

The Working Of God's Holy Spirit In Us

With the study of God's Holy Spirit we are moving into the spiritual and supernatural realm where the limitations of the physical created world do not apply.

We cannot experience this dramatically different world through the physical senses of sight, touch, taste, smell, etc. and our knowledge of this different realm is limited to revelation by God who lives in the spirit realm.

This revelation is only given to us through God's Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:11, 14 [NIV] *"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."*
"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Paul is talking about the difference between the man who is spiritual [Greek "*pneumatikos*"] and the man who has a spirit [Greek "*pneuma*"].

All people have "*pneuma*", this is what makes us different from other living creatures. This spirit in us enables us to appreciate many things in life which are of little or no consequence to animals.

Music, beautiful art [most animals are limited to shades of black or brown, virtually colour blind], poetry, an expression of words that stimulate our senses and brings us pleasure.

Mankind is far more intelligent than any animal can ever become because of this spirit ["*pneuma*"] in us.

"*Pneuma*" that gives us the ability to think and make independent decisions.

Thoughts [which are not physical, do not take up space and are not limited to time or distance] are where man, who is physical, can link with and communicate with God who is spirit.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *"But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding."*

Job realised this difference between man and animal that gives man understanding [Hebrew word "*biyn*" meaning to separate mentally or distinguish, to consider and instruct, perceive and think].

Genesis 1:21 [NIV] *"So God created the great creatures of the sea and every **living** and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."*

God made or created the earth, heavens and animals [Hebrew "*bara*"].

Genesis 2:7 [NIV] *"The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a **living being**."*

God formed man Hebrew "*yatsar*" meaning to mould into a form, especially applied to work of a potter.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *"Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

God then breathed into man "**breath of life**" Hebrew word "*nshamah*" meaning divine inspiration, intellect, spirit, the same word used in Job and translated "**spirit**".

1 Corinthians 15:39 [NIV] *“All flesh is **not** the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another.”*

A human’s flesh is **not** the same as animals.

The Greek word translated “flesh” is “sarx”.

The word has a wide range of meaning, the substance of the body or beast, covering in totality of mankind, i.e. spirit, mind and physical body.

Paul uses the word for our fleshly mind, as compared to a spiritual mind.

God has made humans dramatically different from animals and has a completely different future for humans.

Humans have **not** evolved from animals.

The only link is that both man and animals were created by the same Great Architect.

We need God’s Holy Spirit

For us to fully comprehend the desperate need for the working of God’s Holy Spirit in us, we must understand more about the working of the spirit in man that separates us from the animal kingdom.

We will draw this understanding directly from the “*Maker’s Handbook*”, The Christian Bible.

As I mentioned before, the Hebrew word used in **Job 32:8** is “*biyn*” meaning to perceive, think, consider and instruct.

This indicates that God has created us with complete freedom to choose what we think and do.

This spirit power that is in man when used in harmony with the physical laws that God has set in motion can take basic raw materials that are found around us and construct buildings, bridges, machinery, computers, etc.

All this use of man’s intellectual spirit power is good when in harmony with all God intended man to accomplish.

As I mentioned before, thinking and thoughts being spirit in composition not physical, are the link that mankind has with the spirit world in which God exists, He being spirit.

God’s Word reveals to us that God also at some time created spirits called angels, that are like the Creator God in one dimension, not limited to time and space.

Hebrews 1:14 [NIV] *“Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”*

Angels were created by God to serve humanity; scripture indicates that they were also given the freedom of choice, because some became hostile to their Creator.

Isaiah 14:12 [NIV] *“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!”*

“*Lucifer*” Hebrew light bearer or morning star worshipped by the Assyrians and Babylonians who personified the morning star as Belit and Istar.

This name can be applied to Satan when we consider Christ's Words in **Luke 10:18** [NIV] "*He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"*" and the statement in **Revelation 9:1** [NIV] "*The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.*"

Satan, who is the anti-Christ, one opposed to Christ; the word Satan means "adversary".

Isaiah 14:13-14 [NIV] "*You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'*"

In these verses we see why Satan lost his responsibility and position of authority at God's Throne; Satan tried to elevate himself to take over the Throne and authority of "the most high" God Himself.

Ezekiel 28:11-14 [NIV] "*The word of the LORD came to me: 'Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.'*"

Here is described a perfect angelic creation of God, the description could **not** refer to any physical king.

This being was "in Eden" **Genesis 2:8** [NIV] "*Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.*" and **Genesis 3:1** [NIV] "*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*"

This being was "anointed as a guardian angel on Holy Mount", a super angel at the very Throne of God.

Ezekiel 28:15-17 [NIV] "***You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.** Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.*"

At some time pride entered into the mind of this super angel and he rebelled against his Creator and had to be expelled from Heaven, God's Throne, to the earth.

The above fits the description and end history of Satan that is revealed in **Revelation 12:3-9** [NIV] "*Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. **His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.** The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. **The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.***"

Revelation 20:1-9 [NIV] "*And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and*

*sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. **When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.***”

Note Satan influenced one third of the “stars” [angels] into rebellion with Him and they were also cast out of Heaven, God’s Throne.

What does all this mean for us alive on the earth today?

We have existing among us unseen spirits who have been expelled from Heaven, God’s Throne, because of their rebellion.

What nature do these powerful spirit beings have?

Ezekiel 28:15-16 [NIV] *“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created **till wickedness was found in you.** Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.”*

“Iniquity” [King James] “wickedness” [NIV].

The Hebrew word “*evil*” meaning perversion, to distort morally, to deal unjustly.

“Sinned” Hebrew word “*chata*” to miss the mark, to forfeit what we have and to lead astray.

We have here the description of the nature of Satan the leader of the fallen angels who influenced all of them into rebellion against God.

What is this Satan and his angels doing at this time?

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan, who leads the whole world astray.** He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” “Who leads the whole world astray”*

Satan’s plan is to cause the whole of mankind to be led away from God.

Revelation 12:10 [NIV] *“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. **For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.**”*

He accuses us [Christians] before the Throne of God day and night.

It seems that Satan still has access to the Throne of God inspite of his losing his position of authority in God's Kingdom.

Job 1:6-7 [NIV] *"One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."*

2 Corinthians 11:14 [NIV] *"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."*

This may be how Satan can mingle with faithful angels at God's Throne without being recognised by other angels, only God sees through his deception.

Being like a good angel is part of the deception Satan employs to deceive all of mankind.

1 Peter 5:8 [NIV] *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

A lion only roars when it has killed its prey.

Until then it is moving silently and stealthily, most time hidden from prey.

John 8:44 [NIV] *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

Satan is the original liar and murdered.

Note "you want to carry out your father's [Satan's] desire".

Satan can influence us just as a child is influenced by its parents.

2 Corinthians 4:4 *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

This society in which we live is not God's Society, it is ruled at this time by Satan. Christians are like ambassadors in a hostile country.

2 Corinthians 5:20 [NIV] *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."*

John 17:15-17 *"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*

Christ's Prayer was that we would not be taken out of society, for if we were we could not act as ambassadors, nor be light and salt in this world.

Matthew 5:13-16 [NIV] *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

1 John 2:15-17 *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever."*

We are **not** to be part of this world nor influenced by the things that this society craves after.

If we do, “*the Love of the Father is not in us*”.

What is this “*Love of the Father*”?

This is a direct reference to the fruits of the Holy Spirit, of which the Love is the first and foremost fruit.

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*”

How are fruits developed in us?

John 15:7-8, 16 [NIV] “*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*” ... “**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**”

By Christ living His Life in us we will produce these fruits that will last for ever.

Christ lives again in us through indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] “*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*”

Without the Holy Spirit in us we “*can do nothing.*”

John 14:5 [NIV] “*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*”

I hope now that you are convinced that you desperately need the Holy Spirit if we are to survive in this hostile world which is ruled by Satan and if we are to be the ambassadors for Christ we should be as Christians.

One of the supremely important revelations of God’s Word is the Nature of God.

God is one yet more than one, three persons, yet only one God.

The three persons revealed in scripture are The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

This “*three in one*” concept is difficult for us to understand from the viewpoint of physical life, limited by physical laws.

Physically the “*three in one*” concept is impossible, but God is Spirit with **no** physical restraints, not occupying time or space, both of which are physical.

John 4:24 [NIV] “*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*”

This study will deal mainly with the person of the Holy Spirit and His Work here on earth.

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:23-24 [NIV] *“Am I only a God nearby, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.”*

God knows and sees everything that happens in the whole universe.

Nothing can be hidden from Him.

God is present everywhere at the same time [omniscient and omnipresent].

Psalms 139:7 [NIV] *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”*

This is the key to understand how God can be everywhere at the same time, knowing and seeing everything.

It is by the Holy Spirit that God accomplishes this miraculous task.

Spirit is **not** limited to time and space, so can be everywhere at same time.

It is through the Holy Spirit that God’s presence permeates the entire universe.

The Holy Spirit has been active in the universe from its conception.

Psalms 33:6 [NIV] *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.”*

The Hebrew word for “breath” is “ruwach” meaning wind, blast or spirit, according to the context in which we find the word.

When we examine the account of the creation in Genesis we see the same Hebrew word used and translated as “spirit”.

Genesis 1:2-3 [NIV] *“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”*

The word “hovering” suggests a bird and many times in scripture the Holy Spirit is identified with a heavenly dove.

Psalms 33:6 [NIV] *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.”*

Note here in Genesis as well as in **Psalms 33:6** there are two agents of God at work in the physical creation, the Word of God and the Spirit of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

John 1:1, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

When the Word of God and the Spirit of God unite in a task, creation takes place, something new is created, in this case it is light.

We are going to see in this study that everything that is created physical and spiritual are dependent on the combination of Word and Spirit.

God used the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower all the men He used in the Old Testament.

Exodus 31:2-3 [NIV] *“See I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.”*

Bezalel, the man who designed and created the ark and all the furniture for the tabernacle, was given outstanding craftsmanship by the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 34:9 [NIV] *“Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.”*

Joshua became a great leader after Moses, as a result of being filled with Holy Spirit “*spirit of wisdom*” – Christ is personified as wisdom in many passages.

Proverbs 8:22-23 [NIV] *“The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.”*

This could only refer to part of the God head, also Christ alludes to being “*wisdom*” in New Testament scripture.

Matthew 11:19 [NIV] *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”*

Luke 7:35 [NIV] *“But wisdom is proved right by all her children.”*

Luke 11:49 [NIV] *“Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’”*

Judges 6:34 [NIV] *“Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.”*

Gideon was transformed from a timid young man, unable to accomplish anything, into a mighty leader by the Spirit of God.

2 Samuel 23:2 [NIV] *“The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.”*

David, the great king and psalmist, was empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21 [NIV] *“For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

Peter sums up the ministry of all of the Old Testament prophets, “*they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*”.

The word used in the Greek translated “*prophecy*” in this passage is “*propheteia*” and signifies the speaking forth of the Mind of God, inspired speaking.

This is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:10 [NIV] *“to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.”*

We should **not** confuse this prophecy in the New Testament with the major use of the word prophecy in the Old Testament which was purely predictive of future events.

With the completion of the canon of scripture in the New Testament predictive prophecy apparently has passed away.

1 Corinthians 13:8 [NIV] *“Love never fails. But **where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.**”*

Hebrews 1:1-2 [NIV] *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.**”*

The teacher has taken the place of the prophet.

The difference is that the message the prophet brought was a direct revelation of the Mind of God for the occasion; the message of the teacher is gathered from the completed revelation contained in the scriptures.

Hence you will find in these study booklets a constant referral to the scriptures.

I feel this is the only safe way to teach God’s Word.

1 Corinthians 14:3 [NIV] *“But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.”*

The whole purpose in mind is to edify, to comfort and to encourage you by using the gift of “*propheteia*” that comes from the Holy Spirit.

The work of the Holy Spirit was once described to me as two-fold “*to cheer up and to stir up*” which ever was needed at any particular time in our lives.

Every prophet in the Old Testament brought a true message that was prompted and inspired by the Holy Spirit, making His message more than a human pronouncement, it became a message direct from God.

Old Testament teaching although inspired directly by Holy Spirit, must now in the New Testament days, be looked on as shadows of the real.

Colossians 2:16-17 [NIV] *“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.**”*

This statement is made in context of Old Testament [Covenant] festivals and statutes.

Most prophecies and special festival days in Old Testament point towards the future fulfilment in Jesus Christ; they will always be valuable scripture but a shadow compared with the real.

All the servants of God in Old Testament only served God effectively by the power of the Holy Spirit working in them.

Circumstances may have changed due to the New Covenant we have with God but we will see that if we are to serve God effectively and in an acceptable way we cannot do it without the Holy Spirit in us.

The Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus Christ

Matthew 3:11 *“I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. **He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**”*

John the Baptist introduces Jesus the Christ as the One who would “*baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire*”.

The Bible attaches particular importance to this by mentioning it in all four gospels.

Here we see again the united work of Jesus Christ [the Word of God] and the Holy Spirit.

Until the Holy Spirit symbolically came on Jesus at the River Jordan after John’s baptism, Jesus did **not** preach nor did He perform any miracles.

After this symbolic union of God’s Word and the Holy Spirit, the empowered ministry of Jesus Christ started anew: this time spiritual creation was set in motion.

Jesus Christ, being God was always in union with Holy Spirit and Father, this symbolic union with Holy Spirit was performed for our benefit.

This was an example for us to follow, baptism and receiving of Holy Spirit to empower us.

Acts 10:37-38 [NIV] “*You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.***”

Peter describes the start of the ministry of Jesus, as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

In these verses all three persons of the Triune God are mentioned: God the Father anointing Jesus the Son with the Holy Spirit.

What was the outcome, the end product, of God in action at the human level?

Healing, physical and spiritual healing.

Never look on Jesus as one who had to be sacrificed to pacify an angry God, as some see God depicted in the Old Testament scriptures.

Such a view of God is distorted by human reasoning.

1 John 4:8 [NIV] “*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*”

God is Love and everything God has ever done is out of love for mankind.

God cannot act in any other way.

Jesus Christ [Christ means anointed one] was and is a gift of love for humanity, the early preachers always preached this.

Jesus exercises the ministry of healing as the helper of humanity.

His great desire is to banish all pain and sorrow from the world, and He will in the end accomplish this.

Revelation 21:4 [NIV] “*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*”

As an expression of God’s Love for humanity Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be crucified as a sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus the Christ then rose again from the dead.

The power that sent Jesus, that was in Jesus is a power that cannot be defeated, conquering the worst man could do, even death.

Peter was a witness to all of this.

Jesus was **not** something in a book but a living presence whom Peter had met and spoken to face to face.

The end result was forgiveness of sin.

Sin was the one thing which had interrupted the fellowship that should always have existed between man and God, God and man are once again reconciled.

Acts 10:44-48 [NIV] *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.”*

This was not just the ratification by sacrificial blood of a New Covenant between God and Israel but for all mankind as the dramatic demonstration of the giving of Holy Spirit to Gentiles showed.

Acts 1:1-2 [NIV] *“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, **after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.**”*

Even after the resurrection, Jesus still depended on the Holy Spirit; the apostles were instructed through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus the Son of Man is our example of total dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

He relied on the Holy Spirit for the power to live, for His miracles and for His teaching.

Jesus the Son of Man did nothing apart from the Holy Spirit.

Until Jesus Christ through His sacrificial blood broke through the barrier that our sins had placed between us and God, had then been resurrected from death and ascended to God’s Throne in glory as our High Priest, the Holy Spirit was **not** released in power to mankind.

The Holy Spirit has always existed but men had never really enjoyed the full power of that Spirit until the first Pentecost.

This can be likened to atomic power; it has always been there, but only in our own time have men tapped it and used it.

John 7:40-44 [NIV] *“On hearing his words, some of the people said, ‘Surely this man is the Prophet.’ Others said, ‘He is the Christ.’ Still others asked, ‘How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?’ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize him, but no-one laid a hand on him.”*

What a sad finish to a glorious announcement.

A theological wrangle, through a misunderstanding of who Jesus really was.

This has been repeated so often since and has always brought division where Christ should bring unity through reconciliation between man and God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 [NIV] *“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”*

Christians are to be stewards of this message of reconciliation.

Jesus Christ is not someone to argue about, He is someone to get to know, love and work alongside.

If we do have a view of Jesus Christ that is different from someone else it should not matter, so long as we both accept Him as our Saviour and Lord.

Our personal experience of Jesus Christ should never separate us from other professing Christians.

Before the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit was presented as a power but now the Holy Spirit is presented as a person, for the Holy Spirit is now the presence of the risen Christ always with us.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Note the word “another” counsellor.

The word “another” does **not** mean different but one who is exactly the same.

Note Christ said “I will come to you”.

Everything that Christ was and did is now done by the Holy Spirit.

Note the counsellor to come was called “the Spirit of Truth” and Christ had already introduced Himself as “the truth”.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Christ and the Holy Spirit are one with God the Father, all one God, presented to us as three persons for our benefit, to enable us to understand God’s Plan of redemption and reconciliation.

The plan that involves all three persons of the One Triune God.

Jesus in person was counsellor to the disciples for a short period of three and one-half years.

Jesus now promises to be a counsellor who will remain with us for ever: never leave us as orphans.

The word “counsellor” is the Greek word “*parakletos*”, someone called in alongside us to help.

The Greeks used this word in a wide variety of ways:

- a) one who acted as an advocate to plead someone’s cause in court;
- b) one who was a witness in court to support their testimony;
- c) an expert called in to give advice in some difficult situation;
- d) one who was called in to encourage someone who was depressed;
- e) one who was called on in times of distress, trouble, doubt or bewilderment.

To sum up all the above, the Holy Spirit is one who comes into our lives to deal with our inadequacies by giving us gifts we can use and enables us to cope with every situation we face by producing within us the fruits of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”*

The Holy Spirit will remain with us for ever.

When Jesus promised *“not to leave us as orphans”* it implies that **without** the Holy Spirit we would have no-one to care for us, help us or to educate us, which is true.

But **with** the Holy Spirit at first beside us, and then in us, full provision for all our needs are going to be met.

John 14:26 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit's fire;”*

We are constantly spiritually fed and educated by the Holy Spirit if we allow Him to operate within us.

John 14:15 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”*

To John there was only one test of love – that was the test of obedience.

Matthew 26:39 [NIV] *“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**”*

It was through obedience that Jesus showed His Love to the Father.

John 15:13 [NIV] *“**Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**”*

John never expressed love as an emotion or sentiment; he always expressed it as a moral quality revealed in obedience and service laying down our lives [our time] for other's benefit.

All too often in life people will profess love in words but their outward actions at the same time bring pain and heartbreak to those they profess to love.

For Jesus, real love was not an easy thing, it involved pain, suffering, humiliation and death.

John 14:17 [NIV] *“The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Jesus went on to say that the world cannot recognise the Holy Spirit.

By the world, John meant the part of mankind who live as if there was no God, leave God out of their reckoning altogether as irrelevant.

We can only see what we are educated to see or are willing to see.

Those who are not educated or interested in art, music, botany, astronomy, etc., will experience little when confronted with the subject, while the expert or enthusiast will understand and value the experience.

A person who does not give time or credence to God will never allow the Holy Spirit to work with him or come into his life.

Revelation 3:20 [NIV] *“**Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.**”*

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“**because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**”*

The Holy Spirit will never gate-crash His way into anyone's life, the Holy Spirit will lead us, He will never drive us or take away our freedom of choice.

Philippians 2:5 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”*

The King James translation uses the word “let” the mind of Christ or Christ's way of living as prompted by Holy Spirit in us be our way of living.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

We are “beseeched” [King James] or “urged” [NIV] to lay down our lives in love “living sacrifice” not commanded.

The simple fact is that most people in this world are too busy to give the Holy Spirit a chance to enter in to their lives.

When we understand and consider all that the Holy Spirit can and is desiring to bring into our lives, surely we should set aside time to seek His Counsel and Comfort every day through study, prayer and quiet meditation on God's Word and His Promises to those who yield their lives to God.

John 16:7 [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”*

Some people wish that they had lived in the time when Jesus was here on earth and been able to walk with Him as the disciples did.

Some feel it would have been much easier to believe and obey as a result of this personal contact.

Jesus tells us that it is a great advantage to have the Holy Spirit instead of Him [the then physical Jesus] **as a help, comforter and teacher.**

Jesus when on earth was limited by time and space and could only help a limited number of people for a limited amount of time.

The Holy Spirit, now available to us, works outside time and space so can help all people all of the time.

John 14:12 [NIV] *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”*

With the coming of the Holy Spirit at the time of Christ's Return to the Father's Throne, there would be **no limit** to what could be accomplished by those who had faith and continued the job of work that Christ had initiated.

What happened at Pentecost?

Let us now examine the fulfilment of the promise made by Jesus concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit with power.

As with many promises made by God in The Bible, the promise of the Holy Spirit was not realised in a single event; rather it was fulfilled in phases.

The first phase took place after the resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week [Sunday].

John 20:19-22 [NIV] *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*”

The Greek word translated “breathed” is “*pneuma*” which means “*spirit*” or “*wind*”.

This act of breathing on them was the “*breath of God*”, the creative power of God the Holy Spirit.

It was at that moment that the disciples really believed that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

Again we see the combination of the Word of God [Christ] and the Holy Spirit initiating a new creation.

Genesis 2:7 [NIV] *“the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”*

Ezekiel 37:9 [NIV] *“Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”*

These two scriptures could well have been on the mind of John as he wrote these words recording his experience of that day.

John 20:21 [NIV] *“Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*”

Here is recorded the commission which the church must never forget.

This means three things for the Church down through the ages.

a) It means that Jesus Christ needs the Church

Ephesians 1:22-23 [NIV] *“And God placed all things under his feet and **appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**”*

The Church is the Body of Christ on earth now since His Ascension to be our High Priest at God’s Throne.

Hebrews 4:14 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.”*

Jesus Christ is acting as a High Priest interceding on our part at the very Throne of God.

We now, since His Ascension, a man, the “*Second Adam*”, the “*Son of Man*”, to represent us at God’s Throne.

1 Corinthians 12:12 [NIV] *“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.”*

Each one of us as Christians make up this Body of Christ on earth.

The Church is to be the mouth to speak for Jesus, the feet to run His errands and the hands to do His Work here on earth until His return.

b) It means that the church needs Jesus Christ

A person who is to be sent with a message needs someone to send them and the message to take.

They also need power and authority to back up the message they bring.

The Church needs Jesus.

Without Him she would have no message, nor the power and authority to bring His message to the world, nor anyone to turn to when she runs into difficulties.

The Church needs Jesus to enlighten her mind, strengthen her will, and encourage her heart.

Jesus has done this by sending the Church the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Power and the Spirit of Truth and the Great Encourager.

c) The sending out of the Church is parallel to God sending out Jesus into the world

John 17:18 [NIV] *“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”*

The relationship between Jesus and God was one of perfect obedience, submission and love. This relationship qualified Jesus to be the Messenger of God.

The Church to qualify for the same job must also be obedient, submissive and love Jesus who sends her as His Messenger to this world.

The Church will be disqualified as Christ’s Messenger if she propogates her own political message, or tries to solve some problem with her own wisdom or strength and fails to seek the will and guidance of Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit His representative here on earth.

The coming of the Holy Spirit was the beginning of a new creation, the birth of Christ’s Church.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon a church, a united group of believers, it is a re-awakening of life from the dead; they are re-created for their task.

Jesus then presents this group of disciples who were the potential original Church, the major task they were to do for Him, the Head of the Church.

John 20:21-23 [NIV] *“Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*

In this passage of scripture is a saying whose true meaning we must be very careful to understand.

One thing is quite certain, no man can ever forgive any man’s sins, this is God’s province only.

Equally certain is that Christ has given the great privilege to His Church to convey the message, announcement and fact that God does extend forgiveness to sinful mankind through faith in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus the Christ.

Our assessment of the value of the message brought to us will depend on how well the messenger knows the person who originated the message!

Likewise the interpretation of a message depends entirely on the closeness of the messenger to the one who sends the message!

The original disciples of Christ had the best of all rights to bring Jesus’ message to others, for they had seen Jesus personally, and thus had faith in Him by what He did and lived.

If the disciples knew that a person was truly penitent, they could with absolute confidence tell them they were forgiven by Christ.

But equally, if they knew there was no genuine penitence in a person's heart, they could tell that person that there would be no forgiveness from God until his heart was altered.

The Church does **not** have the power to forgive sins.

It is only entrusted to proclaim God's forgiveness upon faith in Christ's sacrifice and repentance.

The Church also is entrusted by God to proclaim a warning to all who forfeit the mercy of God what their ultimate end will be like.

This discernment only comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within the disciple involved or the Church as a whole.

Only God can read people's innermost thoughts and motivations.

Acts 8:21-23 [NIV] *"You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."*

Peter recognised a wrong motivation in the heart of Simon who wanted the Holy Spirit's power for his own financial gain.

This task of proclaiming Christ's message to the world is totally dependent on the work of Holy Spirit in the Church.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [NIV] *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body."*

Do we really recognise this statement as fact?

God intends each of us individually to be an instrument He can use to fulfil His work here on earth.

This statement was made to the church at Corinth, some of whom were reverting to their former life of misusing their bodies for sensual pleasures.

These people were using the freedom that the new life offers to justify their misuse of their bodies.

It is all too easy to use liberty to become enslaved to one's physical desires.

The actions of our body are result of the desires of our mind.

Our personality and character dictate what our body does and our body's actions are what people see and judge us by far more than our words.

The way we live our lives is the way we represent Christ and witness to others of His way of life.

We preach only what we practice.

1 Corinthians 6:13-17 [NIV] *"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food" – but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is*

one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit."

Just as the stomach requires food for its proper function so the body requires the Holy Spirit, Christ in us, to fulfil its God-intended purpose of service and sacrifice.

The resurrection of Christ and our new "born again" lives are intimately linked.

Romans 8:11 [NIV] *"And if **the Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**"*

Because of this we must properly value our present physical body and use it as a resurrected by God body needed to fulfil His purpose in calling us at this time.

1 Corinthians 6:18 [NIV] *"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body."*

Drastic action is needed to avoid this powerful temptation; this is to be a constant attitude and reaction.

All sins of the body except sexual come to us from outside the body as a temptation in the world around us, gluttony, drunkenness, drugs, etc.

The sexual appetite originates from within our own bodies from our own personality and therefore are detrimental to our own character.

God looks on fornication as a desecration of His temple, our body being used for a profane act.

Chastity is the guardian of our body the dwelling of the Holy Spirit to prevent anything unclean entering which might provoke the indwelling Holy Spirit to abandon it as defiled.

Acts 20:28 [NIV] *"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."*

We have no right to alienate our body which belongs to God having been purchased by the Blood of Christ.

As Christ took on Himself our deserved punishment, He laid on us a new obligation to obedience.

If we accept Christ as a prophet to reveal God to us and our High Priest to atone for us we also have to accept Him as our King to rule over us, by allowing the Holy Spirit, Christ in us, to be the Director of our lives.

Are we ready mentally and spiritually to accept the directorship of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives?

Are we in our local church as a group of believers ready mentally and spiritually to receive the Holy Spirit in our fellowship as our Director?

Satan is viciously opposed to our leading a Spirit-filled life and he has done everything he can to surround this doctrine with false notions and fears.

We must be sure that it is part of God's Plan for us individually and as a fellowship to be directed by Holy Spirit in all aspects of our lives.

a) The Spirit-filled life is not a special deluxe edition of Christianity

A Spirit-filled life is a normal part and parcel life for all of God's chosen people, all who have been called by God.

A Spirit-filled life is unusual, because there are so few people who walk in the light of such a life and enjoy its experience, but it is not abnormal.

In this present age we see sickness of some sort in the majority of people, total mental and physical health is unusual but it is not abnormal for the mind and body were designed by God to be perfectly healthy subject to the obedience to certain God-given conditions.

The vast majority of people in society are spiritually sick because their lives are lived outside the presence of God but this is **not** how God originally designed life to be conducted.

Genesis 3:17-19, 23-24 [NIV] *"To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." ... "So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."*

Adam and Eve had a very healthy fellowship with their Creator before sin entered their lives.

The end product of Adam and Eve's sin was to be cast out from the presence of God and from that time onwards life became difficult.

b) There is nothing queer, strange or eerie about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Satan has surrounded the Person of the Holy Spirit with an aura of queerness or strangeness, so that even the people of God feel that this Spirit-filled life is a life that is odd, peculiar or a bit uncanny.

Satan has presented to society the idea that anything "*spiritual*" is ghostly, creepy and frightening, even called the Holy Spirit the Holy Ghost!

This is a lie manufactured by the "*father of lies*", Satan.

There is nothing eerie, queer, contrary to normal about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the "*Spirit of Christ*".

Romans 8:9 [NIV] *"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."*

Even people who do not believe in the deity of Jesus have to admit on reading the gospels that He has a loveable character.

The Holy Spirit is a loveable Person.

Remember, fear is of the flesh and panic is of the devil.

Fellowship with Christ through fellowship with Holy Spirit brings peace of mind.

John 14:27 [NIV] *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

The Holy Spirit is **not** a spirit of fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 [Amplified Bible] *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, of cowardice, of craven, cringing and fawning fear, but He has given us a spirit of power and love and of calm, a well-balanced mind and discipline with self-control.*

When anyone came to Jesus nobody except the hypocrite ever needed to fear Him.

c) We must desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit before He will come to fill our lives

It is not a natural desire for a “born again” Christian to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit!

For example, are we sure that we want to yield to a spirit other than our own?

Am I sure that I want to lose control of my life!

We all may desire the great benefits of a Spirit-led life but are we sure we want a Spirit-controlled life?

Do we want to hand over the keys to our lives to the Holy Spirit?

Can we say *“Holy Spirit, you hold the keys to my house, I can only go out and come in when You open the door.”*

Have you ever been locked out of your house? If so, I know what I am talking about!

Do we desire the Holy Spirit to direct our lives to that extent?

Are we sure that we want our personality to be taken over by One who will expect obedience to every written and living Word of God?

Are we sure that we want our personality to be directed by One who will not tolerate *“self sins”*.

For instance self-love, self-confidence, self-righteousness, self-aggrandisement or self-pity?

Are we sure we desire that our personality is directed by One who is in sharp opposition to the world’s liberal ways?

No tolerance of evil, no smiling at devious jokes, no laughing off things that God hates.

The Holy Spirit, if He directs us, will bring us into direct opposition to this society just as Jesus Christ’s way of life brought Him hostility from the political leaders of His day.

The world crucified Jesus because they couldn’t stand His way of life, they preferred a criminal and political rebel called Barabbas!

The world hates the Holy Spirit as much as it hated Jesus the One whom the Holy Spirit represents.

Why?

John 12:46 [NIV] *“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”*

John 3:19-20 [NIV] *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”*

When non-Christians see we are practising Christians, they feel uncomfortable in our presence, for our light threatens to expose the darker side of their lives.

I ask again, are we prepared to receive the Holy Spirit to be the Director of our lives?

We all desire the benefits but are we willing to surrender to Him our will?

Romans 6:12-18 [NIV] *“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”*

The only way to stop sin reigning in our lives is to offer ourselves to the Holy Spirit for Him to reign in our lives.

Actually become the slave of the Holy Spirit, His will being fulfilled in our lives.

John 6:63-68 [NIV] *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”*

Eternal life is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit will only dwell in us as Director of our lives not as our servant.

John 14:17 [NIV] *“The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

The Holy Spirit will be in us only on His conditions!

How then do we receive the Holy Spirit within us?

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Give our bodies to God as a living sacrifice.

Why?

Note the first word “*therefore*”.

Whenever I see this word in scripture I know that to understand what I am reading I should look at what has gone before.

To know what it is “*there for*”!

When we read chapters 1-7 we see what God has to do for us and to us to bring us to a position of being sin free.

Romans 8:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,”*

With such expression of love from God our only response is to return that love!

How do we do this?

John 15:13-14 [NIV] *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”*

To lay down our lives for our Saviour to use as He wills.

What do we do next?

Luke 11:9-13 [NIV] *“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”*

Ask God for the Holy Spirit to become the Director of our lives.

God is more than willing to give to us the Holy Spirit to be Director of our lives, but always remember it is on His conditions as Sovereign God.

What else is required to receive the Holy Spirit within us?

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is **the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.**”*

Obey our Creator.

This is to live by His Word as the Holy Spirit working with us reveals them to us.

God may test us to see just how far we are willing to go in obedience to Him.

Matthew 19:16-22 [NIV] *“Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.” “Which ones?” the man inquired. Jesus replied, “Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbour as yourself.” “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.”*

This man could not give up his very comfortable lifestyle to obey and follow Christ. Wealth is what he worshipped instead of God!

What is the next step we take to receive Holy Spirit within us?

Galatians 3:2 [NIV] *“I would like to learn just one thing from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?**”*

We receive the Holy Spirit by faith just as we receive salvation by faith in the sacrifice made for us by Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit comes as a gift from God just as salvation is a gift from God.

Receiving the Holy Spirit within us is the end result of a process.

a) John 16:8 [NIV] *“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement:”*

Convict us to bring us to repentance and conversion.

b) John 3:3-8 [NIV] *“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”*

We become “born again” Christians by the Holy Spirit.

c) John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

The Holy Spirit brings us to maturity by leading us into the truth of what God wants us to become.

What does God want us to become?

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

To become one of His children.

How?

By being led by the Holy Spirit.

We have already seen in this passage of scripture that this leading involves directorship of the Holy Spirit, our being His servant.

The Holy Spirit is here among us all the time but He will only be within us by invitation and obedience to His conditions.

The choice is ours.

To help us make this choice, let us examine in scripture the many blessings of a Spirit-filled life!

The Holy Spirit gives us knowledge of God’s Word

Jesus was the great teacher while He was on earth, but now as we have seen in scripture, He has handed over this task to the Holy Spirit.

Whatever we need to know about the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is here to instruct us.

2 Peter 1:21 [NIV] *“For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

The accuracy and the authority of the Old Testament prophets was the Holy Spirit Himself.

The Holy Spirit inspired and “*carried them along*”

2 Timothy 3:16 [NIV] “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*”

It was the Holy Spirit who inspired or “*breathed*” all scripture through human channels; He is the origin of all scripture.

The Holy Spirit is the Author and also He is interpreter of God’s Word, thus He is the best interpreter being the Author.

If we can listen to Holy Spirit and receive from Him we will know exactly what scripture has to say for us in this generation.

For example:-

Acts 2:15-16 [NIV] “*These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*”

We can understand from reading about Peter in the gospels that he up to that time had no understanding of the prophecy of Joel.

In fact, Peter had a very limited understanding, even of the direct teaching of Jesus.

But the moment the Holy Spirit came into his life, scripture and Christ’s words made sense for him in a totally new way because the Author was there to interpret.

Acts 9:17 [NIV] “*Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*”

The same happened to Saul who became Paul; the moment the Holy Spirit came into his life, he had a totally different understanding.

It was a transition from blindness to a new sight, mentally as well as physically.

The transformation was almost instant as Paul began to preach Jesus as the Son of God, the very thing he had been denying and persecuting all who did believe in the deity of Jesus.

When speaking about the Holy Spirit as the interpreter and the revelator of the Word of God we need to bear in mind that not only is scripture the Word of God, but Jesus Himself is called the Word of God.

John 1:1 [NIV] “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*”

John 1:14 [NIV] “*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

Scripture is the written Word of God, and Jesus is the personal Word of God, both in total agreement.

John 16:12-15 [NIV] “*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.***”

Jesus confirms that the Holy Spirit speaks for Him and the Father.

The Holy Spirit takes what belongs to Jesus and the Father and makes it known to us.

The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus in all His glory, every aspect of His nature, character and ministry.

Once the Holy Spirit came into the lives of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, they never had any further doubts who Jesus was and where He was.

The Holy Spirit administers the total direction and wisdom of the Father, and He is constantly with us to reveal that to us.

The Holy Spirit lifts our life to a supernatural plane

Hebrews 6:4-5 [NIV] *“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, **who have shared in the Holy Spirit**, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the **powers of the coming age,**”*

Five things are listed in the scripture that changed the lives of the early Christians as a result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

a) Enlightened

John 1:1-9 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.”*

The idea of enlightenment is often used in scripture: it most likely refers back to Christ being the light of the world.

The Greek word used for enlightenment is linked to baptism and indicates a one time only event.

Our coming out of the darkness that grips this world because of the ignorance of God's Plan for mankind and our call to repentance and belief in the atoning sacrifice of God, together with our outward expression in baptism, of what had happened within us, are our enlightenment.

This can only happen once we are warned in context with the scripture in Hebrews.

b) Tasted the heavenly gift

John 14:16 [NIV] *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”*

The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father.

John 8:16 [NIV] *“But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.”*

Just as Jesus Christ was a gift to the world from the Father.

With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are already experiencing eternal life, for the death penalty of sin has been taken away since our new birth with Christ's resurrection from the dead.

We already have immortality dwelling within us in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 3:20-21 [NIV] *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

The power mentioned here is that of the Holy Spirit through whom Christ is now working on earth.

c) Shared in the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”*

Here are the fruits that come to us as a result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 [NIV] *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”*

The Holy Spirit is introduced as a Counsellor, the Greek *“paraklêtos”* literally meaning *“one who walks beside us”*.

It is through our fellowship with the Holy Spirit that some of God’s characteristics rub off on us.

Just as we take on the characteristics of those with whom we spend much of our lives, children become like their parents for example.

These characteristics are those of God. For example:-

Love:

1 John 4:16 [NIV] *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

God is love, as we fellowship with the Holy Spirit some of His Love will rub off on us.

Joy:

As we have already seen in scripture that the indwelling of Holy Spirit means we already have in us eternal life.

The joy we have is the joy that looks back on the grave.

This is a joy we have inspite of the knowledge we have that we must die.

It is a joy that results from the fact that in Christ we have already died and risen, so there is no real death out there for the true Child of God.

Peace:

John 14:27 [NIV] *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

Peace comes with the companionship of the Holy Spirit.

How?

Ephesians 6:12 [NIV] *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

Our battle is with the evil spirits in this world and the people they are influencing and using.

1 John 4:4 [NIV] *“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”*

The Holy Spirit in us is far greater than all the powers in this world that are against us, so we can experience peace of mind.

d) Tasted the goodness of the Word of God

The major expression of God’s goodness is found in the promises He has made which we can claim when we find ourselves in the position covered by that promise.

Widows and orphans.

Exodus 22:22-24 [NIV] *“Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.”*

If anyone tries to take advantage of a widow or orphan then they are inviting the Wrath of God to be poured out on them. God is the powerful protector of widows and orphans.

Psalm 68:5 [NIV] *“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”*

God Himself takes the place of the one whom the widow or orphaned child have lost.

Backsliders:

Psalm 44:20-21, 26 [NIV] *“If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?” ... “Rise up and help us; redeem us because of your unfailing love.”*

Because of the great love God has for us He will answer this prayer, as we confess to Him that we have forgotten Him.

Matthew 18:12-13 [NIV] *“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.”*

The backsliding sheep takes on a special concern of the Great Shepherd.

Luke 15:20, 24 [NIV] *“So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” ... “For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”*

The response of our Heavenly Father when we realise we have moved out of His presence and “done our own thing” and want to “come home”!

There are hundreds of promises in God’s Word which God wants us to claim from Him because He wants to be involved in every aspect of our lives.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit will make us aware of these promises as each situation comes in our life covered by that promise.

e) Tasted the powers of the coming age

1 Corinthians 15:35-36, 42-44, 49 [NIV] *“But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come? How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.” ... “So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.” ... “And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.”*

Revelation 21:1, 4 [NIV] *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.” ... “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

All Christians believe that in the next age we will function in a different way.

We will be set free of many of the limitations of our physical bodies, because we have a different kind of body and a totally different lifestyle.

But many Christians do not realise that through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives He allows us to taste a little of that lifestyle right now in this life.

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV] *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.”*

The Holy Spirit is God's deposit in us, right now, for the age to come, tomorrow's world.

The word translated “deposit” is “*arrhabōn*” [ar-hrab-ohn] which is really a Hebrew word meaning a pledge or part of the purchase money given in advance of receiving the goods as a security to assure the full purchase price will be given when the goods are received.

The Holy Spirit's presence in us is the down-payment of our life with God in the next age.

This supernatural life in us extends to every area of our experience.

The full payment only comes at the resurrection and the receiving of our new “*bodies*” referred to in the scripture as our redemption.

If we study the life of the early Christians the supernatural permeated every part of their experience.

The supernatural experience was not something additional or exceptional but an integral part of their whole lives as Christians.

For the early Christians:-

Their praying had supernatural results.

Their preaching had supernatural results.

They were supernaturally guided by the Holy Spirit.

They were supernaturally empowered.

They were supernaturally protected.

Remove every chapter of Acts of the Apostles that has the supernatural in it and you are left with little or nothing.

Acts 19:11 [NIV] *“God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,”*

When we consider this statement of *“extraordinary miracles”* which means *“miracles of a kind that do not happen every day”*, we are left with the impression that miracles did happen every day.

In how many churches today would we find occasion to use such a phrase?

Acts 16:6-10 [NIV] *“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”*

This is a very significant incident, as well as an example of Holy Spirit guiding the church by overruling the plans its apostles had made.

It was unnatural for the apostles to pass by these two areas, go northward and then cross over into the continent of Europe.

However, if we look back over the history of the Church, we see that the continent of Europe played a unique role in two ways:

- a) Preserving the gospel through the Dark Ages.
- b) Becoming the main area for many years to send the Word of God to many nations.

Paul and his companions could never have discovered by natural reasoning, this purpose and preparation by the Sovereign God.

All history has been affected by the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit directing our lives we too can experience supernatural events as God preserves and directs our lives.

I can give personal testimony to this as I’m sure many other Christians can.

The Holy Spirit dwelling in us helps us with our prayers to our Creator God

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

In order to become a Christian we must be *“born again”* of the Spirit, but in order to live as a Christian and come to maturity as a son of God we have to be led by the Holy Spirit.

The verb used by Paul in this passage of scripture is the continuous present tense so we should read *“for all who are continually led by the Spirit of God...”*

This is the only way we can grow from little babies in Christ to mature sons and daughters of God.

Romans 8:26-27 [NIV] *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”*

This is not a weakness of body that Paul is referring to but a weakness of intellect.

We do not know what to pray for or how to pray, if we are honest we can all relate to this need.

The suggestion being expressed in this passage of scripture is that if we submit to the Holy Spirit in us He will pray through us.

Our finite limited minds do not have the words needed to fully express our thoughts and desires so the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf.

Galatians 4:19 [NIV] *“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,”*

Physical birth and growth are accompanied with pain and spiritual birth and growth is no different.

Paul was suffering with those in the church in Galatia as they went through the birth pains of change in their lives.

He was there in spirit, holding their hand to comfort them in their time of trial.

The Holy Spirit in us will groan with us and hold our hand in trials to comfort us if we let Him dwell in us!

The Holy Spirit will renew our mind

Ephesians 4:17-19 [NIV] *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.”*

Ephesians 4:20-24 [NIV] *“You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

Our minds have been influenced from birth by society; a society that is mostly under the rule of Satan.

Through our fellowship with the Holy Spirit we begin to understand the Will of our Creator, and look at all situations and relationships through His eyes, from His perspective.

Ephesians 4:23 [Amplified Bible] *“...be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind, having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude.”*

Our “human” spirit joined to the Holy Spirit will place us in a different realm, the spiritual realm in which God dwells.

What will influence our minds and the decisions we make will be the society in which God dwells, and not this world's society and all its evil.

This change of mind will **not** be immediate, it will take time, but the more time we spend away from this world's influence and in God's presence alone the sooner our changing mind will mature.

The Holy Spirit will put the right words in our mouths

1 Peter 3:15 [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”*

We need to be well able to do this with conviction.

Luke 12:11-12 [NIV] *“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”*

It is the Holy Spirit in us who will provide the right words at the right time.

John 14:26 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

The Holy Spirit can only bring to repentance what we have heard or read.

Study of God's Word is essential for the Holy Spirit to be able to do His work in and through us.

Luke 21:15 [NIV] *“For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.”*

The truth of God is absolute.

All the fabrications and lies that people may use to contest the Word of God will be proved false in the end.

1 Corinthians 2:13 [NIV] *“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.”*

When the Holy Spirit dwells within us and we submit to His Directorship we have access to the Wisdom of God, which those without God in their lives do not have available to use.

The Holy Spirit gives us physical and mental health

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 [NIV] *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”*

The treasure we have is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit does not make us physically different to other people, we still feel pain and discomfort, but we have in us a different kind of power.

Things that would crush other people need power that makes us resilient.

Genesis 2:7 [NIV] *“the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”*

The “*breath of life*” was the creating Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit.

It was the in-breathed Spirit of God that transformed a clay statue into a living human being, with all the miracles and marvels of a functioning human body.

Logically it follows that as the Holy Spirit gave us life He is the One to sustain life.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 [NIV] *“Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”*

It is almost incredible that a person could endure all of this and still be so active, healthy and courageous.

What sustained Paul in all these trials?

The power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Some people have suggested that Paul was a walking invalid, sick most of the time.

Well, if Paul was an invalid may God give us more invalids like Paul!

2 Corinthians 4:16 [Living Bible] *“...though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing day by day.”*

Our bodies are decaying, God designed them to have a limited life-span.

Our inner, supernatural, miraculous life of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us is designed for eternity and can grow stronger day by day if we allow the Holy Spirit to complete His work in us.

Romans 8:10-11 [NIV] *“But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, **he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**”*

Until the maturing work of the Holy Spirit is complete in us He will take care of the needs of our physical bodies.

Romans 1:4 [NIV] *“and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

We need to understand it was the Holy Spirit, the “*Spirit of Holiness*” that raised the dead body of Jesus from the tomb.

This act was the climax of the redemptive process of God in this age.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Two classifications of people are mentioned here in context of the resurrection.

- a) *“We that are alive”*: the “we” refers to Christians with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- b) *“The dead in Christ”*: those who died having the *“Spirit of Christ”* in them; in other words, the Holy Spirit in them.

Both types will be resurrected by having Holy Spirit dwelling in them.

1 Corinthians 15:42-46 [NIV] *“So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. **The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.** So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”*

The Holy Spirit gave us physical life.

The Holy Spirit sustains physical life.

The Holy Spirit gives us eternal life.

Our past, present and future are subject to the will of the Holy Spirit.

This is how important our understanding and our yielding to the Holy Spirit is to each of us.

God’s love for this world is expressed through the Holy Spirit in us

John 7:37-39 [NIV] *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.**’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

Jesus not only moved in the power of the Holy Spirit, He also promised His disciples [that includes all Christians] that we would all receive the same Holy Spirit that had empowered and inspired Him.

If we “thirst” for the Holy Spirit, God will not give His Power to us in short measure, but in such a supply that it will overflow our lives and like a river quench the same thirst in many others.

In every Christian the Holy Spirit can be a limitless resource of “living water”.

Romans 5:5 [NIV] *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into [through] our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

The Greek preposition translated “in” [King James] and “into” [NIV] is “en” which indicates something which remains within but also emanates from within outwards in union with what it is within.

“En” also denotes a continuance in this union and emanating from within.

This is exactly as was stated in **John 7:37-39** quoted above.

Note in context are suffering, perseverance and hope, the characteristics of a Christian who is experiencing the flow of the Holy Spirit through their lives out to others.

Romans 5:1-4 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

The word “love” used in these passages of scripture is the Greek word “agape” [ag-ah-pay].

This is a word that is expressive of God’s Love for His Son and for the human race generally.

The word expresses ideas previously unknown in Greek literature.

The literal meaning is *“a spontaneous affection and benevolence expressed for the welfare of another person irrespective of the rights or the response of the recipient.”*

The parallel words in Hebrew are “âgab” [aw-gab] meaning “to breathe after” and “âhêb” [aw-hab] meaning “to have affection for”.

“Agape” love is **not** an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered.

Romans 15:2 [NIV] *“Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.”*

Love seeks the welfare of all people.

Romans 13:8-10 [NIV] *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”*

“Agape” love works no ill towards anyone.

Galatians 6:10 [NIV] *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

“Agape” love seeks opportunity to do good to all mankind and especially towards those in the family of faith, the Church.

Colossians 3:12-14 [NIV] *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*

This “agape” love extends to every aspect of every relationship and illustrates the love God has for each of us.

Romans 5:6-8 [NIV] *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

When Jesus Christ died for us, laid down His life for us, we were powerless, ungodly and sinners.

This act was an expression of “*agape*” love which is self-giving and does not lay down any prior conditions.

“*Agape*” love is freely given affection and benevolence to the most undeserving, helpless and most unworthy.

Such love is not humanly achievable except by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:7-8 [NIV] *“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

The possibility of loving with “*agape*” love originates with a new birth.

“*Agape*” love is the sign and nature of the new birth.

A person who has been “*born again*” has this love.

The person who has not been “*born again*” of the Holy Spirit does not have this “*agape*” love.

1 Timothy 1:5-6 [NIV] *“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.”*

The goal of all Christian ministry is “*agape*” love.

The Will of God for every Christian is the consistent expression of God given “*agape*” love.

God’s “*agape*” love is the “*living witness*” that flows through us to refresh a thirsty society, most of whom are not even seeking the life-giving water that we have from the Holy Spirit in us.

But they are trying to fill this void in their lives by drinking in what this society offers that will never quench their thirst.

How do we cultivate the Holy Spirit’s companionship?

Amos 3:3 [NIV] *“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”*

For two to walk in harmony they must in some sense be as one, and want fellowship with one another.

a) Relate to Holy Spirit as a person

The Holy Spirit is a person **not** a power and we must relate to Him as a person, seeking to please Him as our part in that friendship.

We please the Holy Spirit by not causing Him grief.

Just as we are pained when we see close and loved friends doing things that are going to hurt them, so the Holy Spirit grieves to see us sin.

b) Glorify Jesus Christ in our lives

John 7:39 [NIV] *“By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

John 16:14 [NIV] *“He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”*

The Holy Spirit is only present when and where Jesus Christ is glorified.

The Holy Spirit is companion to all who are engrossed with Jesus Christ, who have His words and actions at the centre of their lives.

We cultivate companionship with the Holy Spirit as we worship and honour the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we honour Christ by seeking to become more like Him, the Holy Spirit communes with us and imparts Himself, His characteristics to us.

c) Travel in same direction as the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

If we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit we will be going in the same direction as He is moving.

John 10:14 [NIV] *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me –.”*

Christ is the Good Shepherd.

John 10:2-5 [NIV] *“The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.”*

Just as Jesus told the disciples that they were to follow Him as sheep follow their shepherd, knowing his voice.

We are to be led by the Holy Spirit who is now our Shepherd being Jesus Christ's Executor here on earth until His return.

d) Make our thoughts a clean sanctuary in which the Holy Spirit can dwell

Philippians 4:8-9 [NIV] *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

To walk with the Holy Spirit we too have to be Holy.

Let's not make the mistake of thinking we can walk with the Holy Spirit and continue on a wrong, dirty and un-righteous path.

Two cannot walk together except they are in agreement.

We cannot make ourselves; Holy only a Holy God can do this and He does it through atoning for our past with the blood sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

But if the Holy Spirit is to remain in the sanctuary God has prepared we have to strive to keep it clean.

Our thoughts decide the mood and climate of our heart and God considers our thoughts as part of us.

Philippians 4:4-7 [NIV] *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Here are listed the lifestyle we can cultivate which will keep the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, our thoughts, purified.

“*Rejoice*” one of the fruits that come into our lives as a result of spending time in fellowship with the Holy Spirit is joy.

“*Gentleness*” the gentle person is a humble person who puts the needs and concerns of others before their own.

“*Anxious*” when we give our lives to the Holy Spirit to direct our welfare becomes His concern and who better can provide for our needs, so relax.

“*Prayer*” where we cannot find the words to express our feelings or our needs the Holy Spirit will say them for us.

“*Thanksgiving*” the more the Holy Spirit reveals our Creator God to us the more heartfelt will be our prayers of thanksgiving.

“*Guard*” when our mind is centred on God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit our minds will be guarded from the evil influence of society.

“*Peace*” the state of mind this society cannot find but we, even though we are surrounded by this society, can experience peace of mind.

Our thoughts are **not** physical they are what is akin to the spirit in man which is our link to the spirit realm in which God dwells.

The triune nature of human beings is the linking chain through which God performs His Work here on earth.

God’s first contact is through the spirit in man where our thoughts reside; these thoughts then influence our mind [our soul or heart in scriptural terms] and it is the mind which tells the physical body how to operate, how to live our lives.

Revelation 12:10-11 [NIV] *“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.**”*

Our lives are the testimony which working hand in hand with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ are the means by which God overcomes evil in this world.

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

Evil which was introduced by Satan to mankind at man’s creation and has continued to influence all people to rebel against the Creator God as he did long before mankind existed.

e) Seek to know the Holy Spirit through the Word of God

John 1:1-5 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*

The light of understanding shines out from the Word of God.

John 1:14 [NIV] *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

The Word of God is Jesus the Christ.

John 14:25-26 [NIV] *“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

The Holy Spirit is the One who will reveal our Saviour to us.

We walk [fellowship] with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ walks in us through the Holy Spirit, on the earth at this time.

John 15:13-16 [NIV] *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

The more time we spend reading and meditating on the Word of God the more we will have the fruits of the Holy Spirit *“rub off”* on us and the better testimony we will be for our Friend Jesus Christ to use to further His Kingdom, the Family of God.

“Laying down our lives” is spending our time with our Friend for our time is our life.

Remember, cultivating the Holy Spirit's acquaintance, becoming His friend is a job of work we have been chosen by Jesus Christ to do at this time.

When we wake up in the morning instead of spending time reading all the bad news in the daily papers or watching it on TV, spend the first part of the day in a *“quiet time”* with the greatest friend we will ever have, the Holy Spirit.

Let us converse with Him, our Friend, about the Good News of what God has done for us and what God wants to do for the rest of alienated mankind through us.

Matthew 5:14 [NIV] *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

When we are in God's presence we are in the light and we can then reflect this light for others to observe for the rest of each day.

Exodus 34:29 [NIV] *“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that **his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.**”*

Here is living proof of what can happen to each of us every day! Wow!