

Holy Spirit

I. Introduction to the course

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B. What we will try to learn

1. Who the Holy Spirit is
2. What the works of the Holy Spirit are
3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit

C. How to prepare for each session

1. Read the chapters from the book.
2. Answer the questions on the handouts.
3. Consider the issues that are being raised by the readings.

1. Divine Nature

1. Why are we sure that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity?
2. What are some of the personal actions of the Holy Spirit?
3. What is Monarchianism?
4. What was the Filioque Controversy?
5. What are some of the descriptive titles of the Holy Spirit?
6. What are some of the divine attributes of the Holy Spirit?

2. His Work

1. What did the Holy Spirit do in the beginning?
2. What did He do to help Moses?
3. Who was Balaam?
4. How did the Holy Spirit affect Saul?
5. Which men gave major Messianic prophecies?
6. What role did the Holy Spirit play in the life of John the Baptist?
7. How was the Holy Spirit involved in Jesus' ministry?
8. How was the Holy Spirit involved in the early church?

3. His Work on Us and in Us

1. Why is contrition called the Holy Spirit's "strange" work?
2. What things are involved in contrition?
3. What does the Holy Spirit do to effect conversion?
4. Why is conversion carried out solely by the Holy Spirit?
5. What is sanctification in the narrow sense?
6. What is required for a work to be good?
7. Why do we have trouble doing good works?
8. Why are good works necessary?

4. Gifts of the Spirit

1. What is the prime gift of the Holy Spirit? Why?
2. Describe one of the companion gifts of the Spirit.
3. How do fruits of the Spirit differ from gifts of the Spirit?
4. How do gifts of the Spirit relate to natural talent?
5. What is the purpose of the foundational gifts?
6. What is the purpose of the confirmatory gifts?
7. How did people speak in tongues in the Bible?

5. Preserving the Kingdom of Grace

1. Explain the different speaking gifts.
2. How does leadership in the church differ from administration?
3. What warnings does the Holy Spirit give to the church?
4. How does willful sinning differ from sins against the Holy Spirit?
5. What assurances does the Holy Spirit give?
6. How do we honor the Holy Spirit?

Holy Spirit

1. Divine Nature

II. His Divine Person

A. A distinct person

1. Part of the Trinity – The Holy Spirit is mentioned in a number of Bible verses with both the Father and the Son. In this way He is given equal status as a person in the same way that they are persons.
 - a. Jesus' baptism – {*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* Matthew 3:16-17}
 - b. Jesus' assurance – {*"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me."* John 15:26}
 - c. Great Commission – {*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* Matthew 28:19}
 - d. Sermon by Peter – {*"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."* Acts 10:38}
 - e. Message to saints – {*Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:* 1 Peter 1:2}
2. Personal actions – The Holy Spirit acts and has personality traits as any person.
 - a. Testifies – {*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.* Romans 8:16}
 - b. Intercedes – {*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.* Romans 8:26}
 - c. Teaches – {*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.* 1 Corinthians 2:13}
 - d. Gives gifts – {*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.* 1 Corinthians 12:11}
 - e. Grieves – {*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* Ephesians 4:30}
3. Monarchianism
 - a. Modal monarchianism – In Greek plays there were only a few actors. When the actors played different roles, they held different masks in front of their faces to represent the different characters. Some argue that God is only one person who plays the role of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- b. Dynamic monarchianism – Some argue that the Holy Spirit is merely the spiritual force emanating from God and not a real entity in His own right.
- c. Returning Christ – Some argue that the Holy Spirit is really the spirit of the risen Christ returning to work in His church. They claim that the same spirit that filled Christ returned after His supposed resurrection to inspire His followers to proclaim His teachings.

B. Equal to the Father and Son

1. The three-fold references
 - a. Cry of the angels – {*And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."* Isaiah 6:3/Revelation 4:8}
 - b. Aaronic blessing – {*"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."* Numbers 6:24-26}
 - c. Apostolic blessing – {*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* 1 Corinthians 13:14}
 - d. Great Commission – {See Matthew 28:19 above}
2. Named as God
 - a. Peter on judgment – {*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit.... You have not lied to men but to God."* Acts 5:3-4}
 - b. Paul on warning – {*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?* 1 Corinthians 3:16}
 - c. Paul on freedom – {*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* 2 Corinthians 3:17}
 - d. Presence of God – {*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?* Psalm 139:7}

C. Fully God

1. Unity of God – The LORD is. He is one God who acts as one. There are no parts so that all must be presence for God to exist or act. We say there is one essence.
 - a. Name – {*God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'*" Exodus 3:14}
 - b. Unity proclaimed – {*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.* Deuteronomy 6:4}
 - c. Presence – {See Psalm 139:7 above}
2. Referred to as God – The Holy Spirit as a person is substituted for a reference referring to God as He presents Himself to His people.
 - a. Directly – {*By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD, and trouble came to Moses because of them; for they rebelled against the Spirit of God, and rash words came from Moses' lips.* Psalm 106:32-33}
 - b. Subsequently – {*I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints--but let them not return to folly.* Psalm 85:8 *For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* 2 Peter 1:21}

D. Proceeding from Father and Son

1. Procession is eternal – Because God is immutable, anything which God does internally must be eternal or God would change His nature. Therefore, the procession of the Holy Spirit must be eternal. The word “procession” is not understood by us but used as a representation given in Scripture for the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the other persons of the Trinity.
 - a. Immutability – {*“I the LORD do not change.” Malachi 3:6 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.” Hebrews 1:12*}
 - b. Procession – {*“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out [proceeds] from the Father, he will testify about me.” John 15:26*}
2. Procession is from both – The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit is the spirit of both the Father and the Son. Therefore He has a similar relationship to both of them.
 - a. Father – *“For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” Matthew 10:20*}
 - b. Son – *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9*}
3. Filioque Controversy
 - a. Nicene Creed – The original creed of the Council of Nicea in the early 4th Century made only a brief reference to the Holy Spirit as an add-on at the end of the creed. When the modern creed was drafted at the Council of Constantinople later in the 4th Century, the section on the Holy Spirit was still less fully developed than the article on the Son, because the second, not the third person of the Trinity had been the heart of the Arian Controversy.
 - b. *Filioque* addition – As the Western Church attempted to deal with the remnants of the Arian Controversy two centuries later, it decided to complete the process of strengthening the creed that had not been completed at Constantinople. The Eastern Church took offense at this, and the battle still rages.

III. His Divine Names and Attributes

- A. His divine names – The two primary names given to the third person of the Trinity identify Him by how He acts and supports us.
 1. Holy Spirit (ἁγίᾳ, πνεῦμα) – The “Holy Spirit” is the holy breath or wind of God. Like the wind, He is powerful and goes where He wishes. He wills to save and carries His saving work throughout the world. He is “holy,” that is, He is set apart for divine purpose. {*“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” John 3:8*}

2. Counselor (παράκλητον) – The Greek word is translated into English letters to give the word “Paraclete.” The Holy Spirit is the counselor who stands by in our trials in life and advises us how to please God. He is our comforter of the certainty of the LORD’s grace and mercy. {*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”* John 14:16}

B. His descriptive titles

1. Titles given – To describe the Holy Spirit more clearly, the Bible often uses phrases that include something about His nature or work when mentioning Him.
 - a. Spirit of truth – {*“The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”* John 14:17}
 - b. Spirit of holiness – {*Who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.* Romans 1:4}
 - c. Spirit of life – {*Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.* Romans 8:2}
 - d. Spirit of glory – {*If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.* 1 Peter 4:14}
 - e. Spirit of wisdom of God – {*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.* Isaiah 11:2}
 - f. Deposit – {*Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.* Ephesians 1:13b-14}
2. The word “spirit” in the Bible – The original text of the Bible did not indicate the case of the letters. There is no case in Hebrew, and all Greek was written in uppercase. Once Greek was made case sensitive, almost all words, except for proper names and the first words of sentences, were placed in lower case. Because the word πνεῦμα is used for the wind and lowercase uses of spirit as well as the Holy Spirit, the translators have to carefully study the text to be certain they give the word its proper meaning in English.

C. Divine attributes – Attributes only God has.

1. Eternal – {*How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!* Hebrews 9:14}
2. Omnipresent – {*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.* Psalm 139:7-10}

3. Omnipotent – *{There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11}*
4. Omniscient – *{God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10-11}*

Holy Spirit

2. His Work

IV. His Work in Old Testament Times

A. Active in the beginning

1. At the creation
 - a. In the confusion – At the very beginning of the creation, when nothing had any form or meaning, the Holy Spirit was already at work. *{Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2}*
 - b. The creation of man – The use of the plural here already indicates that God is of multiple persons who are considering the action of creating man. We later learn that one of these persons is the Holy Spirit. *{Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” Genesis 1:26}*
2. Contending for the truth – The Holy Spirit was working on people’s hearts already before the flood to try to turn them from evil. *{Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.” Genesis 6:3}*

B. At the time of Moses

1. Skills – The Holy Spirit gave artistic gifts to those who were called to make the tent of meeting and later the temple. *{Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.” Exodus 31:1-3}*
2. Leadership
 - a. Assistants – When the work of leading God’s people became too great for Moses to do by himself, the Holy Spirit gave others the ability to help with the work. *{Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again. Numbers 11:25}*
 - b. Replacement – When the time came for Moses to be called home by the Lord, the Holy Spirit filled the heart of another man to replace him and gave him the talents to lead. *{The LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence.” Numbers 27:18-19}*
3. Balaam – When Balaam was willing to take money to curse Israel, the Holy Spirit reprogrammed him. *{When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him and he uttered his oracle: Numbers 24:2-3a}*

C. During the time of the judges

1. Othniel – The Holy Spirit empowered Othniel to lead the Israelites to drive out Aram. *{The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died. Judges 3:10-11}*
2. Gideon – The Holy Spirit empowered Gideon with 300 men to put a large army into confusion and defeat. *{Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. Judges 6:34}*
3. Jephthah – The Holy Spirit empowered Jephthah to drive the Ammonites out of the land of Israel. *{Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites. Judges 11:29}*
4. Samson – The Holy Spirit empowered Samson to disrupt the Philistine occupation of Israel and give hope to God's people. *{The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him, and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. Judges 13:24-25}*

D. During the time of the kings and prophets

1. Saul – The Holy Spirit initially came upon Saul so that he could become an effective king of Israel and even speak as a prophet. *{The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. 1 Samuel 10:6}*
2. David – When Saul turned his back on the LORD, the Holy Spirit descended on David and gave him a heart fully committed to the LORD. *{So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. 1 Samuel 16:13}*
3. Elijah – The Holy Spirit guided Elijah and empowered him to stand against the power of the king and queen and all their prophets and soldiers. *{“Look,” they said, “we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley.” 2 Kings 2:16}*
4. Jahaziel – The Holy Spirit gave his prophets words of comfort to speak in the face of overwhelming odds because the LORD would fight Israel's battles for them. *{Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. 2 Chronicles 20:14}*

5. Ezekiel – The Holy Spirit gave His prophets the bravery to preach judgment on the unfaithful leaders of His people. *{Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon me, and he told me to say: "This is what the LORD says: That is what you are saying, O house of Israel, but I know what is going through your mind. You have killed many people in this city and filled its streets with the dead. Ezekiel 11:5-6}*
6. Micah – The Holy Spirit gave His prophets the strength to preach the law and repentance when His people strayed. *{But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin. Micah 3:8}*
7. Zechariah – The Holy Spirit continued to reach out to the people even after many prophets had been ignored and killed by the people. *{They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry. Zechariah 7:11}*

F. Told of wonders to come

1. Messianic prophecies – The Holy Spirit gave written encouragement to the people of Israel concerning the coming Savior in many prophecies.
 - *{My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? Psalm 22:1}*
 - *{You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. Psalm 16:10}*
 - *{“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14}*
 - *{But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5}*
 - *{“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Micah 5:2}*
2. Prophecies concerning the people – The Holy Spirit promised to breathe spiritual life into the people and their descendants so that the power of the LORD would be evident to all.
 - *{“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,” says the LORD. Isaiah 59:21}*
 - *{“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” Joel 2:28-29}*

V. His Work in the New Testament

A. During Jesus' lifetime

1. John the Baptist

- a. Filled with Holy Spirit before birth – {*“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.”* Luke 1:15}
- b. His mother Elizabeth – {*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* Luke 1:41}
- c. His father Zachariah – {*His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:* Luke 1:47}
- d. Ministry – {*“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* Luke 1:17}

2. Jesus Pre-ministry

- a. Conception – {*The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”* Luke 1:35}
- b. Presentation - {*Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.* Luke 2:27-28a}

3. Jesus Ministry

- a. Baptism – {*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.* Matthew 3:16}
- b. Temptation in the wilderness – {*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.* Luke 4:1}
- c. Savior – {*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”* Luke 4:18-19}
- d. Acts of mercy – {*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.* Luke 10:38}
- e. Resurrection – {*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.* 1 Peter 3:18}

B. In the early Christian church

1. Jesus' commission

- a. Power to preach – {*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1:8}

- b. Power to forgive – {*And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23}
2. Working through the Apostles
- a. Pentecost – {All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4}
 - b. Power to stand firm – {*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed."* Acts 4:8-10}
 - c. Power to witness – {*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.* Acts 4:31}
 - d. Strength in persecution – {*But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.* Acts 7:55}
 - e. Power to discern falseness – {*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"* Acts 5:3}
 - f. Power to change the hardest hearts – {*Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."* Acts 9:17}
 - g. Calling of workers – {*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."* Acts 13:2}
 - h. Guiding the work – {*Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.* Acts 16:6}
 - i. Overseeing the flock – {*"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers."* Acts 20:28}
 - j. Prophecy – {*Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'* " Acts 21:11}
 - k. Gifts for service – {*To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.* 1 Corinthians 12:8-11}

Holy Spirit

3. His Work on Us and in Us

VI. His Main Work

A. Contrition, His “strange” work

1. Natural state of man -
 - a. Rebellious – By nature man is totally rebellious against God and His Law. {*“Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood.”* Genesis 8:21b}
 - b. Uninterested in God’s way – Even those who seem to have some knowledge of religion still do not want to submit to the LORD, but they seek their own way. – *“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute?”* Acts 7:51-52}
2. The club of the Law
 - a. Doing what come unnaturally – In order to bring mankind back to God, the Holy Spirit must show people that they cannot make it on their own. This means presenting the curses of the Law, which is not how God wants to treat mankind. {*The LORD will rise up as he did at Mount Perazim, he will rouse himself as in the Valley of Gibeon--to do his work, his strange work, and perform his task, his alien task.* Isaiah 28:21}
 - b. Bringing sin to light – Sin must be seen and acknowledged before it can threaten the heart with its guilt and punishment. {*“Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”* John 16:7b-8}
3. Despair at self-help
 - a. Sickness of heart – Until someone is sick and believes that the sickness is serious, he will not believe that it is necessary to consult a physician. {*When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”* Matthew 9:11-12}
 - b. Despair of self-help – While a person may be sorry for sinning because it results in events that the person would rather did not happen, a person has not become truly sorry for his sin until he accepts that there is nothing he can do to appease God. {*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.* 2 Corinthians 7:10}
 - c. Repentance – Repentance comes when a person repudiates both sin and self and turns to the LORD for mercy. {*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”--and you forgave the guilt of my sin.* Psalm 32:3-5}

B. Conversion

1. Conversion, His saving work

- a. Overcoming spiritual death – There was no spiritual life in us before the Holy Spirit brought us to see salvation in the work of Jesus Christ. *{As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air; the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Ephesians 2:1-2 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. Colossians 2:13}*
- b. Breathing in spiritual life – When God created mankind, He breathed life into us. When the Holy Spirit gives us new life in Christ, He breathes that life into us. In neither case did we have anything to do with being brought to life. *{The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7 “The Spirit gives life.” John 6:63}*
- c. Teaching the truths of God – To work on the hearts of people, the Holy Spirit uses means. The primary means is the word of God, which must be proclaimed to all. *{How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Romans 10:14-15}*

2. Words used for conversion

- a. Conversion (repentance in the broader sense) – In order to be converted, one must repent of one's sins. The Greek word for repentance (μετάνοια) means to have a complete change of mind. That is what conversion is. *{“I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Luke 13:5}*
- b. Rebirth (γεννηθῆναι ἄνωθεν) – To be converted is to restart life. Being reborn is being born from above. That life is now dedicated to Christ instead of to oneself. *{In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” John 3:3}*
- c. Quickening (ζωοποιέω) – Because every person is dead spiritually by nature, conversion makes a person alive spiritually. *{But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5}*
- d. Illumination (φωτισμός) – Before conversion, people were in the darkness of sin. They did not know what the light was. Conversion brings the light of the Gospel into their hearts. *{But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9}*

3. Conversion, the Spirit's work alone

- a. Divine act – It is the Holy Spirit, who is God Himself, who creates faith in the heart. *{For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6}*

- b. Not assisted by man – Man plays no role in coming to faith just as a fetus plays no role in being conceived. Because the human element is completely removed from the process, we don't have to be concerned that we will sabotage God's work. *{For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9}*
- c. It is not equivocal – Conversion is not something that varies and is uncertain. There are clear marks that it has occurred. If these marks are not seen, then we can be sure that it has not. Although we cannot read the heart, there are actions that are incompatible with Christian behavior that we can recognize. *{Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3}*

VII. Good Works from a New Nature

A. Becoming saints

- 1. Sanctification in the narrow sense
 - a. The new being – When a person is brought to faith, a new self is created in that person. The new self wants to love the LORD, thank Him and serve Him. It is this good nature which produces good fruits, fruits of faith and love. *{Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17}*
 - b. The turning from the old being – The new self tries to shove the old sinful self out of control of the person. The old self wants to sin and live without God. The new self has a different attitude about God, an attitude given it by the Holy Spirit. *{You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24}*
- 2. The nature of good works
 - a. According to God's will – Because the new self is created to love God, it naturally wants to do God's will. That will is stated in God's Law. The new self wants to master this Law and live according to it. It knows that only those things which are approved under God's Law are good works. *{These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Deuteronomy 6:6}*
 - b. Done to serve God – Not only do works have to be in accordance with God's Law, but they must be done for the right reason. That reason is to reflect the love of the LORD through service to God and to our fellowman. Any other reason for trying to do good will not be pleasing to God. *{Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6}*
 - c. Prompted by the Holy Spirit – The new self is weak. While it desires to do good, it is limited by the constant battle it faces with the devil, the sinful world and the old self which is never overcome in this life. Therefore the Holy Spirit strengthens the new self and prompts it to do works pleasing to God. *{For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13}*

- d. Done with joy – Because the new self wants to please God, the Holy Spirit gives the gift of joy to our soul when we ourselves are carrying out the loving service that we desire to give to the LORD. *{For in my inner being I delight in God's law. Romans 7:22}*

B. Struggling with the old sinful nature

1. The nature of the battle

- a. Old self puts up a fight. – When a young child gains possession of a toy, she is not willing to give it up to anyone, even to someone who is the rightful owner. The longer someone has possession of something, the less likely he is to give it up. Our old sinful nature had possession of us from the time of our conception and does not want to yield control of us to the new nature formed in us by the Holy Spirit. *{For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. Galatians 5:17}*
- b. Everything is at stake. – The struggle is a matter of life and death – eternal life and death. Living according to the old self is the road to hell. The demons are continually reinforcing the old self in the battle. *{For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13}*

2. The intensity of the battle

- a. It is in the center of us. – The old self is struggling at all times to take over our center of emotional control, i.e., our hearts. It wants to shove the new self out of the captain's chair and throw us into such bad sins that we will abandon hope of heaven. *{For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. Matthew 15:19}*
- b. It is spread through our members. – Our old self is trying to use the parts of our body and the things in our lives to gain control of us. If he finds an effective weapon, we must turn our back on this part of us or thing in our lives to preserve our faith. *{If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. Matthew 18:8-9}*

3. Our weakness in the struggle

- a. We continually fall into sin. – Even Paul, who wrote more of the New Testament than anyone else, was continually tempted to sin and fell to some of those temptations. We are weak and cannot win the battle on our own. *{For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. Romans 7:19}*
- b. We need God's word. – Our supply of food and armament is only God's word as recorded in the Scriptures. Being pressed hard in the battle, we need to keep the supply lines open to strengthen ourselves against the assaults of our enemies. *{Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2-3}*

- c. We need the Holy Spirit. – As Luther wrote, “With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected.” If we do not have the strength that only the Holy Spirit can give us, then we will fail in the struggle against our sinful nature which is aided by any number of demons. *{And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezekiel 36:27}*

C. Good works are necessary

- 1. God wants us to do them. -
 - a. Taking positive actions – The LORD wants us to do good to all people. We are to treat all people as we would like to be treated and even go farther for our brothers and sisters in Christ. *{Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10}*
 - b. Avoiding sinful actions – We need to avoid doing those things which harm our neighbor or the work of God’s kingdom. The LORD wants us to be set apart as a people special to Him. *{Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14}*
- 2. Our brothers need them.
 - a. In normal living – During our daily life we encounter brothers and sisters that need help. Certainly we cannot answer every plea for assistance that the media and the mail throw at us, but we can regularly contribute to help those whom the LORD has made less fortunate than we. *{What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:14-17}*
 - b. When ill befalls – Sometimes there is an immediate need, and we must go out of our way to assist someone who desperately needs help. While modern communication has made emergency help available almost anywhere, human intervention is still needed to start the process and give assistance that may be necessary before the authorities can take over the situation. *{But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. Luke 10:33-34}*

D. The reward of good works

- 1. Our reward is assumed. -
 - a. In duties of life – The Christian serves in every lawful thing that he or she does. Doing great deeds is not necessary, but loving the LORD and serving faithfully in all our actions is what God really seeks. *{For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8}*

- b. In persecutions – The LORD particularly wants us to serve faithfully when we are challenged by those who hate us because we are Christians who will not yield to the temptations to do or teach otherwise than the LORD has instructed us. *{But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Luke 6:35}*
- 2. A reward must not be sought. -
 - a. Not just doing to do – Going through the motions to appear important in the kingdom of God in order to earn a high place is only done by those who are not within the kingdom of God. *{“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ” Matthew 7:21-23}*
 - b. Not doing with dishonest motives – When one tries to be recognized by appearing to do great works while shortchanging God, one will get wrath rather than blessing. *{Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.” Acts 5:3-4}*

Holy Spirit

4. Gifts of the Spirit

VIII. Gifts for All Believers

A. Faith, His prime gift

1. He promises it to all who repent – The beginning of the new life of the Christian is the creation of saving faith in the heart of the Christian. This therefore is the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit because it is the gift that admits us to Christ's kingdom of grace. *{Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39}*
2. It only comes through the Spirit – We cannot obtain the gift of faith except through the Holy Spirit, anymore than a pauper can obtain property from a rich man unless the rich man gives it to him. We have no spiritual coins with which to buy our salvation. *{The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14}*

B. Companion gifts of faith

1. Hope – When things become uncertain, when we are lost in the wilderness of life and everything on which we stand begins to crumble, the Holy Spirit places the hope of eternal salvation into our hearts. We are given the assurance that only the Almighty God can give, and who can contend with Him? *{May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13}*
2. Love – The love of God is what caused Him to develop a plan of salvation for all the people upon the earth. Receiving His love therefore puts us into the position of a most favored child of a rich and powerful father. *{“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}*
3. Comfort – Even with our eyes fixed on heaven, we will still face the trials and heartaches in this life. Our humanness will be troubled by the things of the world. The Holy Spirit assures us that all this will pass, and He holds our hand until it does. *{For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 2 Corinthians 3:5}*
4. Spiritual discernment – To be saved we must know the truth. Because Satan does not want us to know the truth, he puts all sorts of false teachings around us to deceive us. Therefore the Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to show us the right path. *{But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13a}*

C. Fruits of the Spirit – The fruits of the Spirit are those properties which the Holy Spirit instills into us so that we can serve others as reflections of Christ. It is only through His work that we can grow in these attributes that make us more Christ-like.

1. Love – {*We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19*}
2. Joy – {*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17*}
3. Peace – {*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7*}
4. Patience – {*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2*}
5. Kindness – {*If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Acts 4:9-10*}
6. Goodness – {*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth). Ephesians 5:8-9*}
7. Faithfulness - {*It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. 3 John 3*}
8. Gentleness – {*Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:5*}
9. Self-control – {*As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." Acts 24:25*}
10. Courage – {*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13*}

D. Use of the Spirit's gifts

1. Fellowship – The gifts that we receive from the Holy Spirit allow us to work together with fellow Christians in the kingdom of grace here on earth. Through these gifts we build each other up and reach out to those who do not know the message of salvation. Our fellowship makes us the body of Christ. {*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*}

2. Sword – The gifts that we receive from the Holy Spirit also allow us to fight the good fight against the forces of the devil in this world. Because Satan insists on trying to destroy our faith, we must be ready at all times to battle him with the armor and weapons provided by the Holy Spirit. *{Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17}*

IX. Foundational and Confirmatory Gifts

A. Background

1. General properties of gifts
 - a. Everyone is given something. – Although some gifts seem small and hardly worth having, the Holy Spirit gives what is in the best interest of the church. We should never feel cheated that we did not get something more. *{Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good....All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7,11}*
 - b. They must be used. – The Holy Spirit does not give gifts to people so they ignore them. Gifts carry an obligation with them. *{Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10}*
2. What spiritual gifts are not:
 - a. Essential – Spiritual gifts do not save. When they are given to a person, they are for the edification of the church.
 - b. Mere talents – Talents like everyone else has are general gifts of God, not special gifts of the spirit.
 - c. Responsibilities – While the Holy Spirit may give special gifts to help us meet our responsibilities in the church, they are not the responsibilities themselves, otherwise the church would have the power to compel the Holy Spirit to give gifts to people to whom it assigns responsibilities.
 - d. The same in each era – The Holy Spirit provides what the church needs in every era, and that may be different because the world and local situation may be different.

B. Foundational gifts

1. Prophet
 - a. Directly called by God – No one chose to be a prophet of the LORD. The LORD called whom He desired and sent them where He wanted them to go. *{He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them." Ezekiel 3:4}*
 - b. Did not contradict the written word – Those who claimed to be prophets were to be judged by whether they spoke words consistent with the words of the Scriptures. *{To the law (written teachings) and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Isaiah 8:20}*

- c. Prophecies came true – The LORD was not going to validate the words of a prophet who spoke on his own authority. Therefore, only those men were prophets whose proclamations came true because they came from the LORD. *{If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him. Deuteronomy 18:22}*

2. Apostle

- a. Instructed and sent by Jesus – The Bible only tells us that 13 men were personally called by Jesus to be apostles. Of these, Judas betrayed Him and was lost. Others were given special gifts and were called by the church to assume positions of leadership, but they did not have the same authority as those personally commissioned by Jesus. *{Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” Mark 16:14-15}*
- b. Power to perform miracles – The apostles were given power to perform miracles and do great wonders. While some others were also given power to do miracles, this did not make them apostles. *{The things that mark an apostle--signs, wonders and miracles--were done among you with great perseverance. 2 Corinthians 12:12}*

3. Discernment

- a. Before the Scriptures were completed – During the era of the apostles the Scriptures were not yet completed. People had to be very careful about whom they believed and the teachings they followed. The Holy Spirit gave a gift to the church to do this. *{Do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22}*
- b. After the canon was completed – We now have the Scripture as the ultimate arbiter on all teachings. Despite this, we still need to pray for discernment because there are those who are always trying to cloud the meaning of the Scriptures. *{Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1}*

C. Confirmatory gifts

- 1. Miracles – The power to do miracles was given to the church so show that its teachings were not just human ideas, but that they had the power of the Almighty God behind them. *{Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? Galatians 3:5}*
- 2. Healing
 - a. Sometimes Yes – There have been periods of history when the gift of healing through the preacher of the God’s word was readily available, such as in Jesus’ ministry, and times when it was available for special purposes, as through the apostles. *{Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. Acts 3:6-7}*

- b. Sometimes No – Not everyone who sought healing at the time of the apostles received it. In fact, not even Paul himself received healing from a troublesome ailment. The LORD decided what was best, and health is not always best. *{To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:7-9}*
 - c. Sometimes through other means – When we are ill, we should always commit our case to the LORD and to the church. We should also use the medical knowledge that the LORD has allowed physicians to accumulate to help us recover health if it is the LORD’s will. *{Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14}*
- 3. Speaking in tongues and interpreting tongues
 - a. Speaking foreign languages – On Pentecost and at some other times afterward, the Holy Spirit gave people the ability to speak in foreign languages that they had not learned. This facilitated the communication of the message of salvation. *{Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Acts 2:5-6}*
 - b. Ecstatic speech – There were certain occasions when the Holy Spirit permitted some people to praise God in speech that was not part of any recognized language. These were special spiritual prayers which exceeded the ability of person to put them into words. These prayers were a sign to the church, but they could also trouble the church if they were not explained or were used as a status symbol. *{I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. 1 Corinthians 14:18-19}*
 - c. Phony glossolalia – Ecstatic speech can be induced by concentration or drugs. Such induced speech is not a gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who regard this as a sign of a true faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit are not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who regards even little children as members of the kingdom of God. *{“I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” Mark 10:15}*

Holy Spirit

5. Preserving the Kingdom of Grace

X. Continuing Gifts for the Good of the Church

A. Speaking gifts

1. Evangelist – The gift of spreading the Gospel permits the church to reach those who are not believers. A gifted evangelist will be able to understand where people are spiritually and emotionally and tailor the saving message so as to get past their defenses and reach their hearts. *{It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Romans 15:20}*
2. Shepherd (pastor) – The gift of shepherding permits the members of the flock of Christ to be cared for spiritually. A gifted pastor looks after their souls, seeking to know what they need to grow and to become healthy in Christ, and he works to address those needs. *{Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28}*
3. Teacher – The gift of teaching permits the members of the church to be instructed in the word of God. A gifted teacher, no matter at which level he or she teaches, makes the word of God clear to those taught so that they will know the love of the LORD and how to direct their lives to please Him. *{So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. Acts 18:11}*
4. Exhorter – The gift of exhortation permits the members of the church to be encouraged and comforted in contending for the faith. Because the demons are always with us to disquiet our souls and lead us into soul-destroying acts, a gifted exhorter will comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable in order to strengthen their faith in their loving Savior Jesus Christ. *{As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3}*
5. Scholar – The gift of knowledge and wisdom of the LORD permits the church to stay in synchronization with the will of the LORD and the mission assigned to it. A gifted scholar will study the Scriptures so as to learn the will of God and study the practices of the church so that they conform to teachings of the Scriptures, neither adding to nor subtracting from the written word we have received from the LORD's prophets and apostles. *{All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 3:16-4:2}*

B. Serving gifts

1. Leadership – The gift of leadership permits the church to accomplish the external activities and organizational tasks that are necessary to accomplish its mission. A gifted leader uses the available resources to develop plans, gain consensus, motivate members and overcome obstacles to accomplish the work that makes the congregation, the district and the synod function. *{He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Exodus 18:25}*
2. Administration – The gift of administration permits the church to keep its activities coordinated and the groups working toward a common goal. A gifted administrator knows what activities are occurring, keeps groups informed about issues that may affect their plans and oversees the procurement of and payment for resources need for the work. *{In Jerusalem also, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites, priests and heads of Israelite families to administer the law of the LORD and to settle disputes. 2 Chronicles 19:8}*
3. Ministry of compassion – The gift of compassion permits the congregation to help those who have physical needs or suffer from misfortune without losing focus on its ministry of the Gospel. A person gifted with a heart that allows him or her to see and sense needs and respond to them by giving or arranging appropriate assistance shows forth the love of God through the caring of the congregation. *{Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him. Matthew 20:34}*
4. Giving – The gift of giving permits the church to use the opportunities that it has to carry out its mission of preaching the Gospel and also to show compassion to brothers and sisters whom the LORD is chastening. People gifted to use their resources and time to help others while still meeting the personal responsibilities that the LORD has given them are the visible means by which the LORD sustains His church. *{Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 2 Corinthians 8:2-4}*
5. Music – The gift of music permits the church to express God's word in a form in which many find it easy to absorb and remember. It helps to set the tone for the worship service. Gifted musicians can make the phrases of worship reside in the mind long after the service has ended. It was said by Luther's opponents that he ruined more souls by his hymns than by his preaching. *{All these men were under the supervision of their fathers for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king. Along with their relatives--all of them trained and skilled in music for the LORD. 1 Chronicles 25:6-7a}*

6. Conviviality – The gift of conviviality permits people to foster an environment in the church in which people feel at ease and become willing to serve. This gift can work in many ways and is often only recognized by outsiders who see a group of people who are truly bonded together in their mission and actions. Paul particularly makes mention of widows in this regard. *{...is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. 1 Timothy 5:10}*

C. Use of our spiritual gifts

1. Confidence – We should be confident that the LORD will always provide the spiritual gifts which are needed for a congregation, district or synod to carry out His will. When they seem lacking in a particular area, perhaps we should look to the areas in which He is providing and go in the direction that uses what He has given. *{It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13}*
2. Encouragement – The Holy Spirit will give us an opportunity to use the spiritual gifts that He has given us. He will also give us the encouragement to take up the work that He has placed before us. *{“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” John 9:4}*

XI. Preservation of the Saints

A. Warnings

1. Persecution – Christians must expect persecution because the message of the Gospel is offensive to the people of the world. They do not want to repudiate their sins and themselves. The Holy Spirit warns Christians to be prepared. *{They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:50b-52}*
2. False doctrine and false teachers – False doctrine is spread everywhere by Satan's agents in order to lead people from the correct teachings of God's Word. The Holy Spirit reminds us of the dangers of abandoning the Scriptures to follow the teachings of men. *{Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. 1 John 4:1-2}*

3. Spiritual starvation – Failing to take spiritual nourishment regularly will lead to spiritual death. The Holy Spirit works through what we know to encourage us to learn more. {*“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”* John 8:47}
4. Self-righteousness – We are always being tempted to look for something that we can use as a bargaining chip with God, something that will give us some righteousness before God. The Holy Spirit reminds us that there is no way we can justify ourselves. {*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ ; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”* Luke 10:25-29}
5. Humanistic pride – The more we learn, the more confident we become that we are able to handle the problems that life throws at us. We are tempted to carry this attitude into our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit shows us that such pride is folly. {*“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”* Luke 22:31-24}
6. Love of the world – The things of this world give us many opportunities for pleasure and for temporal security. The Holy Spirit reminds us that everything in this world will pass away, leaving us nothing with which to stand before God. {*Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”* Matthew 19:23-24}
7. Willful sins – In our desire to be recognized by others or appear large in our own eyes, we are tempted to defy God’s Law as a mark of our independence and strength. The Holy Spirit warns us of the dire consequences of such actions. {*About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” Peter said to her, “How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”* Acts 5:7-9}
8. Sins against the Holy Spirit – To actively revile the work of the Holy Spirit is to cut ourselves off from the only source of saving faith. The Holy Spirit works to prevent this by teaching us God’s Law and Gospel. {*And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the 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.* Matthew 12:31-32}

B. Assurances

1. To the individual – When beset by the troubles and temptations of the world, it is only human that we should despair of our own abilities and consider our situation hopeless. At such times the Holy Spirit “sounds on the ear the distant triumph song,” reminding us of the kingdom awaiting us and the all-powerful king who will bring us there.
 - a. *{Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6}*
 - b. *{May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24}*
 - c. *{Into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:4-5}*
2. To the church – We know that “the church shall never perish” because it is built on the rock of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the builder of the church, who will provide it with those resources it needs to carry out its purpose.
 - a. *{Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47a}*
 - b. *{Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25}*
 - c. *{Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11}*
3. In persecution – When Christians are persecuted, the Holy Spirit helps them to endure and to turn the persecution into an advantage for the church. *{“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” Luke 12:11-12}*
4. In prayer – To strengthen our faith, the Holy Spirit works with us to phrase our thoughts and words into a God-pleasing request for our spiritual good. *{In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27}*

C. A dilemma

1. Resisting temptation – The Holy Spirit both warns us to resist temptation and assures us God will rescue us from them. *{These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:11-13}*

2. Resisting the devil – The Holy Spirit warns us to be on our guard against the devil at all times, but He also assures us that God is working to help us escape his power. *{Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:8-11}*

D. On the job to the end

1. To our deaths – When death impends, regardless of the cause, we can count on the Holy Spirit working to strengthen our faith until we leave the realm of time. *{But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Acts 7:55-58}*
2. To our resurrection – The Holy Spirit does not leave us at the grave. He will be there to bring our bodies forth into eternal life. *{And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Romans 8:11}*

XII. The Honor He Is Due

A. Honoring Him in our worship

1. When we use the Scriptures – Because the Holy Spirit gave us the Scriptures to make us wise unto salvation, we show him honor by using them as He intended for us to do. *{All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17}*
2. When we include Him in prayer and praise – We should acknowledge the Holy Spirit in our prayers and ask Him to continue His work in us until we reach the heavenly kingdom. *{For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh. Philippians 3:3}*

B. Honoring Him in the church year

1. When we celebrate Pentecost – The coming of the Holy Spirit marked the beginning of the Christian church as a missionary force. We should delight to honor the Holy Spirit for His work through the church by celebrating its founding. *{When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4}*

2. When we study His work in believers – Believers are not always well-known people. It is often those who are faithful without being flashy that produce great long-term benefits for the church. We should look at their efforts and thank the LORD for their dedication. *{I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 2 Timothy 1:5}*

C. Honoring Him in our lives

1. When we are filled with faith in Christ – When the Holy Spirit works faith in Christ in our hearts, He pushes out those things which destroy our relationship with God. We should work with Him to strengthen that faith by ridding ourselves of worldly evils. *{And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:30-32}*
2. When we are filled with zeal to serve the Gospel ministry – It is the Holy Spirit that works faith in the heart, but we honor Him when we strive to be part of His plan of salvation for others. *{Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22}*