

# THE BASICS AND DYNAMICS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING



## SECTION THREE

### Getting Acquainted With The Holy Spirit



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

### THE PROMISE

- **Joel 2:28, 29**

*"It will come about after this, that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."*

- **John 14:16-18, 26; Acts 1:4-5, 8**

### THE PROMISE FULFILLED!

- **Acts 2:1-4 (NASB)**

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."*

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

#### 1. The Holy Spirit is part of the Holy Trinity with the Father and Son.

Although the word Trinity is not mentioned in the Bible, we know God is three in one. There are three very distinct Persons that make up the Godhead – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are all equal in nature, character, truth and essence, in that they are all GOD.

- **Matthew 28:19**

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

Most Christians today recognize Jesus the Son, and God the Father as two very distinct Persons within the Godhead. However, there is often much confusion over the identity of the Holy Spirit. There are several scriptural references, where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all mentioned within one verse, that show that the Three coexist within the Trinity.

- **Matthew 3:16-17**

#### 2. The Holy Spirit was in existence long before the day of Pentecost

The Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters and was the active agent in creation.

- **Genesis 1:1,2**

*"In the beginning God (Elohiym) created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters". (Elohiym is the plural form of God.)*

The Holy Spirit played a role in the creation of man and woman

▪ **Genesis 1:26, 27**

*"God (Elohiym) said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. So God (Elohiym) created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

- 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10, Daniel 4:8,9

### **3. The Holy Spirit is a Person**

Many people have thought of the Holy Spirit more as a thing, force or spirit, than a Person. For some, He is the 'Holy Ghost,' (literally speaking) and as such an 'apparition.' The truth is that the Holy Spirit is a Person Who would very much like a relationship with us, just as the Father and Son.

- These qualities of the Holy Spirit are only found in a person and not in a thing or force
  - a. The Holy Spirit has intellect – 1 Corinthians 2:10
  - b. The Holy Spirit has knowledge – 1 Corinthians 2:11
  - c. The Holy Spirit has emotions – Ephesians 4:30
  - d. The Holy Spirit has His own will and He makes decisions – Acts 16:6
  - e. The Holy Spirit loves – Romans 15:30
- There are also some things only a person would do, which a force or thing would not:
  - a. The Holy Spirit speaks – 1 Timothy 4:1-2
  - b. The Holy Spirit teaches you things about God and yourself – John 14:26
  - c. The Holy Spirit tells the truth – John 15:26
  - d. The Holy Spirit guides – John 16:13
  - e. The Holy Spirit convinces and convicts – John 16:8
  - f. The Holy Spirit prays for you – Romans 8:26-27
  - g. The Holy Spirit commands – Acts 13:2
  - h. The Holy Spirit gives birth – John 3:5-8

### **4. The Holy Spirit is the Breathe (Life) of God**

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was referred to as the "*ruwach*", which literally means '*Wind*', the wind associated with a '*breathe*'

- Ezekiel 37:8-10 – Reference is made to Him in the story of Ezekiel and the valley of dry bones
- In the New Testament the Greek word 'pneuma' was used, which means the '*Breathe*' or a '*Breeze*'. Hence we can literally think of the Holy Spirit as the "*Breathe of God!*"

### **SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

These are some of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, which are also essential traits of God the Father and God the Son

**1. He is Omnipotent** – All powerful. (Ephesians 1:19-20)

▪ **Luke 1:35**

*“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.”*

**2. He is Omnipresent** – At all places at once.

▪ **Psalms 139:7**

*“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me...”*

**3. He is Omniscient** – All knowing – He knows everything.

▪ **1 Corinthians 2:10**

*“Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit, for the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny]..”*

**4. He is Eternal** – Everlasting, Never-ending Timeless

▪ **Hebrews 9:14**

*“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

**5. He is God**

▪ **Acts 5:3-4**

*“But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not your own? and after it was sold, was it not in your own power? why have you conceived this thing in your heart? you have not lied unto men, but unto God.*

**The Holy Spirit was part of all things, from the very beginning of scripture to the very end of scripture**

## THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

▪ **John 14:26**

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

▪ **Acts 1:8**

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

### The Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments

The way Holy Spirit operates in the New Testament is different from how He operated in the Old Testament. Generally speaking, the Holy Spirit was not as active among God's people in the Old Testament as He is in the New Testament.

There are several major contrasts between the Old Covenant and New Covenant work of the Holy Spirit:

1. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was *with* rather than *in* God's people. The Holy Spirit "came upon" or "filled" specific people to help them fulfil an assignment from God. For example, the Holy Spirit came upon:
  - Judges and kings to give them dynamic leadership – Judges 14:6; 1 Sam. 16:13
  - Prophets to enable them to communicate God's Word – 2 Pet. 1:21; Micah 3:8
  - Those who built the Tabernacle to construct it accurately – Exodus 31:3
2. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit's involvement was selective, not universal. Not all Old Testament believers received the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Rather, it was reserved for those in leadership positions and specially chosen by God. In the New Testament, all believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and receive His other ministries.
3. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit's involvement was *temporary*, not *permanent*. Whereas in the New Testament, His involvement is for the lifetime of the believer.

▪ **Joel 2:28-29**

*"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."*

### THE ROLE OF HOLY SPIRIT

▪ **John 14:16 (AMP)**

*"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever--Is called the Comforter"*

1. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment – *John 16:8*.

Without this special work of the Holy Spirit people would not be deeply convinced of their sinfulness, God's righteousness or the need for repentance. When sharing the gospel, we may quote the Word of God but it is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction.

2. The Holy Spirit regenerates us

- **John 3:5-6**

Jesus answered, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

At the time of salvation, the Holy Spirit causes the spirit of a person to be born anew in the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- **Titus 3:5**

*"...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."*

The human spirit, once dead in sin, is regenerated or made completely new, in the image Christ by the power and working of the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to be born of the Spirit or "born from above"

3. The Holy Spirit affirms us as children (Sons) of God – *Galatians 4:6-7*

- **Galatians 4:6-7**

*And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father! Therefore, you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son; and if a son, then [it follows that you are] an heir by the aid of God, through Christ."*

When we have been born again (from above), the Holy Spirit affirms us as sons of God, just as He affirmed Jesus on the day He was baptised. He descended on Jesus and declared Him the Son of God.

*"This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I Am well pleased..."* – Matthew 3:16-17

In the same way, the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Our status and position as sons of God is what gives us the confidence to approach Father God in prayer. If we are children of God, we can call on Him as our Father. We also become heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus. – *Romans 8:15-17*

4. The Holy Spirit helps us live free from sin, guilt and condemnation.

- **Romans 8:1-2**

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."*

5. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth – *John 16:13*

▪ **John 14:26**

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

The Bible states that God's Spirit will lead us to a deeper understanding of truth. If we allow ourselves to be guided by Him, He shows us truths from the scripture that we need to know and understand.

As the author of the Bible, the Holy Spirit is best qualified to interpret it to us. He will show us many things both directly from the Word but also through other means. The Holy Spirit never guides us in any way contrary to scripture, which is the word of God. (*2 Timothy 3:16*)

6. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ – *John 16:14*

The Holy Spirit always works to bring glory and honour to Jesus Christ. He does not seek His own glory, but the glory of Jesus. He does this by revealing who Jesus is to us and through us so that all may praise Jesus.

The bible tells us that no one can call Jesus Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. – *1 Corinthians 12:3*. This is one way in which we can discern if something is of the Holy Spirit. Is it glorifying Christ and revealing His Lordship? If not, we must question it.

7. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ in and through us. – *John 16:14,15*;

Jesus said, *"He will take of what is mine and declare it to you"*. It is the Holy Spirit who communicates to our souls the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He is like. He reveals Christ to the believer through the word of God. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus real to people, by bringing the resources and reality of Jesus to them.

▪ **Colossians 1:26-27**

*“The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

At the same time the Holy Spirit works to form the nature of Christ in us. He works in us to make us more Christ-like. As we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, and are led by Him daily, our nature is transformed into the nature of the Son of God till Christ is revealed in us. – *Ephesians 3:16-17; Ephesians 5:1; Romans 8:11; Luke 11:36*

8. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us.

Working together with the word of God in our minds, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us. This means He sets us apart for God, cleanses us and puts us in order so that we can more truly show forth the love of God and the nature of Jesus. Holiness is the work of the Spirit.

It is not a work based on self- effort or "trying harder". Our part is to believe God's word, and to yield to the leadings of the Spirit. This process of sanctification occurs mainly in the soul - the mind, the will and the emotions. How much we yield to the Holy Spirit determines how much and how quickly we exhibit the mind and nature of Christ

9. The Holy Spirit leads us – *Romans 8:14*

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the [mature] sons of God."*

The only way to Christian maturity is to be led by the Spirit.

It is not following a path we have made for ourselves or living by our own understanding of God's word that will make us mature Christians. It is following the leading of the Spirit that produces maturity in us. Maturity is more than knowledge; it is fruit that comes from relationship with the Spirit of God.

10. The Holy Spirit produces in us the fruit of the Spirit – *Galatians 5:22,23*

As part of our sanctification, the Holy Spirit produces in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self- control. These characteristics, known as the fruit of the Spirit, are formed in us by continual yielding to the Spirit of God.

The fruit of the Spirit are discussed in more detail later.

11. The Holy Spirit empowers us

▪ **Acts 1:8**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

▪ *1 Corinthians 2:4, 1 Corinthians 4:20*

This power of the Spirit is often referred to as "the anointing". It is the anointing which enables us to do what Christ wants us to do as sons of God. And that is, to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8b).

There are many kinds of demonstrations of the power of the Spirit. (*Matt 10:1; Mark 16:17,18; John 14:12*).

12. The Holy Spirit teaches us to pray – *Romans 8:26,27; 1 Corinthians 14:15*

The Spirit of God knows what we should pray for and how. That is why we must let Him help us pray.

One way in which He helps us pray is through the special prayer language He gives us when we are baptised in the Spirit. Also, by inspiring our minds with the prayers that get results. Another way is through the deep groanings of intercession He produces in us.

13. The Holy Spirit equips us for service by giving each and everyone of us special supernatural gifts – *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*

These gifts are given as the Spirit decides. They are useful in evangelism and in every part of Christian ministry. In neglecting them, the church has neglected an important God-ordained means for building God's kingdom on earth.

The gifts of the Spirit are discussed in more detail later.

14. The Holy Spirit is the seal and guarantee of all God's promises to us, including eternal life.

▪ **Ephesians 1:13b-14**

*"...You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*

A guarantee is a formal assurance (typically in writing) that certain conditions will be fulfilled. It is a promise or pledge that something will be performed in a specified manner. A guarantee assures a particular outcome or condition.

The Holy Spirit is the Guarantee of our inheritance in Christ Jesus, until the day of full manifestation and possession. God sent His Holy Spirit to us as a formal assurance, promise and pledge that He will fulfil all the He has promised us in Christ Jesus!

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

*Many seek the Gifts of the Spirit without first acquiring the Fruit in their lives.*

*We must have the Fruit of the Spirit at work in us for the Gifts of the Spirit to manifest and operate effectively in our lives.*

### The Character of God

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of God, which the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, if He is in control of our lives, develops and exhibits in us.

The Holy Spirit works in us, through the word, to form the nature of Christ in us, and as we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, our nature is changed into His and the character of God is formed in us. When Moses asked God to show him His glory (nature, essence and substance), the Lord passed before him and proclaimed,

▪ **Exodus 34:6-7**

*"The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."*

The same nature and characteristics were found in Jesus when He lived and walked on the earth. If we have been regenerated and Jesus lives in us, then we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to form this in us.

### A Tree is Known By Its Fruit

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit as "the fruition of God's work in us." They are the visible attributes of a true Christian life; the manifestation of the nature and character of Christ in us.

- The fruit of the Spirit is a physical manifestation of a Christian's transformed life. It is essential that we allow the Holy Spirit to have His way in our lives and continue the work of transformation in us and making us more like Christ.
- In order to mature as believers, we must study and understand the nine attributes of the Holy Spirit's fruit and co-operate with Him to perfect them in us.
- Unfortunately, nowadays, there is not much emphasis on developing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and learning to live and walk in Him rather than in the flesh. This is a real tragedy, as scripture clearly states that whatever fruit we bear represents the type of 'tree' we are. If we are of Christ, then we must 'look,' 'sound,' 'smell' and be like Him.

▪ **Matthew 7:16-23 (AMP)**

*"You will fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration], but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit. A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration]. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire. Therefore, you **will fully know them by their fruits.***

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

### **1. Love:** Greek 'Agape' – unconditional love.

This is the kind of love Jesus Christ demonstrated to us and wants to demonstrate to the world through us. Just in case we are not sure what "agape," unconditional love is describes below:

- **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails".*

- **1 John 4:16**

*"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him."*

We can love unconditionally through Jesus Christ.

### **2. Joy:** Greek "Chara" – gladness, joy

This type of joy is not happiness, since happiness depends on what is happening around us. Pure joy is a 'bubbling' within, irrespective of circumstance and experience.

- **Philippians 4:4** – *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*

Joy produces strength which sustains us through life's trials and testing. We can never do this without the Holy Spirit's help, as He fills us and overflows with the joy of God in our hearts.

- **Nehemiah 8:10** – *"The joy of the Lord is your strength"*

- **Hebrews 12:2**

*"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

- **James 1:2; Isaiah 12:2-3**

### **3. Peace:** Greek "Eirene"

This type of peace is a state of tranquility; that is, harmony with others, security, safety, assurance (of right standing with God). This is also not determined by circumstance and sometimes does not even make sense (Philippians 4:7)

- **Romans 15:13**

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"*

- **Philippians 4:6-7**

▪ **Philippians 4:7 (AMP)**

*"...And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

**4. Patience/Longsuffering:** Greek "makrothymia" –

To be patient and longsuffering is to possess an even temper, forbearance steadfastness, perseverance and endurance. To be patient or longsuffering is to be forbearing and to be 'slow' to retaliate, respond to or avenge wrongs. It is not always easy to be patient or longsuffering towards others, but the Holy Spirit helps us and works this in us.

▪ **Colossians 1:11**

*"...Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness"*

▪ **Ephesians 4:1-6**

*"...Beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

**5. Kindness:** Greek "Chrestotes"

Kindness is moral goodness, compassion, integrity, benevolence, kindheartedness. Kindness is an attitude and a state of mind and heart to do good and to show compassion.

We should live in purity, understanding, patience and kindness, in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love... (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

▪ **Ephesians 4:30-32**

*"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption... Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you"*

**6. Goodness:** Greek "agathosune"

Goodness means, generosity, uprightness of heart and righteousness, decency, benevolence and being good. God is good and so the Holy Spirit enables us to exhibit the goodness of God to others

▪ **Acts 10:38**

*"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good... for God was with Him."*

▪ **Ephesians 5:9**

*"For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth."*

**7. Faithful:** Greek *"pistis"*

Faithfulness begins with faith, a belief and an assurance and conviction that God exists and loves us. This assurance and conviction is the foundation of our walk with God, and is what keeps us committed, consistent and true to our Lord Jesus Christ. God always rewards faithfulness

- **Proverbs 28:20** – *"A faithful man will abound with blessings"*

In being faithful, you develop the character of a person God can rely on. The Holy Spirit helps you to remain steadfast and constant despite the challenges and trials of our walk and faith. Hebrews 11 records a list of people who remained faithful to God.

- **Revelation 2:10**

*"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation.... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*

**8. Meekness:** Greek *"praotes"* – meekness, mildness, humility, tenderness.

Meekness is often seen as a weakness, in our aggressive self-centred world. Meekness here means gentleness, mildness, humility, tenderness. It is a quality which Jesus told us is required if we are to inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Meekness is seen in how we express ourselves towards others. It is not a wishy-washy, unassertive attitude, but rather, an unwillingness to use our power and authority to elevate ourselves, or our strength and position to undermine, wound or frighten others.

- **Galatians 6:1**

*"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"*

- **Ephesians 4:2**

*"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love"*

**9. Temperance:** Greek *"egkrateia"* – self-control, self-restraint

A temperate person is one who is able to master his desires and passions, especially, his sensual appetites. Temperance means self-control, self-restraint and continence

- **2 Peter 1:5-7**

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love"*

Self control is essential if we are to overcome the flesh and lead the victorious Christian life. The Holy Spirit helps us develop this.

### **The Works of the Flesh**

If we don't live and walk in the Spirit, we will not develop the fruit of the Spirit and grow to maturity. On the contrary, we will exhibit the 'works of the flesh, which are detailed below:

▪ **Galatians 5:16-21**

*"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

We must, therefore, endeavour to live and walk by the Spirit so that His fruit will be borne in us. We will display the character and nature of Jesus and bring glory to His Name.

**If you are not led by the Holy Spirit, who or what is leading you?**

**Finally...**

**Ephesians 3:16-19 (Amplified Bible)**

*"May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality]. May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love, that you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it]; [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!"*

## **THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Many seek the Gifts of the Spirit without first acquiring the Fruit of the Spirit in their lives. We must have the Fruit of the Spirit at work in us for the Gifts of the Spirit to manifest and operate effectively in our lives.*

### **Equipped For Service**

One of the awesome and dynamic roles of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life is to equip him/her for service. He does this by giving special supernatural gifts that help us in our worship, walk and work.

1. The gifts are given as the Spirit decides.
2. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit
3. The gifts work and operate in different ways but the same God works all of them in all Believers.
4. The manifestation of each gift of the Spirit is given for the common good of the entire Body of Christ, the Church.
5. The gifts are useful in evangelism and in every part of Christian ministry.
6. In neglecting them, the church neglects an important God-ordained means for building God's kingdom on earth.

### **THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The bible describes nine spiritual gifts, given by the Holy Spirit to Believers

#### **▪ Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-27**

#### **1. Word of Wisdom**

The gift of Word of Wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in any particular situation. People with this gift receive insight into how knowledge may best be applied to specific needs and issues arising in the body of Christ.

- A word of wisdom supernaturally discloses the mind, purpose, way and will of God, in a particular situation. It is knowledge, supernaturally and divinely given and applied to produce results that edify and build.
- This Spirit-given wisdom provides the best solution for an issue, a conflict or a problem. It gives the best and most effective answer to a difficult question, the best way to act, or respond, in a problematic situation. It also gives the ability to apply practical knowledge in a very direct way.

Examples:

1. **Read:** Matthew 10:19-20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11-12
2. James's speech at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:8-21
3. The story of King Solomon and the two women whose babies died (1 Kings 3:16-28).

## **2. Word of Knowledge**

A word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation about a specific thing and often has to do with an immediate need. By the Holy Spirit, people with this gift supernaturally receive information of certain facts that only God could know about a given situation.

- Word of knowledge reveals information about both the past and present. It does not refer to natural knowledge that was gained through learning and experience. It is knowledge that could only be known by divine inspiration.
- These utterances have usually to do with human matters or problems, and are true and factual. The word of knowledge reveals the sovereignty and providence of God in a situation or a person's life.
- **Read: Isaiah 11:2**

Examples:

1. Jesus meeting Nathaniel – John 1:45-48
  2. Peter displayed this gift in the story of Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-4)
  3. The story of Elisha and the king of Syria. Whenever he planned to go to war against Israel, Elisha would receive a word of knowledge from the Lord and warn the king of Israel. This frustrated the king of Syria – *2 Kings 6:8-12* (2 Kings 6:8-12)
- **Read: 2 Chronicles 1:10-13; Dan 5:12; Colossians 2:3**

## **3. Gift of Faith**

- The Gift of Faith is different from the normal faith of the believer.

The Gift of Faith is the grace God gives to an individual to exercise extraordinary confidence in His word, will and purposes. It is the ability to act on God's promises with confidence and unwavering belief in His ability to fulfil them. People with this gift, in a given situation, display a strong, supernatural belief, conviction or certainty, not reached by human reasoning or feelings. This type of faith causes things to happen and God is glorified.

- This gift is a special release of supernatural faith for a miracle or for the impossible to be made possible. Those who possess it believe God is such a way that God honours their word as His own and miraculously brings it to pass.

- This kind of faith knows that with God all things are possible and that everything is possible for him that believes. This faith knows no doubt that the thing that is declared or prophesied, will be manifested.
- There are many instances in the Bible in which we see the gift of faith in operation. The gift of faith is often accompanied by the gifts of healings and the working of miracles.

Examples:

1. Mary exercised this gift when she responded *"Be it done unto me according to your word."* – Luke 1:26-38
2. Examples of people with the gift of faith are listed in Hebrews 11
3. Read: 1 Kings 17:1-7 (Elijah declared that there would be no rain); 1 Kings 17:7-16 (Elijah and the widow of Zarephath); Acts 3

#### **4. Gifts of Healings**

This is the supernatural ability to supernaturally heal diverse kinds of diseases and infirmities without natural means of any sort. They are healings that God performs supernaturally through the believer who possesses the gift. People who operate the gifts of healings have the supernatural ability to perform diverse kinds of healings.

- The gift of healings operate in diverse ways including the blind seeing, deaf hearing, lame walking, mute speaking and new limbs and organs growing.

Examples:

1. Jesus healed the sick - John 9:1-7; Luke 5:17-26
2. Peter healed many, and even his shadow healed the sick - Acts 5:14-16; Acts 3:1-16
3. Paul - Acts 19:11-12; Acts 28:7-9

#### **5. Gift of Discernment of Spirits**

This is the ability to detect the true spirit – divine, demonic or human – behind the acts and manifestations taking place around us. It is an ability, given by the Holy Spirit, to discern the hidden source of spiritual power through which a person is thinking, speaking or/and acting. This gift exposes or reveals if a person is either acting out off his own spirit or through a demonic/evil spirit or through the Spirit of God.

- People with the gift of discernment of spirits are given supernatural insight into the spirit realm by the Holy Spirit. By the operation of this gift, we know the true source and nature of any supernatural manifestation, whether divine, human or satanic.

- The gift of discerning of spirits can also help us to deepen our perception of the workings of the true Spirit of God. We need this gift now, more than ever, as deception is rife, especially in the area of the prophetic.

Examples:

1. Peter and Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-4
  2. Paul's encounter with the slave woman with the spirit of divination in Acts 16:16-19. She had been following them crying out, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." Paul discerned the spirit in operation and cast it out.
- **1 John 4:1-3** – *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that[a] Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."*

## **6. Working of Miracles**

The working of miracles is a manifestation of divine power to perform something that could not be done naturally. It operates by the dynamic force of the Holy Spirit against natural laws.

- A miracle is a sovereign act of the Spirit of God that works, irrespective of and against natural laws or orders. It is a supernatural intervention in the course of nature.
- People with the gift of miracles manifest exceptional powers, and in the Name of Jesus, perform things that cannot be ascribed to human power, strength, wisdom, intelligence, ability or performance.
- The purpose of this gift is to intervene in a natural process or condition, in order to show the supernatural power and might of God. The bible is packed with records and stories of miracles, which demonstrate the power and mercy of God. Jesus Himself worked many, many miracles.

Example:

- **Read:** Luke 5:1-11 – "Throw your net into the deep." John 2:1-11 – Turning water into wine.
- Peter raises Dorcas from the dead – Acts 9:36-42
- Paul - Acts 19:11; Acts 28:3-6

## **7. Gift of Prophecy**

To prophesy is to 'communicate a divine revelation or truth,' or 'communicate something that is hidden', or 'predict some future event.' The Hebrew word for prophecy - 'Naba' – originally means 'to bubble up' or 'let words flow in abundance,' or 'singing and speaking under divine inspiration,' and 'speaking as a madman.'

- The gift of prophecy, therefore, is the God-given ability to reveal and receive truth, and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner to bring understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. It is a sudden Spirit inspired insight that brings exhortation to the body of Christ.
- Joel prophesied that in the last days, this gift will be available to all believers, as part of the manifestation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy is divinely inspired utterance in a known tongue, and often operates in conjunction with words of wisdom and/or knowledge. This gift is different from the gift of word of knowledge. However, it can be combined with the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and discernment.

- The purpose of prophecy in the New Testament Church – 1 Corinthians 14:3
  - Edify (build up) the believers
  - Exhort the believers
  - Comfort/encourage the believers
- This is the gift that Paul encourages all believers to desire to have - 1 Corinthians 14:1
- Prophetic utterances must be evaluated and judged by other believers and must be in line with scripture – (1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 29-33 )

### Examples:

1. Jesus prophesied the end in Matthew 24
2. Philip had 4 daughters who prophesied - Acts 11:27-30
3. Various examples in the book of Acts

## **8. Different Kinds of Tongues**

This is praying, speaking, uttering or singing in either a supernatural/heavenly language which has a specific message associated with it, or an earthly language that is unfamiliar to the speaker. The gift of different kinds of tongues operates in two ways:

1. As a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in an heavenly language which no human mind can interpret, except by the Spirit. When this gift manifests as a prophetic utterance in a corporate gathering, it must be accompanied by the gift of interpretation of tongues for it to benefit the church.

2. As a supernatural utterance of an earthly language never learned by the speaker and not understood by the mind of the speaker. The hearer, however, understands what is being said because it is in their language, marvels at this and praises God.

Speaking in unknown tongues, combined with the gift of interpretation can be a powerful sign to an unbeliever that God is present and speaking to him – 1 Corinthians 14:22-25

Example: On the day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in diverse tongues – Acts 2:1-13

## **9. Interpretation of tongues**

This gift is connected to the gift of speaking in tongues. Speaking in unknown tongues is usually not understood by those present, except by the Spirit. However, the interpretation brings understanding.

It is the interpretation of the message of tongues so that a heavenly message may be given and understood by the hearers. People with the gift of interpretation, by the Holy Spirit, can supernaturally give the meaning of an utterance in other tongues. This interpretation is not an operation of the mind of the interpreter but the mind of the Spirit of God

## **How do I Operate or Manifest the Gifts?**

**1 Corinthians 14:1** - *“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy”*

1. Follow the way of love - let this be a lifestyle. Love and compassion towards others are a catalyst for the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. Love personifies the entire fruit of the Spirit and demonstrates the presence of Jesus in our lives. All our desires and actions must be motivated by love for God and neighbour. The gifts will be activated if our desires are motivated by love.
2. Have a desire for the gifts of the Spirit, and just pray and ask God! The bible says, “Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.” Therefore, ask God to stir up His gifts in you.
3. Cultivate a lifestyle of prayer, worship and studying the word and living in obedience to God's word.
4. Trust God to decide which gift to endow you with, but desire especially to prophecy, like Paul instructed.
5. Since the gifts are for the Church in service, it is important that you actively engage in the assignment Jesus gave us in the Great Commission. Share the Gospel with others, serve in your local church and beyond, pray and intercede for others as instructed in 1 Timothy 2:1-3. The gifts will manifest as you serve the Lord.

6. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead and direct you, and when He does be obedient to Him. Obedience is another important key.
7. Exercise faith. Step out in faith and obedience to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit. Without faith we cannot receive anything from God.
8. It takes time to gain confidence, so, keep 'practicing' and stepping out in faith. If you step out and there is no manifestation, praise God, keep praying and wait for the next opportunity. If you make a mistake, take it to the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the right way.
9. Humility - remain humble, especially if you are graced with the power gifts. Remember that it is God who is working in and through you, to bring glory to none other than Himself.
10. Make yourself accountable to others, especially those who have spiritual oversight of you. Accept correction, especially, if given in line with the scriptures.
11. Give honour to the Holy Spirit in all that you do. Do not grieve Him, but honour and revere Him. He is God and He is Holy!
12. Give God ALL the glory. Thank Him! Praise Him.

### **Principles for Manifesting and Operating the Gift**

1. The Holy Spirit maintains the right and power to choose which gift to bestow on which believer. However, the gifts are for the whole Body of Christ and must benefit all.
2. The believer is a steward of the spiritual gifts which he/she has been given, and must operate in it responsibly.
3. Preserve the integrity of the gift(s). As believers, we have a responsibility to walk holy and humbly before the Lord, maintaining an intimate fellowship with Him in prayer, worship and the word, and giving Him the glory. This is what preserves the integrity of the gifts we have been endowed with.
4. In manifesting the gifts of the Spirit, the Word of God must be the standard by which we judge all things, including our prophetic utterances. As the saying goes, the best way to judge how crooked a thing is to put it next to a straight line. The Word of God is that 'straight line' in EVERY aspect of our walk with God. To avoid error and deception, stay close to the word. Judge all things by the Word. The Holy Spirit, our Teacher, will help, lead and guide. Amen!
5. All manifestations of the gifts are subject to evaluation by the body of believers.

## THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

▪ **Joel 2:28-29 (AMP)**

*"And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Even upon the menservants and upon the maidservants in those days will I pour out My Spirit."*

There has been much debate and discussion regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are several schools of thought:

1. Believers only receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion (at the time of the new birth).
2. Believers receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a separate and different experience from conversion.
3. The issue of speaking in tongues as a manifestation of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is another topic which has been debated upon by theologians for many years

### RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

However, receiving the Holy Spirit upon conversion and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two separate and distinct experiences.

The disciples received the Holy Spirit on the day of Christ's resurrection. At that moment the disciples passed from Old Testament to New Testament Salvation.

▪ **John 20:21,22**

*"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"*

- After this experience, on the day of His ascension, Jesus told His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit, Who would baptize them with power.
- We receive the Holy Spirit when we go through the New Testament experience of salvation, that is, when we acknowledge, believe and receive Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Who came and lived on earth, died on the Cross for us and resurrected and ascended back to heaven and is seated on God's right hand. (See Section One)

### BEING BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is a different experience. After repenting and receiving Christ as Saviour, you become eligible to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It can, however happen on the same day as your conversion.

- Several weeks after Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on His disciples, they experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room.

- Just before He left for heaven, Jesus promised His disciples that they would have this encounter. He emphasized the importance of this experience by commanding them to wait for it before stepping out. Jesus also gave them the purpose for being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- **Acts 1:4,5**

*"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which, He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

- **Acts 1:8**

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"*

Below are several different instances when believers received the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a separate experience from salvation

### **The Upper Room Experience**

The disciples of Jesus – a total of 120 men and women – waited in the Upper Room for 40 days in prayer and supplication, for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. – *Acts 1:14*

- **Acts 2:1-4**

*"Then the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

- Peter denied Christ three times before receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but on the day of Pentecost he had power and boldness to preach to the multitudes and 3000 were born again.
- Jews, who had come to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, heard the 120 speaking, declaring the wonders of God in their own national languages. Others could not understand them and said they were drunk.

### **Philip in Samaria**

Due to persecution, Philip, the deacon, went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. Multitudes responded to what they heard and because of the miracles Philip did, and gave their lives to the Lord.

- **Acts 8:14-17**

*"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only*

*been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."*

In this narrative, we see that receiving the Holy Spirit at conversion and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two distinct experiences.

### **Paul's Conversion**

- Acts 9:3-6 narrates the story of Paul's conversion, when he received Jesus on the road to Damascus.
- However, he did not receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit till three days later when Ananias laid hands on him.
- Acts 9:9, 17-18

### **WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a term used to describe a movement of the Spirit upon and within a believer usually sometime after the person is saved. It is an experience a believer encounters, when the Holy Spirit comes upon and fills them.

Greek: "*baptizō*"

- To dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
- To cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
- To overwhelm (overpower)

When we are baptized into the Holy Spirit, not only does He fill us, but also we are immersed into Him and soaked in Him.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from Jesus Christ to the church, to empower and enable them to effectively do the work He committed into their hands

- **Luke 3:16**

*"John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"*

### **Manifestations of the Holy Spirit**

There are several manifestations when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

1. Speaking in tongues
2. Demonstrating the Power of God

3. Boldness to preach the gospel
4. Signs and wonders following the preaching of the gospel

**How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

1. You must be born-again
2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift received by faith.
3. All you need to do is to ask, but you must receive by faith.
4. Begin to pray with an expectant heart
5. Do not worry if nothing seems to happen at first, keep praying, keep worshipping and keep expecting.
6. You may ask your pastor or another mature Christian to pray with/for you.