

Truth For These Times



15. THE COMFORTER

Use with Chart "The Comforter"

God has been working from the beginning by His Holy Spirit through human instrumentalities. For the benefit of the fallen human race the Holy Spirit was manifest in the lives of the patriarchs. In Nehemiah 9:20 we read how "God gave His good spirit to instruct them"; referring to the church in the wilderness. In the days of the apostles the Holy Spirit wrought mightily for the church. The same power that upheld men of old and made the work of God effective has upheld God's faithful children in every succeeding age. Today, the Spirit of the Almighty is still moving on the hearts of men, convicting the sinner to repentance and leading the Christian to effective witnessing.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- Psalms 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
- 1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
- Romans 8:9-10 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. (10) And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of God and His Son. (See study [One God and One Lord](#)). The actual nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Man cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it. How the Holy Spirit can be present everywhere at anytime is beyond our comprehension. Regarding mysteries which God has not chosen to reveal to man "silence is golden".

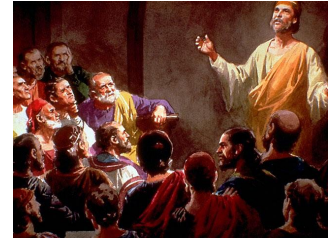
- Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, [parakletos] even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you. (RV)
- 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate [parakletos] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The Holy Spirit is called *the Comforter* in John 14:26. This word is parakletos in the Greek. The same Greek word is used in 1 John 2:1 when referring to Christ. It is by the agency of the Holy Spirit that Jesus personally comes and comforts us.

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- John 16:8 And when He has come, He will CONVICT THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT.

The word convict used here is very appropriate. The Holy Spirit does convict the heart of man. This was evident on the day of Pentecost where it is written, “they were cut to the heart.” Acts 2:37. Not only does the Spirit of Christ convict of sin, but also of righteousness. The Spirit urges men to accept the righteousness of Christ and then points to the judgement to awaken sin-darkened minds from their apathy. Thus Christ convicts men of their sin by His Spirit, and draws them to Himself and warns them of the consequences if they continue in their sin.



Holy Spirit falls on disciples.

John 16:13,14 However, when He, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, has come, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. HE WILL GLORIFY ME, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

The Spirit of Jesus withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. If men are willing to be moulded there will be brought about a transformation of character. He teaches, and reveals the truth to the believer and guides his life day by day.

Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH.



Holy Spirit brings joy and peace and transforms the life.

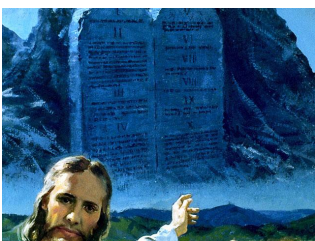
The promise becomes a reality to the believer when he accepts the gift by faith.

MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

John 14:15-17 IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for HE DWELLS WITH YOU and will be in you.

If we respond to the pleadings of the Spirit of God we will choose to obey the commands of Christ because we love Him. To disobey would indicate a lack of true love. However, obedience does not earn salvation, but it does reveal where the affections of the heart are. In fact, obedience to the commandments of God would be an utter impossibility unless the Holy Spirit dwells within.

Acts 5:32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also *is* THE HOLY SPIRIT WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIM.



The Holy Spirit is manifested in keeping God's Commandments.

If anyone professes to possess the Holy Spirit, yet does not choose to obey the commandments of God, the evidence is lacking of him having the genuine Spirit of God.

EVIDENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MAN.

Galatians 5:22,23 BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, KINDNESS, GOODNESS,

FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL. Against such there is no law.

If the Holy Spirit is dwelling within, we have a right to expect the fruit of the Spirit and we will reflect the character of Christ. A life of holiness, reflecting the character of God should shine through demonstrated in every act of the life. We may make some mistakes because of human weakness but if we submit to the working of the Spirit, as we grow, we will reflect fully the character of Jesus.

Galatians 5:19-21 NOW THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE EVIDENT, WHICH ARE: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

In contrast to the fruits of the Spirit we have the fruits of unrighteousness. Here the extremes of a sinful life are mentioned, but many so called “good living” people can be guilty of these sins in thought, but present a good cover up to those around them. In time the thoughts will become actions if the opportunities are available.

Galatians 5:16 I say then: WALK IN THE SPIRIT, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The antidote for sin is to have the Spirit dwelling in the life. If we live in obedience to the Spirit’s guidance we will walk the path of Christian victory.

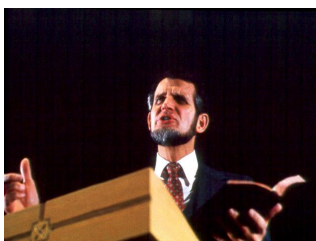


The Spirit draws us close to God.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT who was given to us.

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 12:4,7-11,28. THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT. ...But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills....And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.



The Spirit gives various gifts to build up the Church.

Every person is different but each Christian is part of the body of Christ. Not all have the same gifts of the Spirit, but each believer is entrusted with some gift. Because one person has a gift not given to another, there is no cause for boasting. Just as each part of the body is

important, so each gift is necessary for the development and smooth operation of the Christian church.

Ephesians 4:11,12 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **FOR THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

The gifts of the Spirit are given for our own benefit as well as for the church of Christ.

CONDITIONS FOR THE ABIDING WITHIN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

Those living before the flood came to the point of wickedness where the Holy Spirit’s pleadings were not realized. There was no hope in further striving. Those who continue to reject the Spirit’s pleadings today will soon fail to discern any conviction. However, God is longsuffering, and such an extreme does not eventuate in a short time. The process may even take a lifetime.

Psalm 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, and **DO NOT TAKE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME.**

King David had grieved the Holy Spirit by his sin, but under conviction he repented, and pleaded with God that the Holy Spirit not be taken away.



We should pray to receive the Holy Spirit.

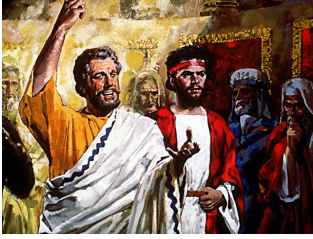
Ephesians 4:30 And **DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

When we fail to walk in the way of righteousness and fall into sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit. If we follow His guidance always we will be sealed for eternity. Even to grieve him once is dangerous for it is more easily repeated. A series of grievings will bring about serious malformation of character and unless remedied will eventually be fatal.

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

Do you want the Holy Spirit in your life? All you have to do is ask. God wants you to have this gift more than you do yourself. If you do not have the Holy Spirit in your life then you will fail to be fitted for the heavenly kingdom. How can you be sure that you have the Spirit of God? The presence of the Spirit is yours when you exercise faith and trust in God. The Spirit is yours if you ask God for His abiding presence. The Spirit is yours as you honestly choose to obey God with all of your heart and consecrate your life unreservedly to Him. The evidence of the Spirit is not revealed by display and sensationalism, or speaking in tongues (this incidentally is the least of gifts and there is manifest a counterfeit tongues speaking – so beware) but by quietly trusting in God and doing His will day by day.

THE FINAL OUTPOURING OF GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT.



Peter preaching powerfully
by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:17,18 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the “former rain” which demonstrated God’s power in the proclamation of the gospel.

This prophecy will have its ultimate fulfilling at the “latter rain”, near the close of earth’s history. At this time God’s people will again be filled with the Holy Spirit and will go forth to proclaim God’s last message. Pentecost was glorious, but it will fade into insignificance in comparison with God’s final outpouring of the Spirit.

What a privilege to be a part of this final gathering in of souls before the end of time. However, unless God’s people have a living connection with Christ now, it will be too late to change then. Only those who are constantly receiving fresh supplies of grace, will have power proportionate to their daily need and their ability to use that power. Now is the time to improve our opportunities.

As we kneel before the Lord each morning and consecrate our lives to Him afresh, He will grant us the presence of His Spirit. As we go forth to the day’s duties we will have the assurance of the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit. Then we can rejoice in victorious Christian living and experience the peace of mind not understood by the world.

Review Sheet – The Holy Spirit

ASSIGNMENT: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? Ps 139:7; John 14:26; 1 John 2:1

Answer: _____

2. What is one work of the Holy Spirit? John 16:8

He will _____, _____,
_____.

3. Who is responsible for revealing truth? John 16:13,14

However, when He, _____,
_____.

4. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? Galatians 3:14

That we might _____
_____.

5. What qualification is necessary if we are to receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 5:32

The Holy Spirit _____.

6. What are the evidences of the Holy Spirit in man? Galatians 5:22,23

Answer: _____

7. How can we obtain victory over sin? Galatians 5:16

I say then _____, and you shall _____
_____.

8. Does a Christian have all the gifts of the Spirit? Give your reasons. 1Corinthians 12

Answer: _____

9. Was the Holy Spirit working in Old Testament times? Give an example. Genesis 6:3;
Psalms 51:11

Answer _____

10. Why is it dangerous to grieve the Holy Spirit?

Answer: _____

11. Is it difficult to receive the Holy Spirit into the life? Luke 11:13

Your heavenly Father give _____.

12. When will the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit come? Acts 2:17,18

Ans it shall come to pass _____,
_____.

Do you desire to be led by the Holy Spirit? YES _____ NO _____