

Lesson Seven

Pneumatology: PART I

The Study of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not some third watered down version of the Holy Trinity He is just as much God as God the Father and God the Son. It is vital to every believer to understand the Holy Spirit and His place in the Kingdom of God as well as our personal lives and ministries. Pneumatology is the study of the Holy Spirit and that is our Objective in this Lesson.

During one of his missionary trips the Apostle Paul questioned a group of believers about the Holy Spirit. He asked if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed. Their answer was,

"We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost" (Acts 19:2).

Paul shared the message of the ministry of the Holy Spirit with these Christians (Acts 19). Today it is equally important that believers understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. God promised:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh... (Acts 2:17)

The fact that God is willing at this time to pour out His Spirit upon us makes this study important. We must understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in order to be part of this special revelation of the power of God. The study of the Holy Spirit is one of the major doctrines of the Bible. A doctrine is all the teachings which relate to a particular subject. Paul said:

...give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (I Timothy 4:13)

It is not through the natural powers of man that God moves in our world. It is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord. (Zechariah 4:6)

As part of the Trinity of God, the Holy Spirit has a special nature. When we speak of His nature we mean the basic qualities which describe Him. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is:

OMNIPRESENT: This means He is present everywhere:

**Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
(Psalms 139:7)**

OMNISCIENT: This means He knows all things:

**But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
(I Corinthians 2:10-11)**

OMNIPOTENT: This means the Holy Spirit is all powerful:

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. (Psalms 62:11)

**But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...
(Acts 1:8)**

ETERNAL: This means He is everlasting. He had no beginning and will have no ending:

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? (Hebrews 9:14)

The Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit...

HAS A MIND:

**And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit...
(Romans 8:27)**

SEARCHES OUT THE HUMAN MIND:

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (I Corinthians 2:10)

HAS A WILL:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will. (I Corinthians 12:11)

The will of the Holy Spirit guides believers by denying permission for certain actions: Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not. (Acts 16:6-7)

The will of the Holy Spirit also guides believers by granting permission: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the Gospel unto them. (Acts 16:10)

SPEAKS:

He spoke to Philip: Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. (Acts 8:29)

He spoke to Peter: While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. (Acts 10:19)

He spoke to the elders in the city of Antioch: As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work where unto I have called them. (Acts 13:2)

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 records several messages spoken by the Holy Spirit to seven churches in Asia.

LOVES:

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. (Romans 15:30)

INTERCEDES:

One of the personality traits of the Holy Spirit is that He is an intercessor. This means **He prays to God on behalf of others:**

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered [spoken]. (Romans 8:26)

TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A title is a descriptive phrase which explains a person's position and/or function. For example, if a person has the title of "President" of a country, it explains his position in government and his function as leader of the nation.

The titles given to the Holy Spirit in the Bible reveal much about His position and function. The Holy Spirit is called:

THE SPIRIT OF GOD:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (I Corinthians 3:16)

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST:

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. (Romans 8:9)

THE ETERNAL SPIRIT:

This means the Holy Spirit is everlasting, with no beginning and no end: 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? (Hebrews 9:14)

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH:

The Holy Spirit is the source of truth which inspired God's Word, the Bible. He reveals this truth to mankind: Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come. (John 16:13)

THE SPIRIT OF GRACE:

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace. (Hebrews 10:29)

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

THE SPIRIT OF GLORY:

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye: for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you. (I Peter 4:14)

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION:

**The Holy Spirit gives wisdom to believers and reveals knowledge of Jesus Christ:
19That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.
(Ephesians 1:17)**

THE COMFORTER:

**The Holy Spirit comforts believers in times of trouble, sorrow, and loneliness:
But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name... (John 14:26)**

THE SPIRIT OF PROMISE:

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of promise because He is the Spirit that was sent to fulfill the promise of God: 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, ye have heard of me.

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:4-5)

THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS:

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4)

THE SPIRIT OF FAITH:

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believe and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak. (II Corinthians 4:13)

THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION:

It is through the Holy Spirit that we are "adopted" into the family of God as the children of God:

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (Romans 8:15)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit

CREATION: The Holy Spirit was active in creation of 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.
(Genesis 1:2)**

Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. (Psalms 104:30)

SCRIPTURES: The Holy Spirit's ministry involves the written Word of God

REVELATION: He spoke to human writers the message of God:

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (II Peter 1:21)

INSPIRATION: He guided these writers so the message would be accurate:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

ILLUMINATION:

He enlightens human hearts to understand the message of the Gospel: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)

ISRAEL:

The nation of Israel was chosen by God as a people through which He could reveal Himself and fulfill His master plan in the world. It was through Israel that the Messiah came to save men from sin. The experiences of Israel provided an example both of success and failure for believers. From Jerusalem, the capitol of Israel, the Gospel message spread throughout the world. The ministry of the Holy Spirit to Israel is evident from the very beginning of the nation.

The Holy Spirit: CAME UPON THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL:

There are too many examples of this to reproduce all the verses as part of this manual. The references are listed in the "For Further Study" section of this chapter. Study of this subject will provide understanding of how the Holy Spirit moved in the lives of people during Old Testament times.

CAME UPON ISRAEL'S PLACES OF WORSHIP:

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34)

And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord. (I Kings 8:10)

GUIDED THEM TO THE PROMISED LAND:

Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst. Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness so that they lacked nothing... (Nehemiah 9:20)

WILL COME UPON ISRAEL DURING THE TRIBULATION:

The tribulation is a future time of great trouble on the earth. God will place a special mark of protection on Israel.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. (Revelation 7:2-4)

WILL COME UPON ISRAEL DURING THE MILLENNIUM:

The Millennium is a thousand years of peace during which Jesus will reign on the earth:

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10)

SATAN:

The Holy Spirit even has a ministry concerning Satan. The Holy Spirit is the restraining spiritual force that limits the power of Satan:

...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. (Isaiah 59:19)

When the Holy Spirit is removed from the world, then the spirit of the antichrist will have control for a period of time. The antichrist will be an evil world leader: For the mystery of iniquity doeth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom

the Lord shall consume, with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming; Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (II Thessalonians 2:7-12)

JESUS:

The ministry of the Holy Spirit was evident in the life of Jesus. Jesus was:

CONCEIVED BY THE SPIRIT:

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise, when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost... Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 1:18,20)

ANOINTED BY THE SPIRIT:

And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him... (Matthew 3:16)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised... (Luke 4:18)

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him. (Acts 10:38)

SEALED BY THE SPIRIT:

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed. (John 6:27)

LED BY THE SPIRIT:

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT:

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. (Matthew 12:28)

FILLED BY THE SPIRIT:

And Jesus, being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. (Luke 4:1)

For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him. (John 3:34)

TROUBLED IN THE SPIRIT:

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. (John 11:33)

REJOICED IN THE SPIRIT:

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. (Luke 10:21)

OFFERED THROUGH THE SPIRIT:

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? (Hebrews 9:14)

RAISED BY THE SPIRIT:

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. (I Peter 3:18)

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4)

COMMANDED HIS DISCIPLES THROUGH THE SPIRIT:

Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen. (Acts 1:2)

SINNERS

The Holy Spirit's ministry concerning the sinner was described by Jesus: Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away; for if

I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness because I go to my Father and ye see me no more; Of judgment because the prince of this world is judged. (John 16:7-11)

THE CHURCH:

The Holy Spirit serves several purposes in the Church. He...

FORMED IT:

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

INSPIRES ITS WORSHIP:

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3)

DIRECTS ITS MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES:

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. (Acts 8:29)

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. (Acts 16:6,7,10)

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. (Acts 13:2,4)

SELECTS ITS MINISTERS:

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

ANOINTS ITS PREACHERS:

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. (I Corinthians 2:4)

GUIDES ITS DECISIONS:

For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things. (Acts 15:28)

BAPTIZES IT WITH POWER:

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 a 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)

BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit serves an important purpose in the lives of believers. He...

CONVICTS:

It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin to draw men and women to Jesus. You could not become a believer without this ministry of the Spirit: And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. (John 16:8-11)

REGENERATES:

The Holy Spirit changes your life when you become a believer: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:5)

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (John 3:3-7)

SANCTIFIES:

The Holy Spirit takes this life which has been changed by salvation and enables righteous living:

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth... (II Thessalonians 2:13)

BAPTIZES:

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4)

DWELLS WITHIN:

The purpose of this indwelling is to strengthen the new nature received through salvation: What! Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (I Corinthians 6:19)

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (I Corinthians 3:16)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. (II Corinthians 5:17)

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.³⁶ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. (Galatians 5:16-18)

In the natural world, after a house has been lived in by a person for a period of time it reflects the character of that person. Likewise, our spiritual houses should reflect the character of the Holy Spirit who dwells within.

STRENGTHENS:

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. (Ephesians 3:16)

UNITES:

The Holy Spirit makes a believer one in spirit with God and other believers. This is

called the "unity of the Spirit":

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (I Corinthians 6:17)

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:12-13)

INTERCEDES:

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:26)

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. (Jude 20)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

GUIDES:

Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come. (John 16:13)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

DEMONSTRATES LOVE:

The Holy Spirit shows the love of Christ to and through the believer: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5:5)

CONFORMS TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST:

The Holy Spirit conforms the believer to the image of Christ: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (II Corinthians 3:18)

REVEALS TRUTH:

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (I Corinthians 2:10)

TEACHES:

But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him. (I John 2:27)

ASSURES OF SALVATION:

The Spirit itself beareth witness, with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)

And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us. (I John 3:24)

GIVES LIBERTY:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is

liberty. (II Corinthians 3:17)

COMFORTS:

**...and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost...
(Acts 9:31)**

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... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:17,26)

QUICKENS:

But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [empower, give new life, resurrect] your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Romans 8:11)

SPEAKS:

But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate; but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. (Mark 13:11)

DEMONSTRATES GOD'S POWER:

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (I Corinthians 2:4-5)

INSPIRES WORSHIP:

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in

truth. (John 4:24)

EMPOWERS FOR WITNESSING:

The power to witness is the true evidence that one has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. 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 parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

GIVES GIFTS AND DEVELOPS FRUIT:

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers. These are specific abilities to enable him to function effectively as part of the Church. The Holy Spirit also develops spiritual fruit in a believer's life.

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 1:8)

The Bible speaks of four different baptisms:

The baptism of suffering experienced by Jesus

The water baptism performed by John the Baptist.

Christian baptism in water.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The word "baptize" means to completely immerse or submerge in something.

After the resurrection and prior to His return to Heaven, Jesus gave important instructions to His followers:

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 24:49)

The promise to which Jesus referred was the Holy Spirit:

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. (John 14:16-18)

This was not a new promise. The gift of the Holy Spirit had been promised since Old Testament times:

...for with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing...(Isaiah 28:11-12)

...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh...(Joel 2:28)

the Holy Spirit has many purposes in the lives of believers. One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit, however, is to make the Christian a powerful witness for the Gospel:

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me...to the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The true evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was visible immediately in the life of the Apostle Peter. Before the Day of Pentecost he had fearfully denied that he knew Jesus. After his baptism in the Holy Spirit, Peter stood and gave a powerful witness to the Gospel that resulted in the salvation of 3,000 people.

It was the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church that resulted in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The book of Acts is a record of this powerful witness which was evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are seven passages in the New Testament where the word "baptize" is used in relation to the Holy Spirit. Four of these are the words of John the Baptist recorded in the Gospels:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. (Matthew 3:11)

I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. (Mark 1:8)

John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. (Luke 3:16)

And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. (John 1:33)

Jesus also spoke of the baptism of the Holy Ghost:

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:5)

When Peter spoke of events which took place in the home of Cornelius he quoted the words of Jesus:

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. (Acts 11:16)

Paul also used the word "baptize" in relation to the Holy Spirit:

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:13)

Use of the phrase "to baptize into" the Holy Spirit is the same as used to describe Christian baptism in water. In both cases baptism is an outward confirmation of an inward spiritual experience.

The Holy Spirit was given during a time of Jewish observance called the feast of Pentecost. For this reason, baptism in the Holy Spirit is often called a "Pentecostal experience" and the time of the giving of the Spirit called "the day of Pentecost." The Holy Spirit came down from Heaven and completely immersed [baptized] believers assembled in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. They had been waiting or "tarrying" for His coming as they had been commanded to do by Jesus. Peter said this experience was the fulfillment of God's promise, "In the last days...I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh." This promise was given by the prophet Joel:

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)

Male and female, young and old were to be included in this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They were to prophesy, dream dreams, and see visions. God's Spirit was to empower both servants [men] and handmaidens [women]. On the day the Holy Spirit was given,

Peter said:

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. (Acts 2:38-39)

Peter's words revealed that the promise of the Holy Spirit was:

-A national promise: "Unto you" [the Jewish people].

-A family promise: "Your children."

-A universal promise: "To all that are afar off."

THE PHYSICAL SIGN

The Holy Spirit is invisible to the natural eye. He was compared by Jesus to the wind: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

Although the wind is invisible, the effects it produces can be seen and heard. When the wind blows the dust rises from the ground, the trees all bend in one direction, leaves rustle, the waves of the sea roar, and clouds move across the sky. These are all physical signs of the wind. So it is with the Holy Spirit. Even though He is invisible, the effects which the Holy Spirit produces can be seen and heard.

There are three places in the New Testament where we are told what happened when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit:

1. DAY OF PENTECOST:

Acts 2:2-4 is the record of what happened on the day of Pentecost:

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 2:2-4)

2. HOUSE OF CORNELIUS:

Acts 10:44-46 is the record of what happened when Peter preached the Gospel to a man named Cornelius and his family:

While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God... (Acts 10:44-46)

3. CONVERTS AT EPHESUS:

Acts 19:6 describes what happened to the first group of converts at Ephesus:

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:6)

A COMMON SIGN: THE TONGUES

As we compare these passages there is one physical sign which is common to all three: Those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit spoke with other tongues. Other supernatural signs of the Holy Spirit are mentioned, but none of these were evident on all three occasions. On the day of Pentecost there was the sound of a rushing wind and visible tongues of fire were seen. These were not recorded on the other two occasions. At Ephesus the new converts prophesied. This is not mentioned as having occurred on the day of Pentecost or in the house of Cornelius. The one outward sign which the apostles observed in the experience of Cornelius and his household was that they spoke with tongues. This physical sign was proof to the disciples that this family had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. From these Biblical records we conclude that the physical sign of speaking in tongues through the power of the Holy Spirit confirms that a person has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. The sign of "tongues" can be languages known to man. This is what happened on the day of Pentecost:

...And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? (Acts 2:7-8)

Tongues can also be a language not known to man. This is called an unknown tongue: For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh

mysteries. (I Corinthians 14:2)
PURPOSES FOR TONGUES

The sign of tongues received through baptism in the Holy Spirit has many purposes in the lives of believers. Turn to I Corinthians 14 in your Bible. These are some purposes of tongues:

-Prayer to God: Verse 2

-Self-edification: Building up yourself and increasing spiritual knowledge. Verse 4

-When interpreted they edify the church: Verses 12-13

-Intercession: Verse 14 (See also Romans 8:26-27)

-Sign to unbelievers: Verse 22

-Fulfillment of prophecy: Verse 21 (See also Isaiah 28:11-12)

-Praise: Verses 15,17

OBJECTIONS TO TONGUES

Some people object to speaking in tongues. These are some of the objections they raise:

EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT:

One of the most common objections is that every Christian receives the Holy Spirit when he is converted...He does not need any further experience to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But consider the examples of people in the New Testament who were true believers. The apostles had repented of their sins and believed Jesus was the Messiah. They had witnessed personally and accepted as true the facts of His death, burial, a resurrection. Jesus told His followers:

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 24:49)

He also said:

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:5)

The promised experience of being baptized in the Holy Ghost came on the day of Pentecost:

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4)

Although the apostles were already Christians it was not until the day of Pentecost that they were filled with [baptized in] the Holy Spirit. The people of Samaria heard the Gospel preached. They believed and were baptized in water, but they had not received the Holy Spirit: 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. (Acts 8:14-17)

The people of Samaria received salvation through the ministry of Philip. They received the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Peter and John. Receiving the Holy Spirit was a separate experience from receiving salvation.

Acts 19:1-6 describes how Paul went to the city of Ephesus and met people described as "disciples." The first question Paul asked was, **"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"**

If people received the Holy Ghost when they received salvation it would be foolish for Paul to ask this question. The fact that he asked it makes it clear that people become believers without receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Even if a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the same time he is converted, it is still a separate experience from salvation.

As you previously learned, the ministry of the Holy Spirit can be observed from the very creation of the world. The Old Testament speaks of the Holy Spirit coming on Israel's spiritual leaders. The Holy Spirit is also operative in the life of a sinner to bring him to Christ.

But these ministries of the Holy Spirit are different from being baptized with the Holy Spirit. Jesus made that clear when He said:

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 [presently], and shall be in you [in the future]. (John 14:17)

The Holy Spirit was with the disciples at that time, but not yet in them. They were filled [baptized] with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is WITH the sinner to draw him to Jesus Christ. But this is not the same as being IN him. In Old Testament times the power of the Holy Spirit came upon spiritual leaders at special times.

In the New Testament this power was given permanently to believers. The Holy Spirit was WITH the spiritual leaders of Old Testament times. But He was not yet IN them. This is the difference between the Old and New Testament ministries of the Holy Spirit.

DO ALL SPEAK WITH TONGUES?

Another objection to tongues has come through misunderstanding of a question of the Apostle Paul. In I Corinthians 12:30 he asks, "Do all speak with tongues?" The answer to his question is "No, all do not speak with tongues." But Paul is not speaking here of the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. The discussion concerns gifts of the Holy Spirit which can be used by the believer in the church.

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. (I Corinthians 12:27-28)

Paul is speaking of gifts which may be used by members of the church. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is "diversities of tongues." It is an ability to give special messages to the church in tongues through the power of the Holy Spirit. Although everyone experiences the sign of tongues when baptized in the Holy Spirit, not everyone receives the special gift of diversities of tongues.

FEAR:

Some believers do not seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit because they are afraid they will receive an experience that is not of God. But the Bible says:

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 52 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him? (Matthew 7:7-11)

If a believer asks God for something, just like a good earthly Father, God will not let him receive anything that will harm him.

EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Another objection to tongues is that it is an emotional experience. Many believers who receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit emphasize their own emotional reactions to the experience. Man is an emotional creature. Conversion to Jesus Christ does not eliminate a man's emotions. He will still experience joy and sorrow. Conversion frees man's emotions from the control of sin. It redirects these emotions to worship of God.

The word "joy" in Scripture is closely associated with the Holy Spirit.

In **Acts 13:52** we read that

"the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost."

Some people react with great emotion to the joy which comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit because they are naturally more emotional than others. They may shout, laugh, or experience sensations in their physical bodies. But these emotional reactions are not the sign of baptism in the Holy Spirit. The confirming sign is speaking in tongues. The evidence is power. It is not necessary to show great emotion such as laughing, shouting, dancing, etc., to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. How one reacts emotionally to the joy this experience brings is often related to his individual emotions. But you should not criticize those who have joyful, emotional reactions to the Holy Spirit. The Bible records emotional reactions of those who had a powerful experience with God.

People trembled, fell prostrate on the ground, shouted, rejoiced, and danced before God. It is interesting to observe the emotional reaction of people to various athletic events. They will yell, laugh, jump up and down, and express much excitement over a sports game. How much more excited we should be over a gift like the Holy Spirit which accomplishes so many purposes in our lives, brings great joy, and equips us with power to reach the world with the Gospel. The Psalmist David agreed. He presents a picture of joyful, loud, emotional worship of God:

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (Psalms 95:1-3)

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. (Psalms 150:3-6)

You do not have to fear that the baptism in the Holy Spirit will cause you to do something improper or lose control of yourself. Paul said there were times to "keep silent" and "hold your peace" in regards to speaking in tongues (I Corinthians 14). He

would not make these statements if the Holy Spirit caused people to be out of control.

The Bible says:

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (I Corinthians 14:32)

This means that any gift God gives is subject to or under the control of the user. God does nothing improper for...

..God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...(I Corinthians 14:33)