



PNEUMATOLOGY **THE STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Training the next generation

For small groups, Sunday school, mentoring, personal study



By Rev. Bob Schneider

These studies are for the glory of our wonderful God. I can hardly wait to be in His presence!

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

"Bob Schneider has blessed the church with his studies in theology. I am quite impressed by their clarity, simplicity, and depth! It takes a good teacher who knows his stuff to make complicated ideas clear and he has accomplished this in his study. Well done!" **Dr. Richard Bargas - President of IFCA, International.**

"These studies will cause the believer to catapult forward because they learn to think and wrestle with the text. All believers need this kind of theological foundation for their lives." **Paul Seger, Mission Consultant and Former director of Biblical Ministries Worldwide.**

The Bible studies Bob has put together are very well organized and structured. They can be used in a variety of different ministry settings for both teens and adults. The lessons are designed to prompt discussion and interaction with the biblical texts by placing thoughtful discussion questions into each section. Thanks, Bob, for providing such biblical and practical material for our churches. **Pastor Ron Smith - Curtiss Street Bible Fellowship.**

These courses provide a useful framework as a base for a wide variety of Bible studies. Whether it's a quick survey for a new believer or a deeper challenge to a maturing teen, these courses are carefully thought through to help leaders of all skill levels provide a consistent and thorough grasp of each topic. **Brendan Yoder, friend, father of eight, elder in his church, man of God.**

I like how the topics are divided, it makes analysis, discussion, and teaching so much easier. The time flies by so quickly, I just don't want to stop. **Jasmine, a sister in our church.**

I appreciate that the material is well organized and that the Bible texts are the ones I need to study that topic. **Minerva leads ladies' studies in our church.**

Bible translations - The main Bible used in this study is the New American Standard Bible. At times we use the New Living Translation, which often does an excellent job of making things clear. This has been especially helpful for the teens in our church who use these studies.

I'm so very grateful for the help of my wife, **Karon**. She has encouraged me, served as my editor, and also is translating these studies into Spanish. My good friends **Brendan Yoder and Pastor Ron Smith** have been instrumental in walking through these studies with me, looking for accuracy and thought flow. Their support has been of immense value! Thank you, men.

Bob Schneider

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What's unique about this study is that it's centered around the Bible. So, as we look at different passages, take the time to think through each phrase of each verse. **WHAT IS THIS VERSE TEACHING?** Take the time to meditate on God's Word.

Read what others have to say about these themes. Check out excellent study Bibles and websites.

- GotQuestions.org. / Biblehub.com / PreceptAustin.org / FOI.ORG - Friends of Israel
- E-sword and Olive Tree are free Bible programs.

The Holy Spirit Pneumatology

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If you had the chance to meet the Holy Spirit, you'd be so full of joy simply because He is amazing! He is incredibly intelligent, He is so very gifted, He understands everything, He is beautiful. If you could talk to Him, you'd be enthralled for hours on end, just listening to Him. He is so full of life and wonder. And if you could see His art, His creation, you'd be incredibly amazed! In fact, someday, you will see some of the new things that the Holy Spirit will do, not to mention His astounding works in this creation. You will be so full of joy and wonder. And the amazing thing is that this loving, gentle, kind person lives in you if you're a child of the King. Moment by moment, He is leading you, helping you, encouraging you, giving you strength, and protecting you. You are His new creation, and He is changing you day by day.

I've personally found that God's children are some of the most wonderful people on the planet, and that's the work of the Holy Spirit. He transforms us into the image of Christ. He loves us so very much, and He's very patient. Now don't get me wrong. He's not Santa Claus. He also brings judgment, but those are His "strange" works. It brings Him no joy to do that. It's not what He wants to do.

The Holy Spirit is a Person that we worship and adore with all of our hearts. You and I are so very blessed to have Him dwell in us.

- What would your life be like without the Holy Spirit?

- What has He done for you?

- What is He doing today?

Now, the first thing that we need to understand is that the Holy Spirit is a person. This might seem strange to say, but some religions teach that He is a mindless force. Can you imagine calling this wonderful person a mindless force? This is so contrary to what the Bible clearly teaches about the Holy Spirit. Let's study God's Word.

As you think through the following verses, try to keep the following in mind: Why do we believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate Person, and not just God's inner spirit?

1. The “personhood” of the Holy Spirit.

It might seem strange to think of the Holy Spirit as a person since He is invisible and He is God. But He is a person. I live in Puerto Rico, where every year, we keep an eye on hurricanes, especially in September. A hurricane is a mindless force. It doesn't think. It has no control over where it goes, and it doesn't care if people are killed. The Holy Spirit is not a mindless force; He is a person.

1.1. The Spirit has personal characteristics or attributes.

1.1.1. The Holy Spirit is intelligent.

1 Corinthians 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

9 but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

- What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit?

- First of all, this hidden mystery is not talking about heaven; it is what we now understand, namely that God became a man, He took our sins on the cross, and rose again. He gives us eternal life. He will rule the world. We are one body with Jesus, among other things. These

things are the wisdom that the world doesn't understand, but we do. These truths are what God had prepared for us. And because the world didn't understand, they killed Jesus.

- Look at verse 10. How did we come to understand these mysteries?
- How do you see from this passage that the Holy Spirit is intelligent?
- Could a hurricane guide you and help you understand the Bible? A hurricane can't commune with your soul, but the Holy Spirit can. He is a person with great intelligence.
- What has come clear to you from this passage?

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

- What does this verse teach us?
- Does any person really know all of your thoughts and feelings?
- How is it beneficial to you that the Holy Spirit understands you perfectly?
- The thoughts of God are incredibly deep, and we will marvel at His wisdom throughout all eternity. We will forever be amazed by God. The Holy Spirit understands all of the depths of God, things that we will never comprehend, ever.

The following passage talks about the LORD, which includes the Holy Spirit. What does this passage tell us about the Holy Spirit?

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, 2 "Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 "Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me! 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? 6 "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 "Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; 9 When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band,

10 And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors, 11 And I said, "Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop"? 12 "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, And caused the dawn to know its place, 13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?

Review - From what we've seen in the above passages, what does the Holy Spirit do which shows us that He is intelligent?

1.1.2. The Holy Spirit has emotions.

Romans 15:30 Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,

- What emotion does the Spirit of God have for you?

Psalm 78:40 How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness And grieved Him in the desert! **41** Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel.

- How did they grieve the Holy One of Israel?
- How do believers and unbelievers grieve the Lord today?

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.

- How does the Holy Spirit fight against people today?

Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- How does this verse tell us that the Holy Spirit is a person and not just a mindless force?
- What are some things you have done that might have grieved the Holy Spirit?
- Sealed for the day of redemption. Can you explain what this means?
- The following passage will give us further insight.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- Notice in this passage that there are only two things that a believer does in order to make it to heaven. You hear, and you believe.
- Can you explain this verse?

The Bible Knowledge Commentary - The Holy Spirit who seals is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. The “deposit” is more than a pledge which could be returned; it is a down payment with a guarantee of more to come. It guarantees believers’ “inheritance” of salvation and heaven (cf. 1 Peter 1:4). In essence, the “deposit” of the Holy Spirit is a little bit of heaven in believers’ lives with a guarantee of much more yet to come.

Review

- How do we see that the Holy Spirit has emotions?
- What other emotions does the Holy Spirit have?

1.1.3. The Holy Spirit has a will, the ability to make choices.

Acts 16:6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis;

- How do we see the Holy Spirit guiding Paul?
- There is nothing in the Bible to suggest that this was normal for Paul. Paul used wisdom as he made decisions and prayed to God for guidance, and this is exactly what Paul tells us to do as we learn how to best please the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the

interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

- How do we see that the Holy Spirit is making choices, and that He has a will?
- If He can make decisions, He must be a person.

Acts 13:2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit?

Review:

- What examples do we find in these passages that show us that the Holy Spirit has a will, the ability to make choices?
- What three things tell us that the Holy Spirit is a person and not a force like a hurricane or a bolt of lightning?

A heart like King David. The Holy Spirit Himself is working in your life today. He is massively intelligent, He is tender with us, sometimes He is grieved, and sometimes He is angry. He makes choices that directly affect your life. As you think of these things, why do you honor and praise the Holy Spirit?

1.2. The Spirit acts in personal ways, not simply as a force.

1.2.1. He opens our eyes. He teaches us.

Psalms 119:12 Blessed are You, O LORD; Teach me Your statutes. 13 With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. 16 I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- In order for the Spirit to teach us, to open our eyes, what are our responsibilities?

18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

- What does this passage teach us?

26 I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; Teach me Your statutes. 27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders.

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart.

- As you've studied these verses in Psalm 119, what guidelines do we find for understanding God's Word?

Nehemiah 9:20 "You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth, And You gave them water for their thirst.

- What is this verse teaching us?

1 John 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

- What is this verse teaching us, and what specifically is the anointing?
- When a person comes to Christ, the Holy Spirit gives him faith, and this person will believe certain things. For example, every believer knows that Jesus is God, that He died for our sins and rose again, that He saves us, that salvation is by faith in Christ, not by works, that Jesus is coming back, that God exists, that the Bible is God's truth to us, that we should not sin, that heaven is real, among other things. These teachings are part of the "anointing" all Christians have from the Holy Spirit. The cults were teaching a new wisdom and were denying these truths, but John said that the Spirit would teach them about all things. The Spirit leads us into truth.
- MacArthur Study Bible - "True Christians have a built-in lie detector and persevere in the truth. Those who remain in heresy and apostasy manifest the fact that they were never genuinely born again."
- How would you respond if someone came, teaching that Jesus was a liar, that He wasn't God, and that He didn't rise from the dead? Could you honestly believe in your heart that God and heaven are just a fantasy? Could you stop believing in Jesus?
- The Holy Spirit not only teaches us, but He keeps us in truth.
- If someone no longer believes in Jesus, are they a believer?

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

- What are these verses teaching us about the Spirit?
- MacArthur Study Bible - The “we” and “us” refer to the apostles and other writers of the Word of God. The means was inspiration, by which God freely gave the gift of His Word. It was this process of inspiration that turned spiritual thoughts into spiritual words that give life.
- We don't write the Scriptures, but the Spirit of God was given to all to help us understand the Scriptures.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

- What is this verse teaching us?

The MacArthur Study Bible says this: Through illumination of the Word, the Holy Spirit provides His saints the capacity to discern divine truth (see Ps 119:18), which the spiritually dead are unable to comprehend (cf. Jn 5:37-39). The doctrine of illumination does not mean we know everything (cf. Dt 29:29), that we do not need teachers (cf. Eph 4:11, 12), or that understanding does not require hard work (cf. 2Ti 2:15).

Review:

- What does the Holy Spirit do for us?
- What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit?

So, we've seen that the Holy Spirit has emotions, He makes decisions, and He is intelligent. We've just seen that He opens our eyes. He helps the unbeliever and believer to understand the Word of God. How would your life be different if you did not have the Spirit of God?

1.2.2. He commands.

Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.”

- How does this tell us that He is a person?
- How do we see in this short verse that the Holy Spirit has a will and knowledge?

Acts 13:2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

- Does the Bible tell us to obey the Holy Spirit or to obey the Bible?

We see that the Holy Spirit opens our eyes, He helps us understand God's Word. He commanded men in the Bible. We see that He is acting in personal ways, not as a mindless force.

1.2.3. He intercedes for us in prayer.

Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

- First of all, explain this verse in your own words.
- Sometimes I don't explain myself very well, and it creates misunderstandings. Do we have to explain ourselves perfectly in prayer for God to understand us?
- What is "our weakness?"
- What does "groanings too deep for words" mean? How does groaning communicate something which words can't?
- Do you ever feel frustrated in your prayer life? What frustrates you?
- How does it help to know that the Holy Spirit is constantly helping you when you pray?
- MacArthur Study Bible - **groanings too deep for words:** "Divine articulations within the Trinity that cannot be expressed in words, but carry profound appeals for the welfare of every believer."

When was the last time that the Holy Spirit helped you in prayer?

1.2.4. He convicts of sin.

John 16:8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me.

- There are many, many sins that we all commit, but what is the sin mentioned here that an unbeliever commits?
- At what point did you feel convicted to believe in Jesus?
- **Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent."**

- * What is God's command to all mankind?
- * What does it mean to repent?
- * Can a person be saved if he has a rebellious heart? What does God say about humbling oneself?

Acts 16:29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- What do these verses have to do with the conviction that the Holy Spirit brings?

Having looked at these passages, what is the Holy Spirit doing today all over the world?

Does the Holy Spirit convict someone of their need for Jesus apart from the Word of God?

Romans 10:14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

He opens our eyes, He gives commands throughout the Scriptures, He helps us in our prayers, He convicts us of sin, and now we will see that He performs miracles.

1.2.5. He performs miracles.

Acts 8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

- What was the miracle?

Review:

- First, we saw that the Holy Spirit has **emotions, will, and knowledge**. These show us that the Holy Spirit is a person. In this last section, we just studied five things that the Spirit **does**, which tell us that He is a person. What are they?
- For which of these ministries are you most grateful?

A heart like King David. It was the Holy Spirit that opened your eyes to the gospel; He opens your eyes to God's Word. He commands you through the Word, He helps you when you pray, He

convicts mankind of sin, and He performs miracles. As you think about these things, why do you honor and praise the Holy Spirit?

1.3. He is described as only a person would be and not as a force.

1.3.1. He can be lied to.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

- What do these verses teach us?
- How can a person today lie to God?
- Can you remember a time when Satan filled your heart to lie?
- How can you stop Satan from filling your heart to lie?
- Notice the first line and the very last phrase. To whom did Ananias lie? Underline your answer.

1.3.2 He can be resisted.

Acts 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did."

- In your opinion, how can a person today resist the Holy Spirit?
- It's helpful to remember that unbelievers constantly resist the Holy Spirit. Notice Stephen's words. "You are always resisting the Holy Spirit."
- Stephen will die for these words; he was very bold. Notice what he says about the Holy Spirit working in the times of the Old Testament. "Your fathers" refers to people who lived before Jesus. What does this tell us about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament?

People lie to the Holy Spirit, and they resist the Holy Spirit. Now we'll see that people obey the Holy Spirit.

1.3.3 He is obeyed.

Acts 10:19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. **20** But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.” **21** Peter went down to the men and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?”

- What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit?

Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “**TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,**

- What do these verses teach us?

- The Holy Spirit spoke the Word of the Lord through Moses, but the people did not obey; they hardened their hearts. If you diligently study the Scriptures, you'll find that the voice of God is always referring to the Bible, to a "Word of the Lord" given to prophets, or to God's actual voice. It is never referring to an idea that comes into your mind. It is not something that the Spirit impresses on your heart. It is the Word of God.

- How do people today disobey the Holy Spirit?

- These verses are a quote from the Old Testament, given by the Holy Spirit. What ministry did He perform in the times of the Old Testament?

People lied to the Holy Spirit, they resisted the Holy Spirit, and they disobeyed the Holy Spirit. Let's look at one more reason to believe that He is a person and not just a force.

1.3.4 He is described in personal terms grammatically.

Many languages have masculine, feminine, and neuter words. In Spanish, "el papel - the paper" is a masculine word. It would be wrong to say la papel; it has to be el papel. In English, you wouldn't say: "He's a pretty piece of paper"; you'd say: "it's a pretty piece of paper."

The Greek word for Spirit (pneuma) is neuter in gender, so you wouldn't use the words "He, His" to describe the Spirit. You would use the words "it, it's, that."

And yet the English Bible and the Bible in many other languages use masculine pronouns ("He," "Him") to refer to the Spirit. To be grammatically correct, the word ("it") would be expected since (pneuma) is neuter. But the translators of the Bible know that the Holy Spirit is a person, and so they say He or Him. The Spirit is not a force; He's a person.

- Did you understand this paragraph?

- Let's look at an example.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

- Underline each time you see the word He or Him referring to the Holy Spirit.
- Now read the verse again, but this time instead of saying he or him, say "it." How does that change things?
- This also happens in John 15:26 and John 16:7-8.

We see that the Spirit is described as a person and not just a force or power. He has emotions, He makes decisions, and He is intelligent.

We've seen that He opens our eyes. He helps the unbeliever and believer to understand the Word of God. He commands us through the Word, He helps us in our prayers, He convicts us of sin, and He performs miracles.

We've seen that people lie to the Spirit, people resist the Spirit, and some obey the Spirit.

And now we've seen that the Bible refers to the Spirit as a "He" and not just an "it." And that's because He is a person.

Review:

- What four things in this last section tell us that the Holy Spirit is a person?
- How do you see the Holy Spirit active in your life on a daily basis?

A heart like King David. I think we are all guilty of these sins. We've lied to the Holy Spirit; we've resisted the Holy Spirit; we've disobeyed the Holy Spirit. And this Spirit is a "He," not an "it." As you think about these things, why do you honor and praise the Holy Spirit?

2. The deity of the Holy Spirit.

Let's say that you are training for the Olympics. Your trainer could be a YouTube channel; truth is, you can learn a lot from YouTube, or you could have an expert who has trained many other Olympic winners.

We have a personal trainer, the Holy Spirit. He's not an impersonal force, but rather, God Himself is working in every aspect of our lives. He knows you perfectly, He loves you deeply, and He is orchestrating all of the things that come into your life for your good. He wants you to be full of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, and more. He's not some mindless force; He is

Almighty God. But how do we know that? How would you prove that the Holy Spirit is God? Try it right now. Tell me some things that prove that He is God.

2.1. He has divine names.

2.1.1 Numerous times the Holy Spirit is mentioned along with the other Persons of the Godhead, which puts Him on the same level. This never happens with an angel.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- Notice how Jesus doesn't say in the names of, He says in the name of. Why is that?

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

- What does this verse teach us about the Trinity?

1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

- What does this verse teach us about the Trinity?

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

- What does this verse teach us about the Trinity?

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

- What does this verse teach us about the Trinity?

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

- What does this verse teach us about the Trinity?

- What is the significance of finding all three members of the Godhead mentioned together?

You'll find that Christian cults deny the deity of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit. Some Pentecostal groups believe in "only Jesus." They believe that Jesus manifests Himself as the Father, as the Son, and as the Holy Spirit. They don't believe in three separate persons. But when we see that all three are mentioned together as one, and yet they serve in different ways, it shows us that there are three persons.

The Father didn't die for you on the cross, and Jesus didn't come as tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost or as a dove at His own baptism. Jesus didn't speak to Himself with a voice from heaven at the transfiguration. There are three Persons, each acting with different roles and in different ways.

Review:

- What have we learned in this past section?
- Do you have any questions?

2.1.2 He is called God.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

- What are these verses teaching us about the Holy Spirit?
- If the Holy Spirit isn't God, then why refer to Him all of the time? Why not just say, you lied to the Father or you lied to God? The Bible wouldn't mention lying to the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- What do these verses teach us?
- How is the Holy Spirit transforming you every day?
- How do we stop the Holy Spirit from transforming us? How do we aid Him?
- How do these verses show us that the Holy Spirit is God?

So far, we've seen that God is described as three Persons, each with a different ministry. This shows us that the Holy Spirit is a separate Person from the Father or Son, and yet they are ONE. We've also seen that the Holy Spirit is actually called God.

2.1.3 He is called the Spirit of God and also the Spirit of Jesus.

A. Spirit of God

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him... **14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- How do these verses show us that the Holy Spirit is God?

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

- What does this verse teach us?
- How does it show us that the Holy Spirit is God?

Genesis 1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

- What does this verse teach us?

Matthew 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, **17** and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

- How do we see all three members of the Godhead?

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of God. He is also called the Spirit of Jesus.

B. Spirit of Jesus.

Philippians 1:19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

- What does this verse teach us about the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

- Do you see how tight, how close the Members of the Godhead are?

1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

- What does this verse teach us?
- What do Jesus and the Holy Spirit do for us?

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- What does this verse teach us?

We've seen that the Holy Spirit has divine names, something which an angel could never have. Numerous times the Bible speaks of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Peter refers to the Spirit as God, and He is called the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus.

Review - We've studied three reasons to believe that the Holy Spirit is God. What are they?

2.2. He possesses incommunicable attributes.

There are qualities or attributes which God has that He will not share with anyone else. For example, everything has a beginning; only God has existed forever, and yet we find that the Holy Spirit has existed forever. He is eternal. He is God. God will not share this attributes with anyone or anything. God alone is omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent. No other creature will ever have these attributes, and yet we find that the Holy Spirit has these attributes. What does that tell us?

Before you were born, where did you exist? You didn't exist. You came into existence. Angels, stars, space, everything had a beginning, except for God. Nothing else is eternal, only God.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- What attribute does the Holy Spirit have which tells us He is God?
- What role did the Spirit have in the death of Christ, and what exactly did He do?

Psalms 139: 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,” 12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.

- What attribute does the Holy Spirit have which tells us He is God?
- Where can I go to hide from God?
- Have you ever felt abandoned or alone in your life? What was that like? Name some godly men or women in the Bible that felt abandoned by God.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- What does this verse tell us about the Holy Spirit?

Isaiah 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? 14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?

- What does this passage teach us?
- How does this verse tell us that the Holy Spirit is God?

1 Corinthians 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

- What does this passage teach us?
- Does an angel know the depths of God?
- How do these verses show us that the Holy Spirit is God?

Of these passages, which one impresses you the most?

Do you have any questions?

Review - What four incommunicable attributes does the Spirit have that God alone possesses?

2.3. He performs incommunicable works (no one but God can do them).

As you read the following passages, discover the things which only God can do.

Genesis 1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

- What does it mean, "He was moving over the surface of the waters?"
- One theologian scientist said it meant to hover, and he believed that the Holy Spirit was energizing creation. This would mean electrons orbiting, particles moving around. Prior to this, there would have been cold deadness.
- What did the Holy Spirit do which tells us He is God?
- Do we ever see an angel or a demon creating anything?
- One of God's incommunicable attributes is eternality. He is alive, forever. Nothing can take His life from Him. He has always been alive, He will always be alive, and He gives life to all things. He is eternal life. The Holy Spirit participated in creation. He gave life to the world, He gives us eternal life, and He will raise our bodies from the dead. He is God.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- Can you explain this verse?
- God often refers to the Holy Spirit as a different person than Jesus or the Father. Why does He do that?
- What will the Holy Spirit do for you?

Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

- What does He do here that only God can do?

2 Peter 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- What does He do here that only God can do?

- All of the above passages speak of the Spirit giving life. It's of interest to know that the Spirit gave us the Word of God, which is **alive**.

Let's wrap up this section with a quote from The MacArthur Study Bible. "We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity, including intellect (1Co 2:10-13), emotions (Eph 4:30), will (1Co 12:11), eternality (Heb 9:14), omnipresence (Ps 139:7-10), omniscience (Is 40:13, 14), omnipotence (Ro 15:13), and truthfulness (Jn 16:13). In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son (Mt 28:19; Ac 5:3, 4; 28:25, 26; 1Co 12:4-6; 2Co 13:14; and Jer 31:31-34 with Heb 10:15-17)."

What this means is that the Holy Spirit is Almighty God, worthy of all of our worship, wonder, adoration, and obedience. He is wonderful--just as wonderful as Jesus or the Father. But He has a different role. The Father planned the future; He planned our salvation. Jesus died for us on the cross, and we will reign with Jesus. That is His role. The Holy Spirit saved us, He made us alive, He raises us from the dead, He lives in our lives, He gave us our spiritual gifts, He helps us as we pray, He convicts us, He gives us power, He opens God's Word to us, and He guarantees that we will make it to heaven.

Review

- What does the Holy Spirit do which proves that He is God?
- In this last section on the deity of the Holy Spirit, we've studied three main areas which show that the Spirit is God - 2.1, 2.2, 2.3. What are those three areas?

We see that the Spirit is described as a person and not just a force or power. He has emotions, He makes decisions, and He is intelligent.

We've seen that He opens our eyes. He helps the unbeliever and believer to understand the Word of God. He commands us through the Word, He helps us in our prayers, He convicts us of sin, and He performs miracles.

We've seen that people lie to the Spirit, people resist the Spirit, and obey the Spirit.

We've seen that the Bible refers to the Spirit as a "He" and not just an "it." That's because He is a person.

Numerous times the Trinity is spoken of in the same verse or verses. He is called God. He possesses attributes that only God has, and He performs acts that only God can perform, such as giving life.

Let's look briefly at how the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament, and then we'll look at what He does today.

3. The Holy Spirit's role prior to the Church Age

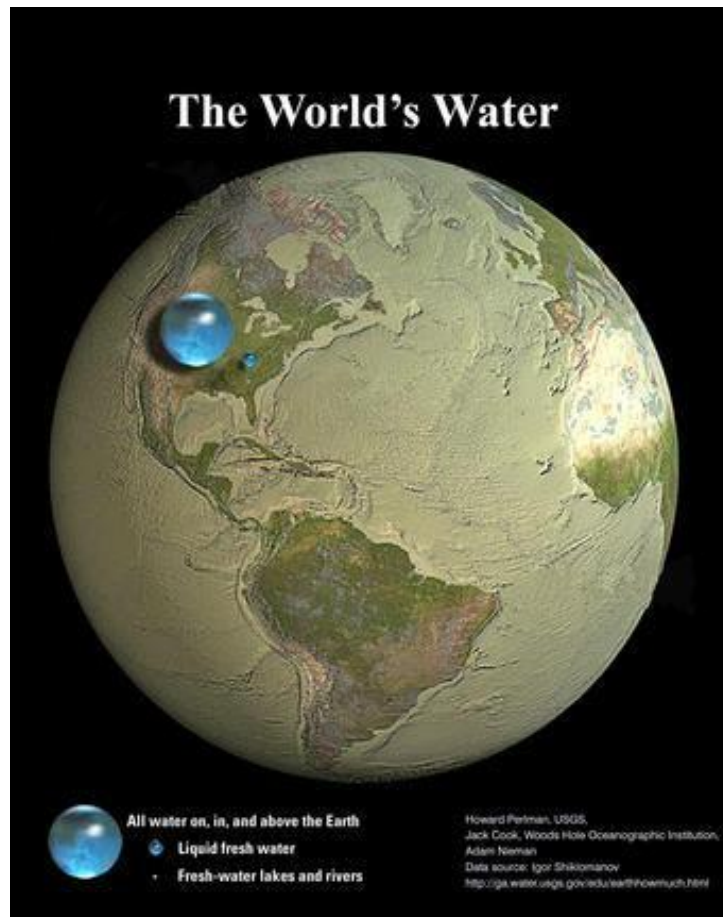
3.1. He took part in creation.

Isaiah 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?

13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? **14** With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?

How much water is there on earth? According to the U.S. Geological Survey, about 332,500,000 cubic miles.

The big dot includes all water, and the little dot is fresh water.



How big is the universe?

- The diameter of the observable universe is about 93 billion light-years.

- So, if you could travel at 186,000 miles per second or 5.88 trillion miles per year, you would cross the universe in 93 billion years. That is massive, and yet, how long did it take God to create the universe?

How much does the earth weigh? 6.585 billion trillion tons.

How many stars are in the universe? There are approximately 200 billion trillion stars in the universe. Or, to put it another way, 200 sextillions. That's 200,000,000,000,000,000,000! The number is so far beyond our scope of imagination that we cannot fathom it!

How many grains of sand are there in the world? Scientists estimate that Earth contains 7.5 sextillion sand grains. That is 75, followed by 17 zeros.

What do these things tell you about the Holy Spirit?

If you ask Google the following questions, this is what it says:

- Is anything bigger than the universe? No, the universe contains all solar systems and galaxies. Is Google right? Is there anything bigger than the universe? What does the Bible say?
- What existed before the universe? The initial singularity is a singularity predicted by some models of the Big Bang theory to have existed before the Big Bang and thought to have contained all the energy and spacetime of the Universe. Is Google right? Did anything exist before the universe? What does the Bible say?
- How will the universe end? The Big Freeze. Astronomers once thought the universe could collapse in a Big Crunch. Now, most agree it will end with a Big Freeze. Trillions of years in the future, long after the Earth is destroyed, the universe will drift apart until galaxy, and star formation ceases. Is Google right? How will the earth end?

As you read the following passages, take into account that these verses also describe the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

- How will the stars, planets, and all matter end?
- What does this verse tell us about the Holy Spirit's power and wisdom?

Psalms 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds. 4 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. 5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

- What does this verse tell us about the Holy Spirit's power, wisdom, and eternity?
- Why does God combine the ideas of healing wounds and counting stars?

Isaiah 40:25 “To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.

- What do these verses tell us about Holy Spirit's power, wisdom, and eternity?

Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

- The word used here for breath is the same word used to speak of the Holy Spirit.
- What does this verse tell us about the Holy Spirit's power, wisdom, and eternity?
- God created this all with his breath. What can you do with your breath?

If 1,000 scientists could go back in time and watch Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, would they be able to explain it? If they saw God create the universe by the breath of His mouth, could they explain it scientifically? Creation was a supernatural event outside of our laws of science.

What did this last section tell us about the Holy Spirit, and what impresses you the most about our great God?

3.2. He guided and protected Israel.

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them. 11 Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them,

12 Who caused His glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, Who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, 13 Who led them through the depths? Like the horse in the wilderness, they did not stumble; 14 As the cattle which go down into the valley, The Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So You led Your people, To make for Yourself a glorious name.

- What exactly did the Holy Spirit do for the people of Israel?

So, we've seen the incredible work of the Holy Spirit in creation. We think of the vastness of the universe, of all of the stars He has made. Scientists estimate that there are 7,500,000,000,000,000,000 of them. We see the oceans and all the animals in the seas. We see the mountains, all of the flowers and the trees, all of the animals and the birds of the air, and then we see mankind. We see the love in a family and how the Spirit Himself saves us and fills us with hope and power. The Spirit of God is astounding! “Thank you, Lord God, for sending us your Holy Spirit!”

3.3. He spoke through the prophets to produce Scripture.

1 Peter 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

- Did the Old Testament prophets understand all that they were writing?
- What does that tell you about the true author of the Bible?
- Here the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ. It shows us that God is so interconnected. They are one.
- Is Peter talking about the New Testament or the Old Testament, or both? Look at verse 12 carefully.
- In essence, what did the Holy Spirit do for us?

2 Peter 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- What does this tell us about the origin of Scripture?
- What did the Holy Spirit do for us?

From what you've read so far, does the Bible describe the Spirit as a mindless, impersonal force? How would you describe the Holy Spirit?

So far, we've seen three things: The Holy Spirit created all things, He guided Israel, He gave us the Bible. Now we will see that He saves us.

3.4. He saved people selectively and conditionally indwelt certain people in the Old Testament.

A. The Holy Spirit saved people in the time of the Old Testament. He convicted them of their sin and gave them a new heart with new desires.

John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

- What is Jesus teaching when He says, "He abides **with you** and will be **in you**?" What is the distinction that He is making between believers today and believers in the Old Testament?

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God... 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

- Jesus lived under the law before the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, so He is describing life in the Old Testament. What do these verses teach us about salvation in the Old Testament?

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

- What does this verse teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament?

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

- Who produced this broken spirit?

What would you say is the difference between the Spirit's ministry in the Old Testament and His ministry in the New Testament?

B. The Holy Spirit did not indwell people in the time of the Old Testament like He does today. He was with them, but Jesus said that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit came. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us. We were baptized with the Holy Spirit, so things are different now. We have more power; we have spiritual gifts; we have more of God's presence. In the Old Testament, we see that the Holy Spirit would come over certain people, enabling someone to do a particular task. This is why David pled that the Spirit not be taken from him when he fell into sin with Bathsheba.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

- Think back to a time when you were not steadfast in your walk with the Lord. What was that like, and what caused it?
- There is one part of this verse that we do not pray today. What is it?

Genesis 41:38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?”

- Why does Pharaoh say that Joseph has a divine spirit?

Number 27:18 So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

- What does this verse teach us?

1 Samuel 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

- What is this verse teaching? Was King Saul born again?

The Spirit of God was present with the saints of the Old Testament. He saved people and gave them a new, circumcised heart, but Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Spirit now indwells us. We are the temple of God. We have power, plus He does many other things for us. In the future, when Jesus returns to rule the earth, there will be a much greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

3.5 He was the empowering Agent in Christ’s earthly life.

Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

- What did the Holy Spirit do in this verse?

Let's look at some verses which show us how the Holy Spirit was active in Christ's life and ministry.

Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- What role did the Holy Spirit have in the ministry of Jesus?

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness.

- What role did the Holy Spirit have in the ministry of Jesus?

Luke 4:17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18 “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.

HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

- What role did the Holy Spirit have in the ministry of Jesus?

Romans 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

- What role did the Holy Spirit have in the life of Jesus?

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- What role did the Holy Spirit have in the life of Jesus and in our lives?

The MacArthur study Bible says this: "We teach that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. We recognize His sovereign activity in the creation (Ge 1:2), the incarnation (Mt 1:18), the written revelation (2Pe 1:20, 21), and the work of salvation (Jn 3:5-7)."

Review: Look back over the previous 5 points. What did the Holy Spirit do in the time of the Old Testament?

The Holy Spirit brings a person to trust in Christ. He opened your eyes to your sin and to Jesus. He gave you life. He made you one with Jesus and with all other believers today. He guarantees that you will make it to heaven! All of this is a gift. I am so very thankful for the Spirit of God!

So, here's a question for you: Do you remember when you came to Christ? I ask this because some people don't remember, which is not a problem. But can you look back and share what that moment was like for you? How did the Holy Spirit open your eyes? What were the circumstances?

Once you were saved, what changes did the Holy Spirit bring to your life?

A heart like King David. The Holy Spirit has had such an important role in the history of this world. He was part of its creation. He guided and protected Israel. He gave us the Word of God. He saved people and changed their hearts. He empowered Jesus while He was here. As you consider these things, why do you honor and praise the Holy Spirit?

Let's look and see what role the Holy Spirit has in our lives today.

4. The Holy Spirit's role in the Church Age.

4.1. He gives us the power to share the gospel.

I am so glad that it is God's job to bring someone to Christ! It's our job to shine the light to share the gospel, but the big job belongs to God. And as we share the good news, the Holy Spirit opens a person's eyes.

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

- This is the outline for the book of Acts. The gospel started in Jerusalem and then spread to Judea, then Samaria, and then to the ends of the world.
- What specifically did Jesus tell the disciples that the Holy Spirit would do for them, and how is this different from the Spirit's working in the Old Testament?
- Peter denied Jesus with a curse. What change did the Holy Spirit bring to Peter's life?
- Have you ever shared the gospel with an unbeliever? Did you see God's power in that person's life as you talked to him about his soul?
- What power would you like to see in your life?

Acts 26:15 And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

- Why did Jesus appear to Paul? What does it say specifically?
- Why did Jesus send Paul? What does it say specifically in verse 18?
- How could you help another person open their eyes?
- Is there one person that you could start praying for, with whom you could share Jesus? Whom would it be?

Review: What does the Holy Spirit do for us today?

4.2. He convicts the unbeliever of sin.

Now, this is really wonderful! We are not alone in the work of evangelism. GOD is working with us!

John 16:8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

- Of what three things does the Holy Spirit convict a person?
- What does each one of these three mean? You might want to look at your study Bible. Think through this passage.
- Okay, hopefully, you've looked at these three things now. So, what three things are unbelievers doing wrong? What do they need to see?

Now, of these three things, which ones does Paul preach about in the following passage? BTW, verse 39 is the theme of the book of Galatians.

Acts 13:27 For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. 28 And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed.

29 When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30 But God raised Him from the dead; 31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

32 And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, 33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' 34 As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.'

35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' 36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; 37 but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.

38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

- What is this passage teaching us?

- At this very moment, the Holy Spirit is convicting people of their sin--of their need for Jesus. He is showing them that their works aren't good enough. How do we help the Holy Spirit bring a person to Christ?

Review: We've seen that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to share the gospel. What ministry does the Holy Spirit have today in the life of the unbeliever?

4.3. He regenerates (saves) the person.

Maybe you've seen someone come to Christ, you've heard their prayer for God to save them, or maybe you remember back to when you got saved. That was the Holy Spirit working in their and your life. Jesus said that we can't see the wind, but we can see its effects, and that's the way it is with the Holy Spirit.

He cleanses the person from sin and gives him a new nature. He gives us eternal life. This is not a process but rather an instantaneous change.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

- Explain each of the following:

- * not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness,
- * but according to His mercy,
- * by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

We find the same teaching in:

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- What do these verses teach us?
- What caused us to be born?
- Salvation is not man reaching up to God; it is God reaching down to man.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

- What do we learn from these verses?
- What does it mean to be born again?
- Was Nicodemus born again before he met Christ?
- Who specifically causes a person to be born again?

Review: The Holy Spirit gives us the power to share the gospel, and He convicts the unbeliever of sin. And now we find that the Spirit does what for us?

So, what does the Holy Spirit do to ensure that we will attain our full salvation, that our body will be resurrected? Let's study that now.

4.4. He seals (eternally secures) the person.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is the “seal” or guarantee that a person is saved and will remain saved.

This is actually a fascinating study. You'll see it taught numerous times throughout the New Testament.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- What are these verses teaching us?
- According to verse 13, there are only two things that a person does in order to receive the gift of salvation and all the blessings of this passage. What are those two things?

- * You'll notice the same truth in **Galatians 3:2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?**
- Let's look at two other Bible versions.
- * **ESV - Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.**
- * **NLT - Ephesians 1:14 The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.**
- What is this verse teaching us?
- What does it mean that the Spirit seals us, and what is our inheritance?

The MacArthur Study Bible - God's own Spirit comes to indwell the believer and secures and preserves his eternal salvation. The sealing of which Paul speaks refers to an official mark of identification placed on a letter, contract, or other document. That document was thereby officially under the authority of the person whose stamp was on the seal. Four primary truths are signified by the seal: 1) security; 2) authenticity; 3) ownership; and 4) authority. The Holy Spirit is given by God as His pledge of the believer's future inheritance in glory.

2 Corinthians 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

- **ESV - 21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**
- **NLT - 21 It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.**

MacArthur Study Bible - **sealed us.** Refers to the ancient practice of placing soft wax on a document and imprinting the wax with a stamp that indicated authorship or ownership, authenticity, and protection. The Holy Spirit attaches all these meanings to His act of spiritually sealing believers (see notes on Eph 1:13; cf. Hag 2:23; Eph 4:30). **pledge.** A guarantee or down payment. The Spirit is the down payment on the believer's eternal inheritance.

So, notice what we've done to understand this concept of being sealed by the Spirit.

- 1 - We asked questions about the text, and we thought about its meaning.
- 2 - We looked at other versions of the Bible.
- 3 - We looked at other passages from the Bible.
- 4 - We looked at a study Bible.

So, what does it mean that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit?

Here's an example: You run out of gas but don't have any money or credit cards with you. The gas station asks for your driver's license as a **pledge**—you are promising that you will come back and pay for the gas. The Holy Spirit is God's promise to you that you will go to heaven, that you'll get a new body, and you'll receive all of the rewards and blessings that are waiting for you. God will make good on His promise to you.

The Bible teaches over and over again that you can't lose your salvation. When you were saved, you placed the eternal future of your soul into Jesus' hands, and it's HIS responsibility to get you to heaven. One of the things He's done to make sure that this will take place is to send the Holy Spirit to live in you. He is God's promise or pledge that you are secure forever.

Review: So far, we've seen that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to share the gospel. He convicts the world of their sin and their need for Jesus. He cleanses us from sin and gives us eternal life. He seals us, He is the promise that we'll make it to heaven and receive our inheritance, and now we'll see that He baptizes us.

4.5. He baptizes (places) the person into the body of Christ.

4.5.1. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How would you answer this question?

It is not some emotional experience where a person falls down or speaks in tongues. **It is the Spirit's work of uniting us with Christ** – spiritually identifying us with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Please read this paragraph again.

We are united to Christ; we are one flesh with Jesus. This means that when Christ died, we died. When Christ was buried, we were buried. When Christ arose, we arose. We are made one with Christ. This is an important teaching, and it is not the same as water baptism. Spirit baptism happens at the moment of your salvation.

- So, in your own words, what is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Romans 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- Underline the significance of what it means to be baptized into Christ Jesus.

Not only do we become one flesh with Christ through the baptism of the Spirit, but it is also the Spirit's work of incorporating us into the "body of Christ," which includes all church-age believers.

So, it means that we are one flesh with Jesus, one body. But it also means that all true believers today are one body. We are one with every true believer today and also with all the believers in heaven who died after the day of Pentecost. They are part of the church, and we are all one body.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- This is the classic passage that teaches us about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- What does the phrase mean--we were all made to drink of one Spirit?
- What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

- What is the great mystery Paul speaks of here?

Review:

- What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- What does it have to do with us dying and coming alive with Christ?

4.5.2. When is the baptism of the Spirit?

A. In each believer, it occurs once and for all at their conversion.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- What in this verse tells us that we are baptized into Christ at the moment of our salvation?

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither

Jew nor Greek, There is neither slave nor free man, There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- What in these verses tells us that we are baptized into Christ at the moment of our salvation?
- Does Paul ever command us to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

- What is this verse teaching us?
- GotQuestions.org says the following: "The following facts are necessary to help solidify our understanding of Spirit baptism: **First**, 1 Corinthians 12:13 clearly states that all have been baptized, just as all been given the Spirit to drink (the indwelling of the Spirit). **Second**, nowhere in Scripture are believers told to be baptized with, in, or by the Spirit, or in any sense to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This indicates that all believers have had this experience. **Third**, Ephesians 4:5 (**one Lord, one faith, one baptism**) seems to refer to Spirit baptism. If this is the case, Spirit baptism is the reality for every believer, just as "one faith" and "one Father" are.

Review:

- When is a believer baptized by the Holy Spirit?
- Is any of this new to you? Do you have any questions?

B. The baptism of the Spirit did not happen in the Old Testament.

Acts 1:4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

- What was Jesus teaching them?
- Does this mean that Abraham was not part of the body of Christ?
- Did Christ's physical body exist in the Old Testament?

We see in the following passages that Jesus' promise was fulfilled.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

- What does this passage teach us?

Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Cornelius was an unsaved, uncircumcised, God-fearing Gentile. The story of his salvation, along with his entire family and all of those gathered with him, has a huge impact on the church because Gentiles received the Holy Spirit by believing in Jesus, without becoming Jews, without being circumcised. In fact, Peter didn't even lay his hands on them. They believed and were immediately baptized into the Spirit, which is what happens to us today. But most Jews during Peter's time thought that one had to become a Jew in order to be saved, a gentile had to be circumcised. In fact, the first big debate in the early church was over this question. Do Gentiles have to be circumcised and follow the laws of Moses? God's answer was no.

So this is something new; the baptism of the Spirit did not exist in the Old Testament. Think about it. The body of Jesus didn't even exist in the time of the Old Testament. He had not taken on human form; a person could not be part of Christ's body. We see that Jesus predicted this baptism, and then it happened in Acts 2 and then later with Cornelius, the moment he was saved. And Peter did not lay his hands on Cornelius or his friends or family so that they would receive the Spirit.

Review: So we've seen that today, all believers receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit the moment they are saved. We've also seen that the baptism of the Spirit did not happen in the Old Testament era. It was prophesied by Jesus and fulfilled in Acts 2 and then we see it with the Gentiles in Acts 10-11.

C. There were two exceptions in the book of Acts, people who received the Spirit only when an apostle laid his hands on them.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. 14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

- What is this passage teaching us?

- Does the Bible explain why they didn't receive the Holy Spirit?
- **ESV Study Bible** - By the apostles being present... It would also guarantee that the Samaritans, who for many generations had been hostile toward the Jews, would not establish a separate Christian church or be excluded from the church by Jewish believers. The Spirit was given only at the hands of the apostles to show convincingly to Samaritan and other later, non-Jewish leaders of the church that both Jews and non-Jews who believed in Jesus now had full membership status among God's people.
- Do we see Paul laying his hands on each church he established so that they would receive the Holy Spirit?
- Are we commanded to lay our hands on people so that they will receive the Holy Spirit?
- Was it a regular custom of Paul in the book of Acts to lay his hands on people so that they would receive the Spirit?

Acts 19:1 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

- Can you explain what is going on here?
- Before Paul talked to them, did these men understand that Jesus had died on the cross for their sins? What did they know about Jesus?
- Did they know about the coming of the Holy Spirit?
- Does Paul preach the gospel to them?
- Theologians are divided over this passage. Some say that these men were Old Testament saints like Apollos, who did not know about Jesus. Others say they were not yet saved. There were sects in Asia Minor who believed in John, and maybe they thought that John Himself was the Messiah or the height of God's revelation. What do you think? Were these men already saved or not? It is interesting to note that Apollos was not baptized.

- Why do you think they had not received the Holy Spirit?

Let's look at one more passage. This one talks about Apollos. Take a moment to discover the differences and similarities between Apollos and this group of Jews that Paul talked to in Ephesus.

Acts 18:24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

- Was Apollos clearly born again?
- Did Apollos know about Jesus?
- Did they baptize him so that he would receive the Holy Spirit?

The MacArthur Study Bible.

- We teach that a unique work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ (Jn 14:16, 17; 15:26) to initiate and complete the building of the body of Christ. His activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ (Jn 16:7-9; Ac 1:5; 2:4; Ro 8:29; 2Co 3:18; Eph 2:22).
- We teach that the Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ (1Co 12:13). The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption (Ro 8:9-11; 2Co 3:6; Eph 1:13).

Review

- What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- When does it happen?
- Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit?

In this section, we've found that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness, He convicts the world of their sin, He makes us alive, He seals us - He guarantees that we will make it to heaven, and He baptizes us - He makes us one with Christ and with all other believers who are part of Christ's body.

Do you have any questions about any of this?

What have you learned that has been helpful to you?

4.6. He indwells believers.

4.6.1. The Spirit indwells all believers in this age, unlike the Old Testament, where the Spirit came upon some believers.

Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- What is this verse clearly teaching?

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

- What does this verse teach us? It's a key verse on this subject.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

- The context is actually referring to the church body, not your physical body. For the church to be the temple of God, it would mean that all of the believers there have the Holy Spirit.
- What does this passage teach us?

1 Corinthians 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

- This passage is talking about your physical body. What does this passage teach us?
- Does this mean we can't eat potato chips and pizza? What is the context talking about?

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer during the church age, which makes us wonder what it was like for a person living in the Old Testament since the Spirit was only with them but not in them. And He came upon some of them and gave them special wisdom or abilities. We have power; we have gifts from the Spirit. We have many blessings which our brothers in the Old Testament did not have.

Review

- What is the difference that we've just studied between believers in the Old Testament and believers in the New Testament?
- Do you have any questions?
- How would your life change if you didn't have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you?
- What was it like for a person in the Old Testament era?

4.6.2. The Spirit indwells believers permanently in this age, unlike the Old Testament where the Spirit could depart. The Spirit will never leave us.

John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.

Whereas David, after his sin with Bathsheba, prayed:

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Review

- What is the difference we've just studied between believers in the Old Testament and believers in the New Testament?
- Do you have any questions?

4.7. He illumines us about scripture.

Pastor Gary Gilley said the following: The Holy Spirit does not personally instruct us in the Scriptures, else all Spirit-filled Christians would believe identically. But He opens our minds to spiritual truth so that it can be appropriated to our lives. The Spirit's ministry of illumination allows for believers to possess spiritual discernment that the unbeliever does not have.

ESV 1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- What do these verses teach us?

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- Walk through this passage and explain each verse

2 Corinthians 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

- Let's do the same. Walk through this passage and explain each verse

2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

- What does this verse teach us?
- As you've studied these Bible passages, do you find that the Spirit helps you understand and believe the Scriptures?
- What should we do with the hard passages, with things we don't understand?

2 Peter 3:15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

- What is this passage teaching us about the hard things in the Bible?

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- What is this passage teaching us?

- In your opinion, how much time should pass, as a rule, before someone is qualified to be a teacher? What does the author mean when he says: "**Though by this time you ought to be teachers**"?

Review - what was the teaching from this last section?

We've seen that the Spirit helps us understand the Word of God. Let's look at our prayer life.

4.8. He aids in prayer

Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

- How does the Holy Spirit help us in these two passages?
- When you pray, do you sense the Holy Spirit helping you? And how was prayer different for you before you were saved?
- Who is groaning?
- Can you give an example of not knowing exactly how to pray?

4.9. He assures us of our salvation

We've talked about this before, so we'll just look at one verse.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

- How do you sense the Holy Spirit testifying with your spirit?
- I was saved at the age of 14. The Holy Spirit woke up my conscience and also gave me a great love for the Word of God and for evangelism. I walked closely with the Lord for about three months. But then I stopped reading the Word, and I lost my strength; I walked far from the Lord for five years. During all of that time, the Spirit reminded me that I was a child of God. I also knew that people were going to hell, and I wasn't doing anything about it. The Spirit testified with my spirit that I was a child of God and that God wasn't pleased with my life.

Review - what does the Holy Spirit do for us today?

4.10. He “fills” believers.

Some friends of mine quit going to church. There weren't any problems; they just stopped going.

- What effect do you think that's had on their lives?
- Have you ever walked far from the Lord? What effect did it have on your life?
- In your own life, what helps you to be full of the Spirit?
- What drains your power?
- How do you feel when you are not full of the Spirit? What impact does it have on your life?
- There are many believers who simply don't go to church, and I don't think that they are aware of the danger that they are in. Satan, the lion, is chewing on their leg, and they don't seem to realize it.

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

- What is this passage teaching us about being full of the Spirit?
- When people get drunk, they say and do really dumb things. What is the result of the Spirit being in control of our lives?

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- What is this passage teaching us?
- As you compare this passage to the one above, how is being filled with the Spirit similar to being filled with the Word?
- How can you tell when you or someone else is full of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- The Holy Spirit leads us; He helps us know how to obey God and how to make right and wrong choices.
- Have you seen how the Holy Spirit leads you to know that something you are doing is right or wrong? Can you give an example?

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control, against such things there is no law.

- What does God produce in your life when you are full of the Holy Spirit?
- When a person is full of the Spirit, is he ever "out of control"? Is this from God when some people are "out of control" and just lay on the floor or laugh uncontrollably or do weird things in a church meeting?
- A word of advice. Some people struggle with depression and don't have joy or peace. That's not because they aren't full of the Spirit; it's because their body isn't working right. I love Kentucky Fried Chicken, but it will make me very irritable for 2-3 days. So if I'm wise, I simply won't eat that food, even though I really enjoy it.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;

- How do we quench the Spirit?

Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- Those who walk according to the flesh are unbelievers. They will die. Is that what this verse is teaching?
- How do we put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit? Can you give an example?

Thinking back on the above passages, what are the positive things that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives?

Let's say that a friend says to you, how can I be full of the Spirit? What are some things that would help him or hurt him?

The MacArthur Study Bible. We teach that the Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible (2Pe 1:19-21). Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit (Ro 8:9-11; Eph 5:18; 1Jn 2:20, 27).

Review: The Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He saves us. He seals us, which means He is God's promise to us that we will receive our new body, our inheritance. He baptizes us into the body of Christ; He indwells us. He illumines us - He helps us understand the Word. He aids us in prayer, He assures us of our salvation, and He fills us.

If you are a child of God, then the Holy Spirit has GREATLY changed your life. Thanks be to God. Let's look now at spiritual gifts given by the Spirit.

4.11. He gives spiritual gifts to believers.

4.11.1. Passages that talk about spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- As you think about these passages, it would be good to check out several study Bibles to get a better idea about them.
- What are these gifts? Do you have any of these gifts? Do you know of anyone personally who has these gifts?

- * Prophecy
- * Service
- * Teach
- * Exhort
- * Give
- * Lead
- * Show mercy

1 Corinthians 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophe

cy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

- What does: "for the common good" mean in verse 7?
- Once again, check out some different study Bibles or commentaries.
- What are these gifts? Do you have any of these gifts? Do you know of anyone personally who has these gifts?
 - * Word of wisdom
 - * Word of knowledge
 - * Faith
 - * Gifts of healing
 - * Effecting of miracles
 - * Prophecy
 - * Distinguishing of spirits
 - * Various kinds of tongues
 - * Interpretation of tongues

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- What is the gift of apostle?
 - * There were three requirements to be an apostle of the Lord. This man saw the resurrected Jesus. He did miracles. And Jesus Himself chose this man to be an apostle. This is the type of apostle that Paul is talking about here. Are there any of these apostles with us today, apostles of the Lord?

- * Where were the three requirements to be an apostle of the Lord?

- * Apostle of the church - this was a man that the church sent to a different town as their minister, as a missionary or representative.
- We've already talked about the gift of prophet.
- What is an evangelist?

- What is the gift of pastor/teacher?

- What is the purpose for these gifted men according to verse 12?

- Can you tell of a time when others have ministered to you and have really helped you?

- Do you have any of these gifts? Do you know of anyone personally who has these gifts?

- Can you identify your gift? And how would you like to serve the Lord?

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- How do we know that every believer has at least one gift?

- What was the gift of:
 - * Speaking? Do you know of anyone with this gift?

 - * Serving - we already talked about this one.

- Out of all of the gifts mentioned so far, which gifts do you see most frequently in the church today?

4.11.2. What are spiritual gifts?

The following three points are from Litke.

a. **Definition:** Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to serve. The Greek word for spiritual gift (charisma) is a form of the word “grace.” So these special abilities are privileges. God graciously enables all believers to serve in spiritual ministry.

b. Spiritual gifts are **not** particular positions. Youth ministry leader or nursery worker are not gifts although those ministries definitely can put to use spiritual gifts such as teaching, serving, etc.

c. Spiritual gifts are **not** the same as natural talent (music ability or mechanical aptitude, etc.) although God may often give spiritual gifts that make use of natural abilities. A musician may have the gift of encouragement. An experienced school teacher may have the gift of teaching, etc.

- So what would be the difference between an unsaved school teacher and a school teacher that has the gift of teaching?

- Can teachers in the church become better teachers by learning teaching techniques from a college?

Review - What are spiritual gifts?

4.11.3. How do we get spiritual gifts?

a. **The Giver** – The Holy Spirit, in particular, imparts these special abilities. But it is also accurate to say that they are “Christ’s gifts” to the church (Eph.4:7,8,10).

1 Corinthians 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

- So who chooses which gifts you have?

- According to verse 7, what is the purpose of spiritual gifts, and does every believer have a spiritual gift?

b. **The Time** – We receive spiritual gifts when we trust Christ as Savior. That’s when we received the Spirit; that’s when we became part of the body of Christ.

- People are born with talents and abilities which they have to learn how to use. When a Christian is born again, he is given one or more gifts at the time of his salvation. Each believer needs to work at becoming skilled with the talents the Spirit has given him. He has to practice and observe others, and he might take classes to help him improve. I often have people share on Sunday morning or help in Sunday School. It’s how people learn to teach.

c. **The Recipients** – Each believer has at least one but perhaps several gifts.

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Review:

- Who gives us our gift or gifts?
- When are they given?
- Who receives spiritual gifts?

4.11.4. What are the different spiritual gifts?

Litke shares the following two points.

- a. Some of the gifts listed seem to have been temporary, serving to establish the early church and to verify the gospel to people as Christianity began (Eph.2:20; Heb.2:3,4). The temporary sign gifts included apostleship, healing, miracle-working, tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc. Also temporary were the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and prophecy – by which God gave direct revelation to man. These gifts were needed before the New Testament was complete. They were also seemingly the gifts needed to write the New Testament.
- b. Gifts that doubtless exist today include teaching, helps (serving), giving, administration (leadership), showing mercy, evangelism, pastor-teacher (shepherding), and exhortation. These gifts are crucial to the ongoing function of the church throughout this age.

4.11.5. How do you discover your gift?

- Spiritual gifts are a lot like natural gifts. We tend to enjoy and do what we're good at. You'll find a person with the ability to draw, drawing pictures and sketches. You'll notice when a person has rhythm or musical talent or a person who likes to fix things or tinker.
- How do you know if you'd be a good rancher, astronaut, mechanic, nurse, or salesman?
- How have you discovered your spiritual gifts up until now?

Some years back, a friend asked me to give him and his fiancé premarital counseling. I learned through that experience that I don't have the gift of counseling. I'm just not good at it. I do counsel people, and I've gotten better over the years, but it is not my strong point.

Just because you don't have the gift of evangelism doesn't mean that you don't evangelize. You still serve even though you don't have the gift of service or mercy. We're just saying that over time you learn to practice all of the ministries and become better at each one. More than likely, an older believer or pastor who has worked hard at serving the Lord will be better at a ministry

that is not his gift than a young person who has the gift but lacks experience. God will teach you over time.

The MacArthur Study Bible. "We teach that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith (Jn 16:13, 14; Ac 1:8; 1Co 12:4-11; 2Co 3:18).

We teach, in this respect, that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of believers (1Co 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 2Co 12:12; Eph 4:7-12; Heb 2:1-4)."

Review - how would you help someone discover their spiritual gift? How would you help him discover his natural talent?

4.12. 33 things that happen to the believer at the moment of salvation.

The following website lists 33 things that happen to the believer at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit is involved in all 33.

<https://forgodsname.org/2011/03/16/33-things-that-happen-at-salvation/>

1. I am justified (declared right) with God by God on behalf of Jesus.
2. I am made a child of God.
3. I have access to God.
4. I am reconciled to God.
5. I am forgiven.
6. I am placed "in Christ."
7. I am acceptable to God.
8. I have a Heavenly citizenship.
9. I am made a member of the family and household of God.
10. I have a Heavenly association with God's creation.
11. I have "much more" of the "care of God."
12. I am united to the Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
13. I have a fellowship with the Saints.
14. I am living securely (on the rock) because of Christ Jesus.
15. I am part of the eternal redemptive plan of God.
16. I have been redeemed (bought back with the price of the blood of Jesus Christ).

17. I have a living relationship with God.
18. I am free from the condemnation of the Law.
19. I have been adopted into the family of God
20. I have been “brought near” to God.
21. I have been delivered from the power of darkness.
22. I have entered a new kingdom, the Kingdom of the Son.
23. I have been given from the Father to the Son and I represent a love-gift from the Son to the Father.
24. I have been circumcised in Christ.
25. I am a member of a royal and holy priesthood.
26. I am part of a chosen generation, a holy nation, a holy people.
27. I am the inheritance in Christ.
28. I am part of the inheritance of the saints that Christ has secured.
29. I am a light in the Lord to spread His fame in this world.
30. I am a victor over all forces of darkness by the merits of Jesus Christ.
31. I have been blessed with the Holy Spirit and possess “every spiritual blessing.”
32. I am complete “in Him.”
33. I am glorified spiritually and one day will be glorified actually.

A heart like King David. We've seen that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to share the gospel. He convicts the sinner of his sin. He saves us. He is the promise that we will receive our new body. He baptizes us and comes to permanently dwell in us. He teaches us His Word; He helps us when we pray. He assures us that we are sons of God. He fills us. He gave us our spiritual gifts when we were saved, and He helps us use them. As you think about all of these things, why do you honor and praise the Holy Spirit?

We've talked about the person and the deity of the Holy Spirit, His work in the time of the Old Testament, and what He does in our lives. Let's talk about the future.

5. The Holy Spirit's role in the 7-year Tribulation Period

5.1. The Spirit's role in unbelievers.

Litke says: "Many people will be saved during the Tribulation period (Rev 7:3, 9; 14:1-5). We can therefore assume that the Holy Spirit's regeneration ministry continues, but we are not told this specifically. The only mention of the Holy Spirit in relation to salvation during this time is in Zechariah 12:10, which informs us that a remnant of the nation of Israel will be saved by the Spirit."

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- According to Jesus, what role did the Spirit have in salvation prior to the coming of the Spirit in Acts 2?
- We believe that people saved during the time of the tribulation will also be saved by the Holy Spirit, even though the Bible doesn't specifically teach that.

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

- The salvation of this great multitude is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- How many people will be saved during the 7-year tribulation? How big is a great multitude which no one can count?
- How much work would it be to bring 500 million people to Christ in just a few years?

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the Day of the Lord) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

- The Day of the Lord, which includes the 7-year tribulation, will not start until two things happen. A great apostasy takes place on the earth, and the Antichrist is revealed. Paul now goes on to talk about the Antichrist.

4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

- Look at verse 6. What is keeping Satan from raising up an antichrist right now? We understand that Paul is talking about the Holy Spirit.
- What are these verses teaching us? You may want to also look at your study Bible.
- If you study Romans 1, you'll see that God restrains people from their wickedness, but if they persist, then God turns them over to a corrupt life. He allows them to live in their wickedness. This will also happen in the tribulation period.

Review - what does the Spirit do in the life of an unbeliever in the future tribulation period?

5.2. The Spirit's role in believers during the 7-year tribulation.

Litke says: "If the Holy Spirit's indwelling ministry is unique to the church age, then it should be assumed that the ministry of the Holy Spirit will return to the Old Testament pattern at the rapture of the church. If so, the Holy Spirit will not indwell believers during the Tribulation."

6. Additional teachings about the Holy Spirit.

6.1 What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and can it be committed today?

Before we start, would you please explain the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

The following comes from Gotquestions.org.

The concept of "blasphemy against the Spirit" is mentioned in Mark 3:22–30 and Matthew 12:22–32. Jesus has just performed a miracle. A demon-possessed man was brought to Jesus, and the Lord cast the demon out, healing the man of blindness and muteness. The eyewitnesses to this exorcism began to wonder if Jesus was indeed the Messiah they had been waiting for. A group of Pharisees, hearing the talk of the Messiah, quickly quashed any budding faith in the crowd: "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons," they said (Matthew 12:24).

Jesus rebuts the Pharisees with some logical arguments for why He is not casting out demons in the power of Satan (Matthew 12:25–29). Then He speaks of the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit: "I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (verses 31–32).

The term blasphemy may be generally defined as “defiant irreverence.” The term can be applied to such sins as cursing God or willfully degrading things relating to God. Blasphemy is also attributing some evil to God or denying Him some good that we should attribute to Him. This particular case of blasphemy, however, is called “the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” in Matthew 12:31. The Pharisees, having witnessed irrefutable proof that Jesus was working miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit, claimed instead that the Lord was possessed by a demon (Matthew 12:24). Notice in Mark 3:30 Jesus is very specific about what the Pharisees did to commit blasphemy against the Holy Spirit: “He said this because they were saying, ‘He has an impure spirit.’”

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has to do with accusing Jesus Christ of being demon-possessed instead of Spirit-filled. This particular type of blasphemy cannot be duplicated today. The Pharisees were in a unique moment in history: they had the Law and the Prophets, they had the Holy Spirit stirring their hearts, they had the Son of God Himself standing right in front of them, and they saw with their own eyes the miracles He did. Never before in the history of the world (and never since) had so much divine light been granted to men; if anyone should have recognized Jesus for who He was, it was the Pharisees. Yet they chose defiance. They purposely attributed the work of the Spirit to the devil, even though they knew the truth and had the proof. Jesus declared their willful blindness to be unpardonable. Their blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was their final rejection of God’s grace. They had set their course, and God was going to let them sail into perdition unhindered.

Jesus told the crowd that the Pharisees’ blasphemy against the Holy Spirit “will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:32). This is another way of saying that their sin would never be forgiven, ever. Not now, not in eternity. As Mark 3:29 puts it, “They are guilty of an eternal sin.”

The immediate result of the Pharisees’ public rejection of Christ (and God’s rejection of them) is seen in the next chapter. Jesus, for the first time, “told them many things in parables” (Matthew 13:3; cf. Mark 4:2). The disciples were puzzled at Jesus’ change of teaching method, and Jesus explained His use of parables: “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. . . . Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand” (Matthew 13:11, 13). Jesus began to veil the truth with parables and metaphors as a direct result of the Jewish leaders’ official denunciation of Him.

Again, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit cannot be repeated today, although some people try. Jesus Christ is not on earth—He is seated at the right hand of God. No one can personally witness Jesus performing a miracle and then attribute that power to Satan instead of the Spirit.

The unpardonable sin today is the state of continued unbelief. The Spirit currently convicts the unsaved world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). To resist that conviction and willfully remain unrepentant is to “blaspheme” the Spirit. There is no pardon, either in this age or in the age to come, for a person who rejects the Spirit’s promptings to trust in Jesus Christ and then dies in unbelief. The love of God is evident: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). And the choice is clear: “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him” (John 3:36). End of quote.

Questions

- What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
- Have you ever been afraid that maybe you or someone you know had committed this sin?
- If a friend of yours was afraid that he had committed that sin, how would you counsel him?

6.2 What's up with the gift of tongues?

The following comes from Gotquestions.org.

The first occurrence of speaking in tongues occurred on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. The apostles went out and shared the gospel with the crowds, speaking to them in their own languages: “We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:11). The Greek word translated tongues literally means “languages.” Therefore, the gift of tongues is speaking in a language a person does not know in order to minister to someone who does speak that language. In 1 Corinthians chapters 12–14, Paul discusses miraculous gifts, saying, “Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?” (1 Corinthians 14:6). According to the apostle Paul, and in agreement with the tongues described in Acts, speaking in tongues is valuable to the one hearing God’s message in his or her own language, but it is useless to everyone else unless it is interpreted/translated.

A person with the gift of interpreting tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30) could understand what a tongues-speaker was saying even though he did not know the language that was being spoken. The tongues interpreter would then communicate the message of the tongues speaker to everyone else, so all could understand. “For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says” (1 Corinthians 14:13). Paul’s conclusion regarding tongues that were not interpreted is powerful: “But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue” (1 Corinthians 14:19).

At the same time, if the gift of speaking in tongues were active in the church today, it would be performed in agreement with Scripture. It would be a real and intelligible language (1 Corinthians 14:10). It would be for the purpose of communicating God’s Word with a person of another language (Acts 2:6-12). It would be in agreement with the command God gave through the apostle Paul, “If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God” (1 Corinthians 14:27-28). It would also be in accordance with 1 Corinthians 14:33, “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

God can most definitely give a person the gift of speaking in tongues to enable him or her to communicate with a person who speaks another language. The Holy Spirit is sovereign in the dispersion of the spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11). Just imagine how much more productive missionaries could be if they did not have to go to language school, and were instantly able to speak to people in their own language. However, God does not seem to be doing this. Tongues

does not seem to occur today in the manner it did in the New Testament, despite the fact that it would be immensely useful. The vast majority of believers who claim to practice the gift of speaking in tongues do not do so in agreement with the Scriptures mentioned above. These facts lead to the conclusion that the gift of tongues has ceased or is at least a rarity in God's plan for the church today. End of quote.

In our study on the Bible, Bibliology, we go into a detailed study on the gift of tongues, the gift of prophecy, miracles and hearing God's voice.

A heart like King David. We've finished our study on the Holy Spirit. Personally, it's helped me to see what a great God He is and the tremendous impact He has had on my life, what He is currently doing, and what He will do for me in the future at the resurrection. As you think about all that the Holy Spirit has done for you, why do you honor and praise the Holy Spirit?

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. **MentorMaterial@gmail.com**. As time goes on, I'll be adding more courses like this one at www.MentorMaterial.com. There will also be a **Spanish** edition.

In this course, I have followed and expanded on the works of Sid Litke, Th.M., a 1984 graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, and also the writings of Gary Gilley from Southern View Chapel in Illinois.

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible verses are from the **New American Standard Version**.
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About the author.

Hi, I'm Bob Schneider. I grew up in McCook, Nebraska, USA. I came to Christ at the age of 14. My parents encouraged all of us kids to attend one year of Bible college, which is where I met my wife Karon. She had grown up in Barcelona, where her family served as missionaries. In 1991 we moved to Barcelona, Spain, with our two-year-old daughter, Elyssa. During those years, Daniel was born, and then we moved to the south of Spain, where Jonathan was born. In 2002 we moved to Puerto Rico, where we currently serve as missionaries with Biblical Ministries Worldwide.

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