learn, however, if we do wait, is that it is unnecessary. Long waiting is not a virtue but rather a frustration to the individual as well as to the grace of God. (Galatians 2:21) The amount of time one waits will depend on his faith and obedience.

C. Those who were saved under a "partial gospel:"

For believers who were not properly taught and therefore did not receive the baptism of the Spirit at conversion (or soon after), the following instructions may become necessary:

It is essential that every believer be absolutely convinced about the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. That it is Biblical - that is that it is a valid Biblical experience and is both applicable to and necessary for our day. (This is covered in Chapters 8, 9, 14.) A person must be persuaded from Scripture that it is for him.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing the Good News, and people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.

This shows that the Word must first be given in order to have faith.

Ephesians 5:17-18 So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸ Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit.

This shows that it is not an option, rather a command to be filled with the Spirit.

2. That it is an experience separate from repentance and water baptism (and the new birth).
3. That speaking in tongues is the evidence of being filled with the Spirit.

If a person is not convinced about these things, then the foundation of God's Word is not fully laid. That, then, must be the goal. It is the sad truth that, regarding this subject, the "traditions of men" have made the Word of God of no effect for millions of believers. (Mark 7:13) It is often necessary to deal with these traditions in the light of the pure Scripture.

4. That there must be heart preparation

The next thing we should do is to prepare our heart to receive by hungering and seeking and asking for the Holy Spirit. This means we cannot take a neutral position, expecting God to seek us and sovereignly pour out His Spirit on us.

Luke 11:9-13 So I tell you, ask, and God will give to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open for you. ¹⁰ Yes, everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find. And everyone who knocks will have the door opened. ¹¹ If your children ask for a fish, which of you would give them a snake instead? ¹² Or, if your children ask for an egg, would you give them

a scorpion? ¹³ Even though you are bad, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Jesus here instructs His children to ask, seek and knock when desiring to receive the Spirit.

Matthew 5:6 They are blessed who hunger and thirst after justice, for they will be satisfied.

Here we see the same principle brought out. To receive any spiritual blessing or experience from the Lord, a person must desire it and seek after it.

One aspect of seeking could be to have the elders and other believers lay hands on a person and pray that he might be filled with the Spirit. This was done on several occasions in Scripture. (Acts 8:17; 19:6)

5. That he must then respond in faith and obedience to receive the Spirit

It is both a supernatural and natural experience; it is the moving of the Holy Spirit combined with human yielding, response and faith.

The miracle is not so much that the person is speaking as it is what he is speaking. The Spirit gave them the power to speak on the day of Pentecost, but they spoke, (Acts 2:4). The words are not a product of your own mind, rather come from your spirit. (John 7:38-39)

The truth of the co-operative action between man and God is illustrated in several places. For example:

Matthew 10:19-20 When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given the things to say. ²⁰ It will not really be you speaking but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

1 Corinthians 14:15 So what should I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

1 Corinthians 3:9 We are God's workers, working together; you are like God's farm, God's house.

It is more than thirsting, it is drinking; it is more than asking, it is actively receiving; it is not only offered as a gift, it must be taken.

Someone rightly put it this way: "Prayer is asking for rain. Faith is carrying an umbrella."

OTHER COMMENTS AND HELPS

1. Remember, we must seek the Lord, not just an experience. But we must also be willing to speak in tongues.
2. We do not need to fear receiving something evil or less than God's promise when we come to God as a born-again child, and as a hungry, honest seeker after the Spirit. (Luke 11:11-13)
3. A person should not attempt to work up his emotions or "work down" a blessing, rather yield to the Lord and relax in His presence. (This is the principle of Romans 10:6-8)
4. The principle of Psalms 22:3 should be remembered: "You sit as the Holy One. The praises of Israel are your throne." An atmosphere of worship always brings the presence of God. Therefore, we should worship God freely and without reservation. Those who refuse to open their mouths or move their hands seldom receive, because this experience has to do with the speaking. (Combine Luke 24:52-53 with Acts 2:1)
5. Once a person has been filled, speaking in tongues daily is a key to spiritual strength and growth.

Jude 20 But dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up, praying in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:4 The ones who speak in different languages are helping only themselves, but those who prophesy are helping the whole church.

1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank God that I speak in different kinds of languages more than all of you.

6. It should also be remembered that the degree of one's hunger and thirst determines the depth of his experience. (Psalms 42:1-3; Matthew 5:6)
7. There may be a period of waiting on God and seeking the infilling. This is never time wasted.

It may involve frustration, which is not to be looked upon as a sign that it is not of God or not for the seeker. One must instead look upon himself as being on the way to the proper ripeness, understanding and faith to receive. Hunger is not always a pleasant experience, but the appetite is necessary.

8. Remember that this experience is not an end, but a beginning. It is not the completion, but the start into the realms of the Spirit. It is not as much a goal as it is a door

THE PURPOSES OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT TODAY

Each of the nine gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 will be explained individually. They are not just human talents or even human abilities energized by the Holy Spirit. The gifts are direct expressions of the Holy Spirit through believers. God does use human abilities and He does energize them with His Spirit, but that is something different than the gifts of the Spirit. It is true that God equips us by matching the gifts He gives us to our personality and temperament. But the actual function of the gifts is beyond our personality and ability. The gifts of the Spirit function by the supernatural influence and operation of the Holy Spirit.

A. The purpose of the gifts:

1. "for the common good" 1 Corinthians 12:7 Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, for the common good.

That means the gifts are supposed to benefit everyone; for the good of all. God does not give gifts to an individual for his own benefit. The gifts are to benefit the body of Christ (the whole church).

1 Corinthians 14:12 It is the same with you. Since you want spiritual gifts very much, seek most of all to have the gifts that help the church grow stronger.

Ephesians 4:16 The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love.

This verse shows the responsibility of every member. Every believer is supposed to add to the growth of the body. Gifts are the tools, or the way Christ provided, so that the Church can become mature and full grown. No other means has been provided by the Lord to bring the Church to full growth and maturity.

2. To form the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27 Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body.

1 Corinthians 12 uses the analogy (comparison) of a human body. The word "body" is used 18 times in this chapter - more than all other references to the word body (where the word body refers to the Church) in the rest of the New Testament.

The Body of Christ is not just a gathering of believers. The only possible way to form a body is to have organs that properly relate to each other and function in these gifts. Even where two or three gather and Christ is there in their midst, it is not a body. The presence of the Lord alone among people

does not automatically make that gathering a body. If we insist on calling it a body, the best we can say is that it is a paralyzed and crippled one if these gifts do not function.

These nine gifts are not the only things that make up body ministry. But total body ministry is not possible without them. A church can only become what Christ wants us to be through body ministry.

Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 14 also speak about the gifts and tie in the theme of the body.

We see the pattern: when God talks about gifts, He also talks about bodies or local churches. It is not scriptural to practice the gifts without being connected to a local body of believers where there is instruction in the safety of body ministry and under proven oversight.

Gifts and supernatural signs are to be with the preaching of the Gospel to the heathen.

B. Are the gifts necessary for today?

The gifts are still needed for the edification (building up) of the Church and to help form the body of Christ. Today, we need the gifts even more than ever before. The Lord is coming back soon, and many souls must be saved before He comes.

Christ said that the supernatural gifts were by to be like certificates of qualification for the believer.

Mark 16:17-20 And those who believe will be able to do these things as proof: They will use my name to force out demons. They will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will pick up snakes and drink poison without being hurt. They will touch the sick, and the sick will be healed.” ¹⁹ After the Lord Jesus said these things to his followers, he was carried up into heaven, and he sat at the right side of God. ²⁰ The followers went everywhere in the world and told the Good News to people, and the Lord helped them. The Lord proved that the Good News they told was true by giving them power to work miracles.

Romans 15:17-20 So I am proud of what I have done for God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁸ I will not talk about anything except what Christ has done through me in leading those who are not Jews to obey God. They have obeyed God because of what I have said and done, ¹⁹ because of the power of miracles and the great things they saw, and because of the power of the Holy Spirit. I preached the Good News from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, and so I have finished that part of my work. ²⁰ I always want to preach the Good News in places where

people have never heard of Christ, because I do not want to build on the work someone else has already started.

1 Corinthians 2:4 My teaching and preaching were not with words of human wisdom that persuade people but with proof of the power that the Spirit gives.

Acts 8:6 When the people there heard Philip and saw the miracles he was doing, they all listened carefully to what he said.

Hebrew 2:4 God also testified to the truth of the message by using wonders, great signs, many kinds of miracles, and by giving people gifts through the Holy Spirit, just as he wanted.

Without the gifts, there can be no body. The gifts of the Spirit are the tools which the Lord left to build the body of Christ and they are to be used by the individual members to bring growth in the body.

A group that does not have the gifts operating is not the kind of church or body spoken of in the New Testament. There is no information given on how a church is to function unless it has the gifts of the Spirit, as listed in 1 Corinthians 12. The whole of the Apostolic Scripture was addressed to that kind of churches.

Ephesians 4:11-16 – shows we need oversight and body ministry until we (the whole Church) grow into the completeness of Christ

Acts 2:39 This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself.

C. Does each believer have all nine of the gifts?

Carefully read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and Ephesians 4:16. No one is complete all alone. We absolutely need each other. An individual is only one member or part of the Body of Christ. All together we make up the Body of Christ as a local Church. (1 Corinthians 12:27 Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body.)

God may choose to demonstrate Himself through a single individual with all nine of the gifts. Here is a list of references that speak of Paul being used through the gifts:

Gift of the word of wisdom 2 Peter 3:15

Gift of knowledge Acts 13:11

Gift of discerning of spirits Acts 16:6-18

Gift of tongues 1 Corinthians 14:18

Gift of interpretation 1 Corinthians 14:13

Gift of prophecy 1 Corinthians 14:6
Gift of faith Romans 15:18
Gift of healing Acts 14:8
Gift of miracles Acts 20:9-12

Every single believer is supposed to have at least one manifestation of the Spirit functioning in his life. 1 Corinthians 12:7

We are not supposed to be ignorant of our gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:1-6; 2 Peter 4:10

We are to truly want to have gifts that improve the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:31

Once God gives a gift, it will not be taken back. Romans 11:29

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

REVELATION GIFTS

To The ability to speak with **WISDOM**

KNOW The ability to speak with **KNOWLEDGE**

The ability to **KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN** good and evil **SPIRITS**

SPOKEN GIFTS

To The ability to **PROPHECY**

SPEAK The ability to speak in different kinds of **LANGUAGES**

The ability to **INTERPRET** those languages

POWER GIFTS

To Gifts of **HEALING**

DO The power to do **MIRACLES**

FAITH

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Scriptures make it clear that the gifts of the Spirit are the expression of the Holy Spirit. God works through people to use the gifts. We do not become a puppet, or go into a trance. We must cooperate with the Lord to express what God wants to say in the way God wants it expressed.

We need to learn how to use the gifts of the Spirit. Paul went into a lot of detail about how to use the gift of tongues, interpretation and prophecy. Those gifts involve communication to the whole body. That is why it is very important that they operate with order. When abuses occur in this area, confusion is brought to the whole body. Paul's goal was to strengthen the church body, not confuse it.

The written Word of God always has more authority than the gifts of the Spirit:

1 John 5:11 ...This is what God told us:...

Revelation 22:18, 19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to these words, God will add to that person the disasters written about in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away that one's share of the tree of life and of the holy city, which are written about in this book.

Deuteronomy 4:2 Don't add to these commands, and don't leave anything out, but obey the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is true. He guards those who come to him for safety. ⁶ Do not add to his words, or he will correct you and prove you are a liar.

The Spirit still speaks to us today, but He will never "add" to this Book anything that changes the truth of the Bible.

Ephesians 2:20 You are like a building that was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in that building,

It doesn't matter if you feel 100% sure that your spiritual revelation is a word from the Lord. If it contradicts the clear teaching of the Scripture, it is wrong.

The leaders of the church are responsible to oversee the use of the gifts of the Spirit.

The Scripture clearly teaches that God holds leaders responsible for the spiritual health and well-being of the church. Someone must stand accountable and responsible for everything that is said or done in the Church. This is the way the Lord has provided to see to it that all is done in accordance with the Scripture.

Ephesians 4:11-15 And Christ gave gifts to people—he made some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to go and tell the Good News, and some to have the work of caring for and teaching God’s people. ¹² Christ gave those gifts to prepare God’s holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger. ¹³ This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be babies. We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another. We will not be influenced by every new teaching we hear from people who are trying to fool us. They make plans and try any kind of trick to fool people into following the wrong path. ¹⁵ No! Speaking the truth with love, we will grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head.

Acts 20:28-30 Be careful for yourselves and for all the people the Holy Spirit has given to you to oversee. You must be like shepherds to the church of God, which he bought with the death of his own son. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, some people will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock. ³⁰ Also, some from your own group will rise up and twist the truth and will lead away followers after them.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and act under their authority. They are watching over you, because they are responsible for your souls. Obey them so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help you to make their work hard.

James 3:1 My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

We must obey the encouragements of the Spirit by faith. When we use the gifts of the Spirit we must allow the Holy Spirit to use us and show Himself through us. He owns us and He will use us as His instruments. We do not use the Spirit, He uses us

Any person will make mistakes; that is part of the growth process. God has arranged for this and knows they will occur. We learn the ways of the Lord through active service (not study alone).

THE GIFT OF THE ABILITY TO SPEAK WITH WISDOM

When God pours out His Spirit on people, the gifts are the ways the Spirit shows His presence. As we seek God's presence among us, we should not be surprised when He comes to us in with gifts of the Spirit.

These gifts could be called the "senses of the Church." We have five senses through which we communicate with the world around us. The Church has been given these nine spiritual senses to contact the spiritual world.

The gifts of the Spirit are just as important for the growth and protection of the Body of Christ as the five senses are to the human body. Many churches struggle along with "professional evangelism" and "professional ministers," and try to compete with the world in theatrical entertainment, etc., but real growth comes as the gifts of the Spirit work in the churches.

The Word of Wisdom defined:

This gift cannot be gained through study and experience, yet neither is it a substitute for study and experience.

The gift of the ability to speak with wisdom supernatural wisdom given by God. It is not "a" word of wisdom but "the" word of wisdom. It is not just a word on the subject or the situation at hand, it is the word on it. It is the answer or the solution or the will of God in that situation.

Natural wisdom and general wisdom in spiritual things are good and we must all try to get more of it (1 Corinthians 2:6; James 1 :5). The gift of the ability to speak with wisdom comes from the Spirit of God. It is not just a God-given ability of human wisdom.

The gift of the ability to speak with wisdom can be seen in the life of Jesus:

This gift operated in the life of the Lord Jesus Himself. Jesus amazed people by: (1) His wisdom and, (2) His mighty works. (Matthew 13:54)

Here are references which demonstrate His use of the ability to speak with wisdom:

Luke 4:3-14 When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Satan used knowledge to trap Jesus, but Jesus went beyond that and used godly wisdom which applied specifically to that knowledge.

Luke 7:22 Then Jesus answered John's followers, "Go tell John what you saw and heard here. The blind can see, the crippled can walk, and people with skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor.

John 4:9-26 When Jesus ministered to the Samaritan woman He did not side with either the Samaritans or the Judeans. That would have made people angry. Instead, He led her into a greater truth and then revealed His true identity to her.

Matthew 22:15-22 The Pharisees tried to trick Him to trap Him into breaking the law. He knew He would offend the people if He openly supported paying taxes, but if He opposed it, He would offend the Roman government. His answer was a perfect example of the ability to speak with wisdom.

How the Word of Wisdom is demonstrated:

This gift of the Spirit works in many ways for different purposes. God is a God of great variety. He has told us there are different kinds of gifts and they operate in many different ways. (1 Corinthians 12:3-5)

The gift of the ability to speak with wisdom may come in these ways:

1. By the Spirit speaking to our heart. Hearing the voice of the Spirit with our spiritual ears.

The book of Acts shows us repeatedly that God can and does speak without an audible voice. He communicates His mind directly through the Spirit. A person just suddenly knows the mind of God about something. We can't explain it, except that it comes by a spiritual communication. With it comes a supernatural faith and assurance that it is a divine word of wisdom.

Acts 16: 6-8 Paul and those with him went through the areas of Phrygia and Galatia since the Holy Spirit did not let them preach the Good News in Asia. ⁷When they came near the country of Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not let them. ⁸So they passed by Mysia and went to Troas.

Acts 20:22-24 But now I must obey the Holy Spirit and go to Jerusalem. I don't know what will happen to me there. ²³I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me. ²⁴I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God's grace.

This inner gift of wisdom also operates in dealing with people's personal problems and complex situations:

1 Kings 3: 17-28 Solomon's dealing with the two harlots is a perfect example of this. This was a direct fulfillment of what the Lord had promised Solomon. The request Solomon made was that he might have discernment and wisdom to judge the people. (1 Kings 3:9)

2 Samuel 12:1-14 Here we see that the prophet Nathan not only had supernatural knowledge, but supernatural wisdom and guidance in how to use that knowledge.

Acts 8:20-22 Peter saw Simon's heart clearly, and by the words of knowledge and wisdom, dealt with him.

Acts 23:6-10 Here Paul did something like what Christ had done in dealing with the Pharisees and Sadducees. Paul was given wisdom from the Lord to side with the Pharisees and thus cause disagreement among the people.

Only God knows the thoughts and reasons of our hearts. (Hebrews 4:12)

2. The word of wisdom often is given to leaders in counselling others. It may even operate without the person being used knowing it.

People can often hide their real problems effectively and present to a leader only what they want him to hear. Or they may be confused about what the real answer to their problem is. It often requires a Spirit given word of wisdom to make it clear.

Acts 1:15-23 While Peter and the rest of the 120 were in prayer, God spoke to Peter's heart what should be done. He did it by bringing a Scripture to Peter's mind. He used Psalms 109:8 where David was praying against his enemies.

Acts 2:14-36 The word of wisdom was also involved here in the revealing of the Old Testament Scripture to Peter.

Acts 15:13-18 Here James was given the spirit of wisdom and revelation about an Old Testament verse. It helped bring the solution to a very difficult problem in the early church.

3. The word of wisdom might come by an audible voice or by an angel.

1 Kings 19:12-18 God speaks in the still small voice to Elijah, telling him what he is to do.

Acts 8:26, 29 In verse 26, it says the angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, then verse 29 makes it clear that it was the Spirit speaking to him.

Acts 9:10-17 We see that an audible voice came to Ananias, instructing him what he was to do.

Acts 27:21-24 The angel appeared to Paul and revealed God's word concerning the situation.

4. The word of wisdom might come by dreams, vision and trances.

Acts 18:9-10 The Lord spoke to Paul in a night vision assuring him that no harm would come to him, and that there were many Godly people in Corinth.

Acts 16:9-10 The Macedonian call came to Paul in a vision at night.

Acts 22:17-21 Jesus Himself appeared to Paul, instructing him what he was to do.

Acts 10:1-6 Through a vision the Lord spoke to Cornelius, showing him what to do.

Acts 10:10-17 Peter had a vision and was instructed by God.

5. By the agreement of the Spirit among spiritual leaders

Acts 6:1-6 When they were confronted with a major problem requiring a major decision God gave a word of wisdom to the twelve which set the direction, not only for their situation, but for the Church down through history. Deacons become a permanent office and function in the Church. This is later confirmed by Paul in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Acts 15:2,4,6,22,23 It was through the ministries of many different people that a great crisis was met. It was solved by the vision of the apostle Peter, the results of the ministry of apostles Paul and Barnabas, the word of wisdom and revelation from the Old Testament to the apostle James, and the unity of the Spirit among all the apostles and elders.

6. The word of wisdom might come in connection with prophecy concerning future events and developments. This may include the unfolding of God's plans concerning nations, places, cities, or even individuals. The word of wisdom is expressed not so much in the foretelling of events as in those commands and instructions which God gives coming from His knowledge of those events. In such cases it is only as certain events develop over a period of time that the word of wisdom is fulfilled.

1 Kings 8: 1-6 There was a warning of a seven-year famine and instructions to the widow and her family to leave the country.

Daniel 5 God knew the armies were redirecting the water of the river in order to gain entrance into the city under the great secure wall which protected it, and Daniel, by a prophetic word and word of wisdom, explained God's purpose through it all.

Acts 18:10-11 Paul saw by divine wisdom and knowledge the great Corinthian

Church when it had not yet been formed.

Other observations and principles:

The word of wisdom operates with, and may include, any of the other gifts of the Spirit.

Acts 9:34 Peter operated in wisdom and healing and knowledge (probably miracles and faith also).

Acts 18:8-12 Paul, when in a complicated situation, was given a word of wisdom as to how to handle it. It was accompanied by a word of knowledge, faith, miracles and prophecy.

Acts 14:9 Paul was given wisdom or divine understanding into what God wanted done in this man's life. It was accompanied by at least the gifts of faith, miracles, and knowledge.

Acts 16:16-18 After some time, the Lord directed Paul with a gift of divine wisdom for this occasion. It was also accompanied by faith, knowledge and knowing the difference between good and evil spirits.

Acts 16:25-31 Paul and Silas did not automatically make a break for freedom, rather, God directed them with a timely word of wisdom to lead this jailer and his family to the Lord .

The power and the place of the Word of Wisdom:

It is the first gift mentioned and is needed in the operation of all of the other gifts.

Ephesians 1:17 asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know him better.

Wisdom is connected with a deep intimate knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9 Because of this, since the day we heard about you, we have continued praying for you, asking God that you will know fully what he wants. We pray that you will also have great wisdom and understanding in spiritual things

2 Peter 3:15 Remember that we are saved because our Lord is patient. Our dear brother Paul told you the same thing when he wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

Proverbs 8:22-30 gives Christ His rightful place with regard to the subject of divine wisdom He is the wisdom of God personified and embodied.

Wisdom itself is the ability to apply the knowledge we have and the experiences we have. It involves dealing with things on a practical, working level, not just study and investigation. Knowledge is the raw material; wisdom is needed to build with it.

In Proverbs 2:10, wisdom relates to the heart. (1 Kings 10:24)