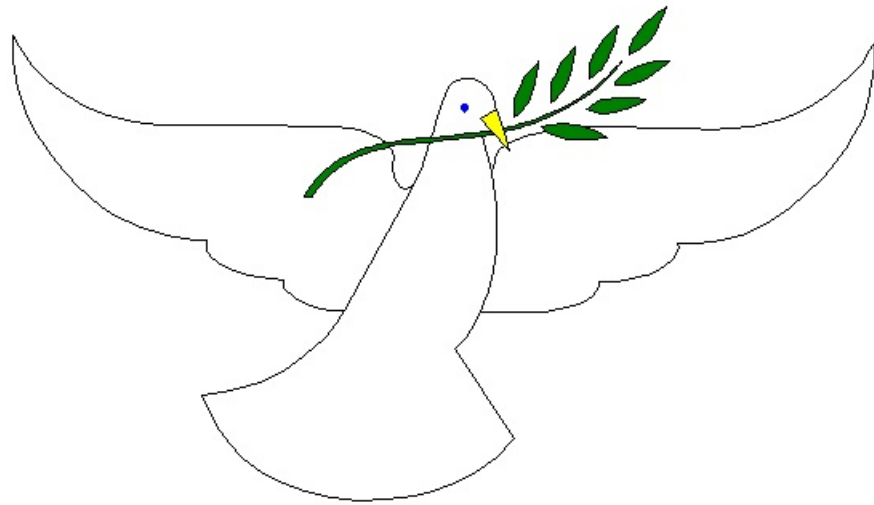


A STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



By
The Kitali, Kenya Group
Church of Christ

Prepared on the computer for use in Zimbabwe
by
Bill DeLaughter
P.O. Box 193
Crown Point, Indiana 46308-0193

WHY STUDY THE HOLY SPIRIT? Because there is MUCH confusion about Him

Traditionally:

A long time ago, ancestors believed in what is today called "Animism". That word means that our fathers believed in life as being a circle. After death a person's spirit would stay close to the grave and wait until he or she was called again or recognized in a newborn child. These spirits could affect the lives of the living. Spirits could bring sickness, blessings, craziness, problems with livestock and neighbors depending on how those living showed honor to the spirits.

Witchdoctors worked as mediators between the living and the dead. They helped decide where the problem was and what needed to be done about it. Often they received some payment for their work. These spirits could also be mediators for the living before God. If a spirit was angered, one way to appease the spirit was to make a sacrifice. Different sacrifices were developed for different social "sins". Many of these sacrifices are still made today.

Religion:

Many years ago Christianity was introduced into this country. The first missionaries did not understand the traditional customs and beliefs and so many churches did not speak about the fears and beliefs of our fathers. The missionaries instead, taught a system of rules and regulations to be followed if one wanted to be a "faithful" Christian.

Religion became a list of actions that had to be done. Therefore, it resembled the traditional customs. Both systems to this point stressed a list of actions without touching the inside of a man. For example, traditionally, a person could hate his ancestor secretly in his heart, but he would still make a sacrifice and give verbal praise to him. Secretly he feared the ancestor. But to his friends and neighbors, he would praise and show honor to his long dead ancestor.

Early churches stressed actions such as attendance, dressing like westerners, education, speaking English, singing western songs, and preaching in a manner like the missionary. Since the missionary didn't know much about traditional beliefs, an early Christian could still believe in the ancestral spirits, offer sacrifices, and still think he was a good Christian. He did not see that ancestral spirits and sacrifices are proclaimed in Christianity as being sin.

Syncretism:

With independence, several groups broke off from the main church groups and started their own religious organizations. Usually these new groups contained a mixture of Christianity and traditional actions. Because Zimbabweans wanted to push off English slavery, leaders included traditional beliefs in these new groups as a way of stressing their independence. The result was a "syncretic church" (It's a group that mixes traditions and Christianity). A group that acknowledges Jesus as Lord on Sundays, but during the week allows its people to live in fear of ancestors often sacrificing to them. Further confusion came when evangelists began to teach about the "Holy" Spirit. The Zimbabweans responded, "You mean Christianity also has spirits? You mean there is a 'Holy' Spirit? This Spirit has power over my fears and can help me conquer my enemies?"

Thus the Holy Spirit became a bridge to link together traditional beliefs and Christianity into a strongly appealing "syncretic church" that spoke to the fears of Zimbabweans. Usually groups that stress the "Holy Spirit" above all other doctrines are very traditional in practice. Very traditional people who still sacrifice and live in fear of ancestors are those who seek the most strongly the power and manifestation of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

This can be seen in groups that claim the power of the Holy Spirit. They are still observing traditional sacrifices and participating in sinful practices of drunkenness and immorality at these sacrifices. Some of these groups will resort to using witchcraft when problems arise among them. An example of this was seen when rival leaders split their group. When one died the other group claimed witchcraft was used. These same people claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit. People who claim to be preachers go around visiting houses in order to detect and drive out evil spirits that are hidden. These people will for a fee find evil medicine, break curses, and invoke blessings from the Holy Spirit to guard the people from witchcraft.

All of this is a result of a lack of understanding of who the Holy Spirit is, what his ministry is, and how he works and lives within the Christians of today. Only true teaching from the word of God will be able to silence these false teachers and "syncretic churches".

TEST ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What is the Holy Spirit? _____
2. Was the Holy Spirit created by God? _____
3. Is the Holy Spirit God? _____
4. Is the Holy Spirit lower in rank than Jesus? _____
5. What does the word "spirit" mean? _____
6. List four meanings of the word "spirit".
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
7. Was there a Holy Spirit in the Old Testament? _____
8. If so, what did the Holy Spirit do? _____
9. What is the most important scripture in the New Testament about the Holy Spirit? _____
10. What is the most important work of the Holy Spirit today? _____
11. Who described the Holy Spirit's ministry here on earth? _____
12. How does the Holy Spirit help Christians today? _____
13. What does the Holy Spirit do for the church today? _____
14. Is there a baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____
15. Is there a baptism of fire? _____
16. How do you know if you have the Holy Spirit? _____
17. When do you receive the Holy Spirit? _____
18. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? _____
19. What are the purpose of these gifts? _____
20. Should all Christians speak in tongues? _____
21. How can you quench the Holy Spirit? _____
22. What is the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit? _____
23. How can we show that we are filled with the Holy Spirit? _____

LESSON 1
THE WORD "SPIRIT" IS USED IN THE BIBLE

Confusion surrounds the word "spirit" because of the many different meanings are used in the Bible. The scriptures given show passages where "spirit" is used as: wind, breath, life, spirits of the dead, angels, demons, and the Holy Spirit. Careful Bible study is necessary to understand which meaning is being used.

Box 1

<u>WIND</u>	
Job 4:15 Isaiah 57:13 Psalm 78:39	A directed power, anything from breezes to storms.

Box 2

<u>BREATH</u>	
Job 9:18 Psalm 33:6 Jeremiah 10:14	Breath also means a directed power. Includes breathing. Refers to animals, humans, and even God's breath.

Box 3

<u>LIFE</u>	
Genesis 6:17; 7:15 2 Kings 19:7	If a person is breathing, he has life. Life includes a man's feelings, will and intelligence.

Box 4

<u>SPIRIT</u>	
Ephesians 6:12 1 Corinthians 15:39-50	A spirit inside a body, a person; or a spirit outside a body, an evil spirit.

Spirits of the Dead	Angels and Evil Spirits	Holy Spirit
These are the spirits of dead people. Where they stay is not known.	Spirits which are either servants of God or servants of Satan. Angels help us on earth, and demons try to hurt us on earth.	He is God. Now that Jesus is gone, the Holy Spirit is with us on earth. He leads us to Jesus.
Matthew 14:26 1 Samuel 28:8-14 Luke 16:19-31	Hebrews 1:13,14 Mark 1:34 Matthew 8:16	Acts 1:4-11 John 14:16,17 John 16:7-11

TEST ON SCRIPTURES WITH THE WORD "SPIRIT"

It can be seen that the Bible uses many meanings for the word "spirit". Below are some scriptures that use the word "spirit". Read the scripture carefully and then choose the right meaning for the word "spirit" as used in that verse. It may help to read the verses before and after the listed scripture. The meanings of the word "spirit" are:

WIND	(Box 1)
BREATH	(Box 2)
LIFE	(Box 3)
SPIRIT	
spirit of a man	(Box 4)
spirits of the dead	(Box 4)
angels	(Box 4)
evil spirits	(Box 4)
Holy Spirit	(Box 4)

1. Luke 24:37 _____
2. Matthew 26:41 _____
3. Matthew 8:16 _____
4. John 4:23,24 _____
5. John 3:5 _____
6. 1 John 4:1 _____
7. Hebrews 1:14 _____
8. Mark 8:12 _____
9. Matthew 4:1 _____
10. Matthew 27:50 _____
11. Luke 13:10 _____
12. Luke 24:39 _____
13. 2 Timothy 3:16 _____
14. Ezekiel 37:9 _____
15. Romans 8:14-16 _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

What was the Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament?

Power in action is the basic biblical thought whenever God's Spirit is mentioned in the O.T. God's Spirit is always God at work, changing things. Almost 100 references of God's Spirit are made in the O.T. Some of the things God's Spirit is involved in are:

- A. The Spirit made creation and brought life to created beings (Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Psalm 33:6; Job 26:13; 33:4).
- B. The Spirit controls the ways of nature and history (Psalm 104:29,30; Isaiah 34:16; 40:7).
- C. The Spirit reveals God's truth and will to his messengers by both direct communication or partial insight (Numbers 24:2; 2 Samuel 23:2; 1 Chronicles 12:18; 2 Chronicles 15:1; Nehemiah 9:30; Job 32:8; Isaiah 61:1-4; Ezekiel 2:2; 11:24; 37:1; Micah 3:8; Zechariah 7:12).
- D. The Spirit teaches God's people the way of faithfulness and fruitfulness (Nehemiah 9:20; Psalm 143:10; Isaiah 48:16; 63:10-14).
- E. The Spirit helps EACH individual to respond to God. The Spirit helps us with our faith, repentance, obedience, righteousness, openness to God's instruction, and fellowship with him through praise and prayer (Psalm 51:10-12; Isaiah 11:2; 44:3; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:25-27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28; Zechariah 12:10).
- F. The Spirit expands the abilities of individuals to be leaders (servants to lead God's people) such as:
 - 1. Joseph, Genesis 41:38
 - 2. Moses, Numbers 11:17
 - 3. Joshua, Numbers 27:18; Deuteronomy 34:9
 - 4. Othniel, Judges 3:10
 - 5. Gideon, Judges 6:34
 - 6. Samson, Judges 13:25; 14:19; 15:14
 - 7. Saul, 1 Samuel 10:10; 11:6; 19:20-23
 - 8. David, 1 Samuel 16:13
 - 9. Elijah and Elisha, 2 Kings 2:9-15
 - 10. The Messiah, Isaiah 11:1-5; 42:1-4; Luke 4:14

So again it is seen that the Holy Spirit was present and active in the Old Testament. He was not named specifically. The truth of the trinity was not revealed. When Jesus came, He revealed more clearly the Holy Spirit's name, work and relationship to God the Father and to the Son, Jesus Christ. This does not mean that God was one in the O.T. and then changed to be three in the N.T. It simply means that O.T. writers did not reveal God as did the N.T. writers. It is more a matter of revelation through history than God changing.

Here are some more scriptures about the relationship of the Holy Spirit with God and Jesus Christ (Trinity):

- 1. Matthew 28:19
- 2. John 14:26
- 3. John 15:26
- 4. Romans 8:9
- 5. 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 6. 1 Peter 1:2

LESSON 2

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Holy Spirit is sent in **Jesus'** name
He is another like **Jesus**
He comes only to disciples of **Jesus**
He teaches about **Jesus**
He will remind disciples about the words of **Jesus**
He will bear witness of **Jesus**
He will convict the world of sin (not believing in **Jesus**)
of righteousness (**Jesus** has been glorified by God)
of judgment (those not accepting **Jesus** will be judged)
He will guide in all truth (about **Jesus**)
He will disclose what is to come (concerning **Jesus**)
He will glorify **Jesus**

THE SPIRIT IS A PERSON

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is revealed as one of three divine persons. He is together with, yet different than the Father and the Son. Some examples of the Spirit being a separate person are:

- A. He is the Paraclete. This Greek word means comforter, strengthener, counselor, helper, supporter, advisor, advocate, ally, and senior friend. Only a PERSON could fulfill such roles (John 14:16, 25; 15:26; 16:7).
- B. He is "another" paraclete (John 14:16) continuing the ministry of Jesus. Only a PERSON like Jesus could fulfill this role.
- C. John points to the Holy Spirit being a person by using the pronoun "He" when referring to the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8,13,14). John's grammar is correct. He is showing that the Holy Spirit is indeed a DIVINE PERSON.
- D. The Holy Spirit is said to hear, speak, witness, convince of, and glorify Christ. He will also lead, guide, teach, command, forbid, desire, give speech to, give help to, and intercede for Christians. He does this with groans, himself speaking to God through their prayers (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:4; 8:29; 13:2; 16:6,7; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27; Galatians 4:6; 5:17,18). The Holy Spirit can also be lied to and grieved (Acts 5:3,4; Ephesians 4:30). Only a PERSON could have such things said of Him.
- E. The Holy Spirit, as a DIVINE PERSON, is a giver of life. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:38,39).

THE SPIRIT IS GOD

- A. "Holy" means a combination of sacred, worthy, and pure. It means being like God. Therefore the very fact that "Holy" is added to Spirit shows his deity. Many scriptures put these two words together.

- B. Jesus commanded His disciples to be baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). The word "name" is singular in the Greek language showing only one God who has three names.
- C. In Revelation 1:4,5, the "seven spirits" before the throne means divine completeness. It certainly shows the Holy Spirit in the fullness of his power and work (Revelation 3:1; 4:5; 5:6). It is interesting to note that the Father is listed first, the Son third with the Holy Spirit between them. This shows there is no rank between them. This shows equality.
- D. There are many scriptures where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are listed together. (Read Ephesians 4:4-6.) (1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:3-13; 2:18; 3:14-19; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; 1 Peter 1:2).
- E. In Acts 5:1-10, Peter says that Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit and then he changes words and says that they have lied to God.

JESUS' TEACHINGS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

QUESTION: What would you say are the most important chapters from Jesus' teaching?

THE MOST IMPORTANT CHAPTERS ARE JOHN 13-16.

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus spoke a long time to the eleven apostles about His departure and their future ministry. They were observing the Passover together (50 days before Pentecost). At the table, the apostles were arguing who would be the greatest in the kingdom of God. Jesus hears them arguing about rank. He responds by washing their feet to show that they (and we) should be disciples of service. On this same night Jesus begins the Lord's Supper (the memorial about His death).

On this same night, Jesus speaks about the "Paraclete" whom He says is the "Spirit of Truth" (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13). He is also called the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). The word "Paraclete" in the Greek language means one who is called along side to help. It means comforter, advisor, advocate, ally, senior friend, and helper. This name is important to show the work of the Holy Spirit and what kind of person/spirit He is.

SCRIPTURES SPEAKING ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. John 14:16,17
 - 1. Jesus asks the Father to send ANOTHER Helper.
 - a. Jesus was the first Helper.
 - b. The Holy Spirit will be a Helper like Jesus.
 - 2. The Helper/Holy Spirit will stay with you forever.
 - a. Jesus had a temporary ministry on earth, John 1:14.
 - b. The Helper is to remain and not leave.
 - 3. The Spirit of Truth/Holy Spirit is the Helper.
 - 4. The Helper is not for the entire world. He is only for those who follow Jesus.
- B. John 14:26
 - 1. The Helper is called the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. The Father will send Him in Jesus' name.
 - 3. The Helper will teach the apostles all things concerning Jesus Christ.
 - 4. Helper will help the apostles to remember all that Jesus said.

- C. John 15:26,27
1. Jesus will send the Helper from the Father.
 2. The Helper will bear witness of Jesus.
 3. The Helper will help the apostles to bear witness of Jesus.
- D. John 16:7-15
1. Jesus Christ must leave to send the Helper.
 - a. Jesus would leave to show that His kingdom was of the heart/spiritual and not of the body/physical.
 - b. Jesus would leave to allow the Helper to work in all people at all places at all times. Jesus could not do this in a physical body.
 2. The Helper will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
 - a. The Holy Spirit would prove that all men are sinners.
 - b. The Holy Spirit would prove that Jesus was innocent of the charges leading to His death.
 - c. The Holy Spirit would prove that God will punish all those who do not receive Jesus. He will be justified to punish those who remain sinners.
 3. The Helper will guide disciples in all truth (about Jesus).
 4. The Helper will reveal to the apostles what is to come (concerning Jesus).
 5. The Helper will glorify Jesus.

All of these scriptures point to one main purpose. It is to direct all attention to Jesus Christ and not to himself. It can be seen that the Holy Spirit's ministry is:

- A. He will work on individuals to cause a personal response to Christ.
1. He will show the glory of Christ, John 16:14.
 2. He will live within Christians and help them obey Jesus, John 14:21-23 .
- B. He will be a witness of Christ.
1. He will convict the world of sin, John 16:8.
 2. He will glorify Christ, John 16:14.
 3. He will use the witness of Christians to teach unbelievers the truth about Christ, John 15:26,27.
- C. He will strengthen, enable, lead individuals.
1. He teaches about Jesus Christ, John 14:26.
 2. He reminds us of the truths of Jesus, John 14:26.
 3. He reveals what is coming concerning Christ, John 16:13.

ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT IT

He is sent in **Jesus'** name

He is another like **Jesus**

He comes only to disciples of **Jesus**

He teaches about **Jesus**

He will remind disciples about the words of **Jesus**

He will bear witness of **Jesus**

He will convict the world of sin (not believing in **Jesus**)
 of righteousness (**Jesus** has been glorified by God)
 of judgment (those not accepting **Jesus** will be judged)

He will guide in all truth (about **Jesus**)

He will disclose what is to come (concerning **Jesus**)

He will glorify **Jesus**

LESSON 3
TRUTHS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT CONCERNING US

It is good to remember that God the Father planned the idea of the church. The church is the kingdom of God on earth. It is located in the spirits of people. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, bought the church by His death and resurrection. He made the foundation of the church by teaching the 12 Apostles the truth about the kingdom of God. Then, God the Holy Spirit, started the growth of the church. This began on the day of Pentecost. The book of Acts is full of happenings where the Holy Spirit helped the church spread. He helped by guiding and teaching. He helped by changing people's hearts, spirits, and lives after hearing the Gospel. The Holy Spirit was always glorifying Jesus Christ. In this lesson, truths about the Holy Spirit concerning and affecting Christians will be discussed.

TRUTHS TO BE REVIEWED

1. The Holy Spirit is active in creation and sustaining life, Psalm 33:6; Job 26:13. (See lesson 1.)
2. The Spirit will glorify Christ, John 16:14. (See lesson 2.)
3. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, John 16:8. (See lesson 2.)
4. The Holy Spirit will work in evangelism by bearing witness of Christ and working through Christians who also bear witness of Christ, John 15:26,27. (See lesson 2.)

ADDITIONAL TRUTHS

- I. A person can not enter the kingdom of heaven without being born again of the Spirit and of water, John 3:3-8. What does it mean to be born again of the Spirit and of water?
 - A. He must believe in Jesus' sinless life, his sacrificial death, and powerful resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; 1 Peter 2:22).
 - B. He must repent. This means to put God first. He should change from a spirit of hostility to God to one that desires to obey and please God (Romans 8:7; Titus 3:3).
 - C. He must be baptized. This is the death of the old hostile spirit. It is the re-birth of a spirit desiring to please God (Romans 6:3-7). He is adopted as a son of God (Galatians 4:4-6).
 - D. He must produce fruit. As he walks in the Spirit, he will become more like Christ and produce good actions. He will be transformed (Galatians 5:22,23; Romans 12:1,2).
- II. The Holy Spirit is a necessary gift.
 - A. Without the Holy Spirit a person can not be saved.
 - B. Without the Holy Spirit he can not talk with God as he should (Romans 8:26,27).
 - C. Without the Holy Spirit he can not know the will of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,12).
 - D. The Holy Spirit is received at water baptism (Acts 2:38).
 - E. The Holy Spirit is received when one obeys God (Acts 5:32).
- III. The Holy Spirit adds people to the body (church) of Christ.
 - A. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 says:
 1. There are different gifts/talents in the church, yet the same Spirit.
 2. There are different ministries to do in the church, yet the same Lord (Jesus).
 3. There are different works to do, yet the same God.
 - B. The Holy Spirit works in all men for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:6,7).
 - C. The Holy Spirit determines who gets what gift, ministry, and work to do (1 Corinthians 12:11,18).
 1. Does this mean that a person only has one ministry and only one work to do in the church?
 2. If his gift is preaching, then should he neglect giving or praying?

All do not have the gifts of healing, tongues, and miracles (1 Corinthians 12:29,30). But all men are commanded to work in the ministries of preaching, hospitality, giving, mercy, faith, prayer, and encouragement (Romans 12:6-8; 11-13; 1 Peter 4:7-11). D. Does the possession of spiritual gifts mean a person is spiritually mature? No, Paul could not call the Corinthian Christians spiritually mature though they had many gifts (1 Corinthians 1:7). Why? Because they still had problems with jealousy, strife, rank (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). This is why Jesus said to men with spiritual gifts that they could not enter the kingdom of heaven. They lacked spiritual maturity in using those gifts (Matthew 7:21-23). (See also 1 Corinthians 14:1,12.)

- I. It is interesting to note that in speaking about mature leaders and giving their qualifications, no exhibition of spiritual gifts were mentioned (1 Timothy 3:1-13).
- II. It is interesting to note that in listing the fruit of the Spirit that the miraculous is not mentioned. But rather love, joy, peace.....self control are listed (Galatians 5:22,23).
- III. The Holy Spirit helps people to walk a spiritual life.
 - A. In Christ there is no condemnation. The law of the Spirit has set all free from sin and death (Romans 8:1-3).
 - B. The disciple of Jesus now sets his mind on the things of the Spirit and not on the flesh (Romans 8:5).
 - 1. The Spirit is needed for a disciple to know the thoughts of God (1 Corinthians 2:11).
 - 2. The Spirit is needed for him to know the things freely given by God (1 Corinthians 2:12).
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is needed for a disciple to understand spiritual truths, i.e. justification, sanctification, propitiation, and trinity (1 Corinthians 2:13).
 - 4. The Holy Spirit teaches a disciple what is valuable in God's eyes, i.e. the crucifixion (1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:14).
 - C. The chart on the next page compares the actions of those who are led by the Spirit and those who are not. These comparisons come from Romans 8:5-15.

<u>LED BY THE SPIRIT</u>	<u>LED BY THE FLESH</u>
Desires spiritual things v.5	Desires fleshly things,
Has life and peace v.6	Has death
Loves God and His will v.7	Is hostile to God
Pleases God v.8	Cannot please God
The Holy Spirit dwell s v.9	Does not belong to in him
Christ Spiritually alive v.10	Spiritually dead
Is a son of God v.15	Not a son of God
Is a slave of God v.15	Is a slave of sin

- V. The Holy Spirit gives Christians power through the inner man (Ephesians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:5).
 - A. This power is not a power to be used for self (Acts 8:14-24) but for serving God.
 - B. This power of the Holy Spirit enables Christians to:
 - 1. To witness about Christ (Acts 1:8)
 - 2. To give their money and possessions (Acts 4:32-35)
 - 3. To suffer for Christ (Acts 9:15-16)
 - 4. To serve men for Christ (Galatians 5:13)
 - 5. To overcome Satan and his temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - 6. To have inward joy (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
 - 7. To live a pure life (1 Thessalonians 4:4-8)

- C. Some examples of men in the New Testament who were said to be filled with the Holy Spirit were:
1. John the Baptist (Luke 1:15,80)
 2. Jesus (Luke 4:1)
 3. Peter (Acts 4:8)
 4. Stephen (Acts 7:55)
 5. Barnabas (Acts 11:24)
 6. Paul (Acts 13:9)
 7. Men chosen to serve the church (Acts 6:3)
- VI. The Spirit lives within a disciple and his body becomes a temple for the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16. (See also John 14:17; Romans 8:9; 1 John 2:27.) There is an OT prophecy concerning the Spirit living within Christians in Ezekiel 36:27.
- VII. The Holy Spirit is given to Christians to be a "seal", a proof that they are children of God (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:15,16; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 4:13; 5:6).

LESSON 4
COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are many questions in people's minds concerning the Holy Spirit. Listed below are some of the questions asked many times by Christians. Please notice that extra teaching has been included at the end of this book. This teaching may be referred to at the end of some of these questions. This teaching is divided into sections called "APPENDIX".

- I. How do we know if I have the Holy Spirit, or when do we receive the Holy Spirit?
- A. Conviction of sin is the work of the Holy Spirit in people (John 16:8,9).
 - B. To truly believe in Jesus' death and resurrection is impossible without the presence of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3). There is a difference between intellectual knowledge and true belief.
 - C. It is a fact that the gift of the Holy Spirit is promised at conversion (Acts 2:38). Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would live within His disciples (John 14:16-18).
 - D. We know we have the Holy Spirit when we produce the fruits of the Spirit, i.e. love, joy, peace ... (Galatians 5:22,23).
 - E. Becoming a son of God means having the Holy Spirit dwell in us (Galatians 4:6).
 - F. See **APPENDIX 1 - HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION EXAMPLES IN ACTS**
- II. Is there a baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- A. How was it given?
 - 1. Directly given by God or Christ, Matthew 3:11; Acts 11:17.
 - B. To whom was it given?
 - 1. Apostles, Acts 2:1-4.
 - 2. Household of Cornelius, Acts 10:44-48; 11:16,17.
 - C. When was it given?
 - 1. Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4.
 - 2. Before conversion of Cornelius, Acts 10:47,48.
 - D. For what purpose?
 - 1. Revelation and inspiration, Acts 2:1-4.
 - 2. Enable to work miracles, Acts 3:1ff.
 - 3. Convince Peter that salvation is for Gentiles also, Acts 11:17.
 - 4. There were two instances of the baptism of the Holy Spirit - on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and at Cornelius' house (Acts 10). These two occasions, which were about ten years apart, were initiated by the Holy Spirit himself. His purpose at Pentecost was to empower the Apostles to establish the Church and to fulfill the Old Testament prophecy about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:14-21). At Cornelius' house, the baptism of the Holy Spirit was to show that the Gentiles were indeed accepted into the kingdom of God.
 - E. What was the result?
 - 1. Divine manifestations (fire, sound of wind), Acts 2:1ff.
 - 2. Speaking in understandable foreign languages, Acts 2:6.
 - 3. Ability to work miracles, Acts 9:40,41; 16:16-18.
 - 4. Enabling the Apostles to recall the truth about Christ, John 14:26; 16:17.
- III. What about the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- A. The gifts of the Holy Spirit i.e., signs, wonders, and various miracles were for the purpose of confirming the gospel [Remember the Bible had not been written yet.] (Hebrews 2:1-4).
 - B. Spiritual gifts do not indicate spiritual maturity (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

- C. When men possessed the gift of tongues, performed miracles, signs and wonders it was usually after the laying on of hands of the Apostles. Some examples are, in Samaria (Acts 8:14-18), in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-12), in Corinth (1 Corinthians 2:4,5; 2 Corinthians 12:12).
- D. One of the marks of an Apostle was signs, wonders, and miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12). These miraculous gifts of the Spirit were given to confirm the word of God and prove the Lordship of Jesus (Hebrews 2:1-4).
- E. The miraculous gifts of the Spirit are seen whenever the written word (the Bible) or the presence of the church is missing in a society. There are historical examples of this both in the New Testament and in modern missionary efforts. This manifestation of miraculous gifts is to confirm the spoken word.
- F. See **APPENDIX 2 - GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- G. See **APPENDIX 3 - THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES**
- H. See **APPENDIX 4 - SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

IV. How can we grieve the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30)

According to the context of Ephesians 4:30, grieving the Holy Spirit is done by returning to evil deeds after being saved. Sins listed in the context include lying, stealing, speaking evil words, having bitterness, wrath, anger, slandering, and malice. Since the Holy Spirit is striving to help us walk in Christ's example, whenever we refuse and walk in evil we grieve the Spirit.

V. Should all Christians speak in tongues to show they have the Holy Spirit?

The idea that all should speak in tongues to show they have the Holy Spirit is **NOT** a Biblical teaching but rather a doctrine of the Pentecostals. No scripture commands every Christian to speak in tongues. On the other hand, the scripture shows plainly that the Spirit gives different gifts to different people. The teaching is that different gifts allow the church to function as a body does with its different parts. In fact, the scripture says plainly that all should not expect to speak in tongues when it asks in 1 Corinthians 12:30 "All do not have the gifts of healing do they? All do not speak in tongues do they? All do not interpret do they?" Forcing Christians to speak in tongues is a false doctrine. It shows a false faith that must see to believe (Hebrews 11:1). It denies the Biblical teaching that the Church as one body has individual members with different gifts (1 Corinthians 12). It shows an incorrect view of the Holy Spirit. It glorifies the Holy Spirit rather than Jesus Christ.

VI. How can we quench the Holy Spirit? (1 Thess 5:19)

The language used in this verse refers to a fire. We are not to extinguish the influences (fire) of the Holy Spirit in our souls. The Holy Spirit is the power of our devotion and walk with Christ. A fire may be put out by pouring water on it, covering it with something that does not burn, or by not adding fuel. Anything that would hinder our holiness, chill our feelings, or cause us to sin in our service to God may be regarded as "quenching the Spirit" i.e. putting out the fire. This idea of fire again is used by Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:6.

APPENDIX 1 HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION EXAMPLES OF ACTS

Acts 1:8 - Jesus tells the Apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 - Apostles receive Holy Spirit. There is a sound like rushing wind and tongues like fire that appeared over their heads. The Apostles spoke in tongues (understandable languages).

Acts 2:14-39 - Peter preaches the first sermon saying, "Repent and be baptized and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

Acts 5:32 - The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God.

Acts 8:5-18 - Philip went to the Samaritans to preach Jesus. He performed miracles and baptized in the name of Jesus. Peter and John are sent to the Samaritans for they had not received the Holy Spirit. The Apostles laid their hands on them to give them the Holy Spirit. It does not say how the Holy Spirit manifested himself.

Acts 8:26-40 - Philip preached to the Ethiopian and baptizes him. There is no mention of the Holy Spirit in the Ethiopian's conversion.

Acts 9:1-19 - Saul has a vision on the road to Damascus. Ananias comes to restore Saul's sight and baptize him. Ananias says that Saul was to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but the Bible is not clear as to when or how this happened.

Acts 10:44-48 - While Peter was preaching to Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon them and they began speaking in tongues. Peter, realizing that the Holy Spirit had come to Gentiles also, ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus.

Acts 16:14,15 - Lydia and her household were baptized without mention of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:30-33 - The Philippian jailer was converted with his household without mention of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-7 - Paul meets brethren near Ephesus who had not heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul asks what kind of baptism had they received. They replied, "John's baptism". Paul baptized them again in the name of Jesus. Paul then laid his hands upon them to receive the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in tongues and prophesy.

Acts 22:6-21 - Paul, recounting his conversion, does not mention the Holy Spirit.

There are differences in the way conversions occurred in Acts.

Peter's sermon promises the gift of the Holy Spirit after repentance and baptism. Acts 5:32 also says that the Holy Spirit is given to those who obey.

The Apostles on Pentecost and the house of Cornelius manifest the Holy Spirit by speaking in tongues. They do so before being baptized.

The Samaritans and the disciples near Ephesus are baptized and then hands are laid upon them to receive the Holy Spirit. It is not mentioned how the Samaritans manifested the Holy Spirit. The

disciples near Ephesus spoke in tongues (understandable languages) and prophesied.

The Ethiopian, Lydia, and the Philippian jailer are all baptized without any mention of the Holy Spirit.

Paul's conversion mentions that he is to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but it does not record how or when.

It can be seen that there are differences in the conversion accounts in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius before baptism. Peter promises the Spirit at baptism. The Samaritans seem not to receive the Spirit until hands are laid upon them. Still others are saved without any mention of the Holy Spirit. How can we explain this?

Some Pentecostals believe that one must speak in tongues to prove he has the Holy Spirit. They point to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost and to the house of Cornelius. Other groups only point out the conversions not mentioning the Holy Spirit. The best way to understand the Holy Spirit's work in conversion is to gain an understanding that would bring unity to all of these examples.

APPENDIX 2
GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1. Words of wisdom, 1 Corinthians 2:6,7
2. Words of knowledge
3. Faith, 1 Corinthians 13:2; Matthew 17:19-21
4. Healings, Acts 5:15,16; James 5:14
5. Workings of miracles
6. Prophecy, 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Acts 11:27,28; 21:8-11
7. Discerning of spirits, 1 John 4:1
8. Speaking in tongues, Acts 2:1-15
9. Interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 12:28

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Miracles
5. Healings
6. Helps
7. Administrations
8. Tongues

Romans 12:6-8

1. Prophecy
2. Acts of service
3. Teaching
4. Encouragement
5. Generosity
6. Leadership
7. Showing mercy

Ephesians 4:11,12

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

1 Peter 4:9-11

1. Hospitality
2. Acts of service
3. Speaking as the oracles of God

FACTS ABOUT THE GIFTS

It seems obvious that the lists of gifts are not exhaustive nor definitive of all the gifts the Spirit can bestow.

There seems to be a separation of gifts into two categories: those of a miraculous nature and those natural. For example, acts of service or hospitality do not seem to belong in a miraculous status while speaking in tongues or healing do.

N.T. examples seem to indicate that not all disciples received miraculous gifts (Romans 1:11; 1 Corinthians 14:16). They were given out as the Holy Spirit saw fit for the building of the church (1 Corinthians 12:11).

Several N.T. passages indicate that miraculous gifts were passed by the "laying on of hands" by the apostles (Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-7; 2 Timothy 1:6; Romans 1:11).

Peter seems to indicate that all have received natural gifts (1 Peter 4:9-11) and that these should be used so that God may be glorified in Christ Jesus.

It seems that some gifts of the Holy Spirit are actions (miraculous or natural) and others are people (such as apostles or evangelists).

APPENDIX 3 THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

John includes in his gospel the reactions of the people who saw the miracles of Jesus. From these reactions, we can gain a better understanding to the purpose of miracles.

1. John 2:11 - "This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."
2. John 4:48 - "Jesus therefore said to them, 'Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe'".
3. John 4:49-54 - "So the father knew that it was at the hour in which Jesus said to him, 'Your son lives!'; and he believed, and his whole household." (verse 53)
4. John 5:36 - "But the witness which I have is greater than that of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me."
5. John 6:14 - "When the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, 'This is of a truth the Prophet who is come into the world'."
6. John 6:28-30 - "They said therefore to Him, 'What then do You do for a sign, that we may see and believe You? What works do You perform?'."
7. John 9:35-38 - After Jesus healed the blind man the first thing that Jesus asked was, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
8. John 10:25,26 - "Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me.'"
9. John 11:4,45 - It is recorded of those who watched Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, "Many therefore of the Jews, who had come to Mary and beheld what Jesus had done, believed in Him."
10. John 11:47,48 - "Therefore the chief priests and Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, 'What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him....'".
11. John 14:11 - "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves."
12. John 20:24-29 - Thomas' belief in Jesus was made whole when he actually saw Jesus and put his hand into the scars of Jesus. "Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed.'"
13. John 20:30,31 - "Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN DIRECTING THE CHURCH

1. The Church started at the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).
2. Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to the Ethiopian (Acts 8:29,39).
3. The Holy Spirit helped the Church to grow (Acts 9:31).
4. The Holy Spirit initiated the missionary journeys (Acts 13:2).
5. The Holy Spirit directed Paul's journeys (Acts 16:6,7).

Paul's examples in the Book of Acts (when the gospel went to a new area) show the increase of signs, wonders, and miraculous gifts.

1. Paul blinds a false prophet in Cyprus (Acts 13:9-12).
2. Paul's message was proved by miracles in Iconium (Acts 14:3).
3. Paul heals a lame man in Lystra (Acts 14:8-10).
4. Paul cast out an evil spirit from a slave girl in Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).
5. Paul's message was proved by miracles in Ephesus (Acts 19:11,12).
6. Paul raised a young man from the dead in Troas (Acts 20:10-12).

The miracles of Jesus were only half of Peter's proof of Jesus being the Christ. Peter also states that God made prophecies in order to confirm the identity of the Christ. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies (2 Peter 1:16-21).

APPENDIX 4
SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- A. How was it given?
 - 1. Through the laying on of Apostle's hands, Acts 8:17-19; 2 Timothy 1:6; Romans 1:11; Acts 6:6.
- B. To whom was it given?
 - 1. To selected Christians chosen by the Holy Spirit Himself, 1 Corinthians 12:11; 14:16.
- C. When was it given?
 - 1. After one's baptism, Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:13.
- D. For what purpose?
 - 1. To reveal truth, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 14:6,26.
 - 2. To confirm the Gospel, Hebrews 2:3,4
 - 3. To guide the infant congregation in the absence of the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 12:28.
- E. What was the result?
 - 1. Infant church grew and became strong, 1 Corinthians 13:8-12; Acts 8:12.

APPENDIX 5
BEING BORN OF THE SPIRIT

- A. How was it given?
 - 1. Through the word, 1 Corinthians 4:15; John 3:8.
- B. To whom was it given?
 - 1. In those who hear the "Word", Luke 8:11ff.
 - 2. The "seed" is sown, Matthew 13:18f, 1 Corinthians 4:15
- C. When was it given?
 - 1. When one receives the "Word", 1 John 5:1; Titus 3:5; John 1:12,13.
- D. For what purpose?
 - 1. To convict the world of sin, righteousness and the judgment to come, John 16:8-11.
 - 2. Help to become a Christian, 1 John 5:1; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13.
- E. What was the result?
 - 1. Beginning of a new life and the death of the "old man", Romans 6:1ff; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 12:13.

APPENDIX 6
THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN PRAYER

- I. Prophecy Concerning the Holy Spirit and Prayer
 - A. Zechariah 12:10 - "And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of prayer.....".
 - B. This passage specifically mentions prayer where the Joel passage does not.

- II. New Testament References to the Holy Spirit and Prayer
 - A. Ephesians 6:18 - "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit.....".
 - B. Jude 20 - "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit".
 - C. "In the Spirit" seems to imply the we must pray with our whole hearts not just in some form. This fervent prayer will be aided by the Holy Spirit.

- III. A Close Look at Romans 8:26,27
 - A. The Spirit helps our weakness. (The Spirit dwells in us, works in us, knows our suffering and weaknesses. He adds strength to our strength but will not work by himself.)
 - B. We do not know how to pray as we should. (We do not know what is best for us; we are short sighted and can not see far enough to judge what is good for ourselves.)
 - C. But the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (The strength and fervency of the desires of the Holy Spirit are pointed out. It is more than words can express.)
 - D. He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (The Spirit will not contradict the word of God. His interceding will continually melt our wills into the will of God.)