

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

By Tom Stephens

Part One: Introduction to Tongues

(Emphasis of any sort are mine—KJV)

Any discussion of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit must of necessity begin with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit even though it is an experience totally distinct from the gifts. One of the gifts, divers kinds of tongues, can only be in operation in someone who has already been Baptized in the Holy Spirit. The other gifts do not require speaking in tongues, yet it would seem the power which comes with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit would certainly enhance the operation of the other gifts. So we shall begin this teaching with that wonderful experience.

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that 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: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28-29).

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Mark 16: 16-18).

“Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then, Apostle Peter said to them, ***Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as our Lord God shall call*** (Acts 2: 37-39).

How can anyone believe the lie that these promises are no longer relevant? Jesus said through His servant Peter, that these things would take place among your children and all who believe—***For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as our Lord God shall call.***

The truth is that many will miss Heaven simply because they have listened to those who are in unbelief.

Joel predicted a day when God would pour out His Spirit on *all those who “call on the name of the Lord”* (Joel 2: 32). Peter quoted this passage on the day of Pentecost, explaining that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on that day was the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2: 14-21). This prophecy is an ongoing promise to *all* (every individual) ***who will accept Christ as Lord and Savior; for all believers should be filled with the Holy Spirit—even until Jesus meets His Church in the air*** (Acts 2:38-39; 10:44-48; **11:15-18**).

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life” (Acts **11: 15-18**).

So spoke the Apostle Peter when he was explaining to the Council at Jerusalem about his preaching to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit baptism which accompanied it.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit involves a noticeable transformation in the individual from inside out, including an expression of joy, and Spirit-inspired praises ***in tongues*** (language not understood by speaker). *Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy*: Joel envisions one of the main results of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be the impartation and release of prophetic gifts (***even as many as the Lord shall call***—Acts 2:38-39). The manifestation of the Spirit through His gifts makes known the presence of God among His people. The apostle Paul declared if

the church prophesies, an unbelieving visitor will be compelled to “*report that God is in you of a truth*” (1 Cor. 14: 24-25).

“But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all”

(1 Corinthians 14:24-25).

Jesus Promised the Fullness of His Spirit:

One of the surest signs the Holy Spirit is present and at work in any gathering of Christians is His ability to bring conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment. Jesus told His Disciples in John 14:12-25:

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you” (Jn. 14: 21-25).

The full realization of this offer of salvation and the outpouring of the Spirit to all people will someday be followed by the end-time cosmic signs and the *day of the Lord* (Mat. 24: 29-31). At that time, God’s enemies will experience His wrath (Rev. 6: 12-17). When examined in the light of Scriptural prophecy, worldwide conditions indicate the time for these future events is very near. Be careful and pay attention to what the Holy Spirit says.

Salvation Has Come To Mankind:

“Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, ***Peace be unto you***. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. Then said Jesus to them again, ***Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you***. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, ***Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained***” (John 20:19-23).

On The Road To Emaus

Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35

Two followers of Jesus were walking toward the town of Emaus discussing the tragic events of the weekend. All hope had been shattered because Jesus had been humiliated and crucified. A stranger joined them as they walked, so at the proper place, the men invited Him in for a meal. As Jesus broke the bread and blessed it ***“their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.”*** Amazed at the revelation of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, they turned back toward Jerusalem to the place where Jesus would meet with them. Though these two were headed for Emaus, they turned around and went back to Jerusalem! The excitement was bringing joy to their souls. The disciples also told them, *“The Lord is risen, and has appeared to Simon.”*

The Ten Disciples behind Closed Doors

Luke 23:36-43; John 20:19-25

After returning to Jerusalem from Emaus, the two travelers were relating the story how they recognized Him in the breaking of the bread. Then *“Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, **‘Peace be unto you.’**”* *“He showed them both His hands and His side”* (John 20:19-20). They were “startled and frightened.” Jesus said, ***“See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself, touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”*** Jesus showed them His hands and His feet.

They gave Him a piece of boiled fish and He took it and ate it in their sight (Luke 24:33-43). Jesus is strongly encouraging these disciples in the reality of His resurrection, and that He now has a body of flesh and bones. Yes, He is real ... and alive! He tells them to look upon Him and to see the wounds on His body. Jesus asked them to

touch Him because He had now been before the Father in the Temple with His own blood in a sacrificial act of presenting this precious and perfect blood before the Father for His legal stamp of approval. It is finished!

Jesus then continued, "***Look, This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything which is written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.***" Now read this: ***Jesus then opened up their minds that they would understand the scriptures.*** Why did Jesus encourage His disciples to examine Him by touch ... and open up their minds that they might understand the scriptures? Why would Jesus' actions at this meeting encourage the disciples to 'understand' so much? Don't stop reading just yet. Imagine the revelation beginning to infiltrate the minds of the disciples and all the followers of Jesus on that day.

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, "*We have seen the LORD*". But Thomas said unto them,

"Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ***Peace be unto you.*** Then saith he to Thomas, ***Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*** And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. Jesus saith unto him, ***Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*** And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: (John 20:24-30).

Knowing His time was short and that He would soon be returning to the Father, Jesus comforted and prepared His disciples for His departure, saying: "***Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. . . .And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you***" (John 14:12,16,17).

If there is one thing the Church at large needs to better understand, it is the role of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of truth—in our lives. When Jesus said on the Cross, "***It is finished***" (John 19:30), He was saying He had fulfilled everything the Father sent Him to do to make it possible for mankind to be redeemed and walk in the full inheritance and authority as children of God.

Now that Jesus' work of redemption is complete, it is the role of the Holy Spirit to guide us into the truth of our life in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the One who has been sent to dwell with us, and once we receive the infilling of His Spirit, He takes up residence within our born-again spirit and is ever present in us, communing with us. When we are saved (born-again), we receive the Holy Ghost (Spirit) into our lives; but *it is not* the Gift of the Spirit which takes place in Acts 1-2.

So John 20: 19-30, Jesus Appears to the Disciples: Jesus enters the place where the disciples were together for fear of the Jews, came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "***Peace be unto you***". And when he had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. When He said this, He breathed on them, and said, "***Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.***"

When Jesus breathed on them, it was similar to when God the Father breathed the breath of life into the lungs of Adam and Eve. It was at that time that Adam and Eve became aware of all that was in their sight. They had all the benefits of the life given them supernaturally. They were literally "born brand new". It is the same with the disciples. They were men who were saved. They had God's Spirit with them, but they were still limited by the desire to sin.

The reception of the Holy Spirit by Jesus' disciples on resurrection day *was not* the baptism in the Spirit as experienced by those at Pentecost (Acts 1:5; 2:4). Rather it was the regenerating presence of the Holy Spirit with new life from the risen Christ. Just prior to His trial and crucifixion, Jesus promised that **His Holy Spirit abides in and will be in us**. When Jesus breathed on the disciples, they were saved; then Jesus said to them, "**Receive ye the Holy Ghost**". The disciples gained faith through Jesus' Resurrection; and their salvation through the Holy Spirit before "**The pouring out of the Holy Spirit**" on God's people.

In chapter two, Joel shows us what God has prepared for His people from salvation to "the pouring out of the Holy Spirit:"

"²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward, that 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: ²⁹And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. ³⁰And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. ³²And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

These two statements are true: 1) The disciples received the Holy Spirit; and were indwelt and regenerated by the Holy Spirit before the day of Pentecost—this being their salvation; and 2) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on them in Acts 2:4, was an experience occurring after their regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Their baptism in the Spirit at Pentecost was, therefore, a second distinct work of the Spirit in them. Study carefully and you will know the "outpouring of His Spirit" is most definitely for today.

The Book of Acts begins the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" ministries:

"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:5). Tongues is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit; a Spirit inspired utterance in which the believer speaks in a language he has never learned (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor. 14: 14-15) whether a known language (Acts 2:6) or a language not known on earth (1 Cor. 13:1). Generally speaking, tongues are in unity with the Holy Spirit during worship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Biblical tongues is praying in a language we may not understand when we are in dire need, when praying for others, or simply praising and worshipping Jesus.

God linked speaking in tongues with the baptism in the Holy Spirit from the very beginning (Acts 2:4), so that the 120 believers at Pentecost, and all believers thereafter, would have an experiential sign or confirmation that they have indeed received the powerful anointing in the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:45-46). Throughout the history of the church, whenever tongues as a confirming sign has been denied or lost from view, the truth and experience of Pentecost has declined, been distorted, or ignored entirely (1 Cor. 12: 4-10). . **Be aware!**

We recognize that the mere occurrence of speaking with "other tongues," or any other supernatural manifestation, is not absolute or uncontestable evidence of the work and presence of the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues can be counterfeited by human initiative or **demonic activity**. The Bible cautions us not to believe every spirit, but examine whether the spiritual experiences we have really do come from God.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world (John 4: 1-3).

Many false prophets can enter the church; which is especially true as tolerance for **unbiblical doctrine** increases toward the end of the age. Christians are commanded to test all professed Christian teachers, writers, preachers, and prophets, in fact, any individual who claims his work or message comes from the Holy Spirit. Believers may never assume that a ministry or spiritual experience is of God simply because one claims it is. Also no teaching or doctrine may be accepted as true **solely** on the basis of success, miracles, or apparent anointing (Matt. 7:22; 1 Cor. 14:29; 2 Thes. 2:8-10; 2 John 7; Rev. 13:4; 16:14; 19:20).

Therefore, in order to be valid, speaking in tongues must be “as the Spirit gives the utterance” (Acts 2:4). To follow the norm in the book of Acts, speaking in tongues must be the spontaneous result of the initial filling of the Holy Spirit. It is not a learned phenomenon, nor can it be taught by teaching believers to speak incoherently.

God’s Holy Spirit will always lead us in perfect alignment with the Scriptures. The Word and Spirit are always in agreement. We should not follow voices because it is a sure way we can fall into *devilish doctrines*, but you cannot go wrong by following the voice that leads us to walk in His Spirit and in perfect communion with our Savior, Jesus, who said, “*He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you*” (John 16:14), *and he shall not speak of himself*” (vs. 13). But this he does speak, “*But whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come*” (Vs. 13).

The Promised Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1: 4-8).

The gift the Father promised (Joel 2:28-29; Mat. 3:11) is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The fulfillment of that promise is described as “being filled with the Holy Ghost” (2:4). So, “baptized in the Spirit” and “filled with the Spirit” are at times used interchangeably in Acts. This baptism in the Holy Spirit should not be identified with receiving the Spirit at salvation. These two are distinct works of the Spirit, often separated by a period of time.

The preposition “with” is the translation of the Greek word *en* and often translated as “in.” So many prefer the rendering “ye shall be baptized in the Holy Ghost.” Likewise, “baptized with water” may be translated “baptized in water.” Jesus Himself is the one who baptizes His believers in the Holy Spirit.

“And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

What was Pentecost? It was the second great festival of the Jewish year. It was a harvest festival when the first-fruits of the grain harvests were presented to God (Lev. 23:17). In like manner Pentecost symbolizes for the church, the beginning of God’s harvest for souls in the world.

Peter Explains the Coming of the Holy Spirit: *“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Acts 2: 14-21).

Peter’s Sermon (in part) on the day of Pentecost, along with his message in 3:11-26, contains a pattern for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. **1)** Jesus is both Lord and Christ—crucified, resurrected, and exalted (vv. 22-36; 3: 13-15). **2)** He is now at the right hand of His Father; Jesus Christ has received the authority to pour forth the Holy Spirit upon every believer *everywhere!* (Vs.16-18; 32-33; 3:19). **3)** Everyone must place his or her faith in Jesus as Lord, repent of sin, and be baptized in connection with forgiveness of sins (vv. 36-39;3:19).**4)**

Believers must expect the promised gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit after faith and repentance (vv. 39, 39). **5)** Those who hear in faith must separate themselves from the world and be saved from this perverse generation (vv.40; 3:36). **6)** Jesus Christ will return to restore God's kingdom completely (3:20-21).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit and the accompanying spiritual manifestations are a fulfillment of Joel 2:28-29. **1)** In the Old Testament, "the last days were considered the time when the lord would act in a mighty way to judge evil and bring salvation to His people. **2)** The N.T. reveals that the *last days* began with the first coming of Christ and the initial outpouring of the Spirit on God's people, and that the last days will end with the Lord's 2nd coming (Mk. 1:15; Luke 4:18-21; Heb. 1:1-2). This specific time is characterized as the age of judgment against evil, authority over **demons**, salvation unto the nations, and the presence of the kingdom of God. God's Spirit will go through Christ into the realm of Satan and sin. Yet the warfare has only begun; it is not yet consummated, since evil and satanic activity are still present in a mighty way (Eph. 6:10-18). Only the 2nd coming of Jesus will end the activity of evil forces and complete the "final days" (1 Peter 1:3-5; Rev. 19).

The *last days* constitute a time of prophetic witness calling everyone to repent, believe in Christ, and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (1:8; 2:4, 38; 40; Joel 2:28-32). We must proclaim the saving work of Christ through the power of the Spirit, even as we anticipate the final day of wrath (Rom. 2:5), "that great and notable day of the Lord" (2:20b). We must live every day in vigilance, waiting for the day of redemption and the return of Christ for His people (Jn. 14:3; 1 Thes. 4:15-17).

The external manifestations of a sound like a powerful wind and tongues of fire:

*"Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.** And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"* (Acts 2:38-41). Did you get that? In spite of popular belief, *every one of the Gift Ministries Jesus Christ gave the Church for the renewing of the Saints is still in effect; and it will remain to be in effect throughout the Church Age!*

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

The Outpouring During the Samaritan Revival:

*"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: **Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me*** (Acts 8: 12-24).

When Peter and John prayed for the Samaritans to receive salvation by the laying on of hands, they were filled with the Holy Ghost and power. Present was the magician, Simon, who as the Scriptures state believed, was wrong for asking to buy the Power and anointing of the Holy Ghost.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit occurs only among those who have already accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, and are committed to following Him; yet Simon wanted this gift of the Holy Spirit and power, as well as the power to pass on this gift to others for selfish and ungodly reasons. Simon was rejected because he had offered

money for the gift out of greed. His heart was not right with God; and he had a wicked countenance. Peter called it “*the bond of iniquity*” (vv. 22-23). The gift of the Holy Ghost is given to those who seek and commit their lives solely to Jesus Christ.

Philip had a great ministry in Samaria, “*for unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed; and there was great joy in that city*” (Acts 8:7-8). Mighty miracles were constantly being manifest under Philip’s ministry, and many were being saved; yet, at this point no one had received the power and anointing of the Holy Ghost! That happened when Peter and John showed up.

***Speaking in tongues is the only sign given in the Scriptures
evidence a Christian has received the Holy Ghost.***

The Genuine Baptism:

1. Inspires us to love, honor and worship God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ more than ever before.
2. Makes us more attentive to our relationship with the heavenly Father (Acts 1:4).
3. Encourages a greater love and appreciation for God’s Word...the Spirit of Truth.
4. Deepen our love and concern for other followers of Christ (Acts 2:42; 4:31-37).
5. Preceded by true repentance—a total commitment and a “Walk in His Spirit”, and not “in the flesh”.
6. Increase our resistance to offensive attitudes, ungodly beliefs, behaviors and lifestyles.
7. A greater desire to spread the message of God’s Word in its fullness, forgiveness, prayer.
8. More open and receptive to the works of the Holy Ghost and purpose within the Church as a whole.
9. More conscious of the work, guidance and presence of the Holy Ghost in our daily lives.

Without the Holy Spirit there would be no creation, no universe, no human race (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4—“*The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life*”). Without the Holy Spirit there would be no Bible (2 Peter 1:21), no New Testament (Jn. 14:26; 15:26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-14), no power to proclaim the gospel (Acts 1:8), Without the Holy Spirit there would be no faith, no new birth, no holiness, and no Christians at all in this world. Walking in the Spirit gives life; but walking in the flesh will always lead to **death!**

Some say we cannot lose our salvation once we are saved. Let me say this and give one single reference to this topic: First, read and take note of the many portions within both Testaments concerning God’s judgment on those who **do not believe** they must continue walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Walking in the flesh always leads to **spiritual death!**, but walking in the Spirit always brings forth eternal life with the King of all kings!

The fruits of the Spirit are learned through God’s Word, becoming stronger as we walk in His Spirit.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts (Gal. 5:16-24). (My Emphasis’)**

Before Apostle Paul received his salvation, he was a sinner much like any lost person. But when he became radically saved, **he put away sin**. I find that to be truth, though some do not believe Apostle Paul was a winner! The fruits of the Spirit will come to man after his commitment to Jesus Christ; and does not necessarily come by the Holy Spirit—simply because the *Holy Spirit dwells with us* and *shall be* in us; And because the Holy Spirit *dwells with us* and *shall be in us*, every man has a choice to commit to Christ—or condemn Christ; but the Holy Spirit loves all people and encourages us to always do the right thing in any circumstance. If we fall away, the Holy Spirit will be grieved and will depart from us if we do not repent of our sins.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:16-18).

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “another comforter.” It’s a rich word meaning “Called to help”, Comforter, counselor, Strengthener, Advocate, Friend. He completes the works Jesus accomplished while on earth. He, the Spirit, promises to send another comforter. The Spirit will be by our side to help us (Mat. 14:30-31). He comforts, intercedes in prayer for us; and will remain with us forever if we continue in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is “The Spirit of Truth” (15:26; 16:13; 1John 4:6; 5:6) He is Jesus’ Spirit because He is the truth; and bears witness to the truth (18:37), enlightens truth and exposes lies (16:13). Those who support the sacrifice of truth for the sake of unity, love, or other reason deny the Spirit of truth who they claim to have dwelling in them. A believer who abandons truth abandons himself. Jesus reveals Himself to the obedient believer through the Holy Spirit, who makes known the presence of Jesus in and with those who love Him. His Spirit makes us aware of the nearness of Jesus, the reality of His love; His blessings and His helps.

Evangelize With Power from on High:

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high (Luke 24: 46-49).

Jesus was crucified and arose the third day. The disciples were not to preach forgiveness of sins without the demand for repentance. The preacher who offers salvation on the basis of easy faith or by a “free salvation” without any commitment to be obedient to Christ and His word is preaching a false gospel. Repentance is involved with not only repenting of sins, but repenting every time we know we have sinned; and repentance is the “forsaking of sin”, always an essential element in the true Gospel of Christ.

Christ Himself institutes Christian missions as a main theme in both the Old and the New Testaments. The “Promise of the Father” that will bring “power from on high” refers to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that began at Pentecost (2:4). The Promise in verse 49 is recorded in the Old Testament (Isa. 32:15; 44:3; Ezek. 39:29; Joel 2:28); and in the New Testament (Jn.14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 1:4-8; 2:33; 38-39). The disciples awaited this promise in praise to God and in devoted prayer (Acts 1:14). Believers today seeking the infilling of the Holy Spirit should do the same—waiting for this promise in praise to God and in devoted prayer.

Resources:

Tom Stephens. After the Resurrection, What Then. www.christsbondservants.org. Publ. by Tom Stephens.

Full Life Study Bible. KJV. Zondervan Publishing House. Grand Rapids, Michigan

Fire Bible; KJV. Hendrickson Bibles. Copyright © 2012 by Life Publishers, International

The Holy Spirit and His Gifts. Kenneth E. Hagin ©1974; RHEMA Bible Church; aka Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Inc.

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Please Watch for Part Two