

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

by Jackson Morro

© 2008 by Christ's Chapel
Fall River, Massachusetts

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.

Printed in the United States of America
All rights reserved

Christ's Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- 1. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU**
- 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JESUS**
- 3. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**
- 4. THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- 5. THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- 6. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- 7. THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE BARRIER BREAKER**
- 8. HE SPEAKS NOT OF HIMSELF**
- 9. THE SPIRIT OF LIFE**

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

INTRODUCTION

Hello and God bless you.

When we examine the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, we see that everything He did in ministry was done through the power of the Holy Spirit. After His ascension into Heaven, His Church continued on in the power of the very same Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts is a chronicle of how the Holy Spirit turned flawed, imperfect men and women into persons exercising the very same supernatural power that Jesus did. In fact, throughout the whole Bible, we see that every time Almighty God manifested Himself in any way, it was always through the power of His Holy Spirit.

It is a trustworthy statement, then, that if the Church and Christians of this present generation want to accomplish anything of significance in the Kingdom of God, it must be done through the power of the Holy Spirit. Any “religious” work done in the name of Jesus Christ without the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit will be at best, an empty, worthless parody of real Christianity and at worst, a deceptive counterfeit.

This present book, *The Holy Spirit and You*, is written in the hope that it will bless the readers and help them to enter a new level of revelation about the work of the Holy Spirit in genuine Christianity. Hopefully, this book will lead the reader into a new respect for the Holy Spirit and His work, and above all, a closer and more intimate walk with the Lord Jesus Christ Who gave His all so that we might enjoy the fullness of the eternal life He purchased for us through His atoning sacrifice. The very desire of the Holy Spirit’s heart is to glorify and magnify Jesus and not Himself.

I myself trust that this book is pleasing to the Holy Spirit and that it exalts and magnifies Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit’s anointing, this work will be just vain human effort.

“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)

Take care and God bless you.

Jackson Morro
Pastor
Christ's Chapel

April 2008

CHAPTER ONE THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

The Lord Jesus Christ wants to touch your life in a special way and give you a new power to live life. Jesus is making the power of the Holy Spirit available to you. Even as you read this, the Holy Spirit is moving across the earth trying to touch people of all religious denominations, all social, educational and racial backgrounds, trying to break down all barriers that separate man from God and man from fellow man so that a people of God can be gathered for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9-17). Jesus has something for YOU.

1) JESUS WANTS TO DEAL WITH YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL. The most important things that happen in your life are the things that happen to you as an individual. Only when something happens to you personally can you *know* it, *understand* it, and *share* it. You can see a snowstorm on television, but you only really know about snow when you have to shovel your own. It's like that with our experience of God. Jesus has an experience He wants all people to have. That experience is known as the *Baptism with the Holy Spirit* where you receive the special power of God to face life and deal with life. God wants you to *know* this experience, *understand* it, *receive* it, *use* it, and *share* it. God wants to have a very personal experience with you. God wants to be "up close and personal" with you.

2) JESUS WANTS US TO BE A CHARISMATIC OR GIFTED PEOPLE.

A popular word today is “charismatic.” The common, popular understanding of this word is “magnetic personality” or “star.” The words “charisma” or “charismatic” are actually Greek words in the Bible and mean something very different. The word “charisma” in the Bible does not refer to an individual’s personal strength, but rather to an “unearned gift from God.” It means God loved an ordinary human and gave them a special share of the Holy Spirit so it can be shared to bless others.

An example of such a gifted person in the Old Testament was Samson. We remember him as an early leader (a judge) of Israel with superhuman strength. He once killed 1000 enemies with a donkey’s jawbone. Movies often picture him as a huge bodybuilder type. This is not necessarily so. The Bible states Samson’s strength came from the Holy Spirit. He had vowed not to cut his hair as a sign of his loyalty to God. God gifted him with superhuman strength from the Holy Spirit. Samson, however, had a weakness for an attractive woman, Delilah, who belonged to the nation of the enemy Philistines. She tricked him into revealing the secret of his strength. One day while he was sleeping, she cut his hair. He had, in effect, cut off his connection with God by his lust. When he awoke, the enemy came in. When Samson tried to fight, he had no strength. The enemy gouged his eyes out and he became a slave, used like a beast of burden in a grinding mill. But through his time of slavery, he repented and his hair grew back, and toward the end of his life, God gave him his strength back. When the Philistines brought him to their temple to mock Samson and God, Samson surprised them with his strength and pulled down the temple, trapping and killing 3000 Philistines.

God wants us to be gifted like Samson with spiritual gifts. The Apostle Paul lists nine specific gifts that God wants in operation in His Church and in the lives of individual Christians (read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11). These are tremendous gifts. God wants you to have a share in these.

3) JESUS WANTS US TO BE GIFTED SO WE CAN CONTINUE HIS MINISTRY ON EARTH.

Jesus Christ was, in effect, God becoming one of us. John 1:14 states, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.” Jesus was “God building His house” (or “pitching His tent”) in our neighborhood. Jesus saw a world that was lost and dying. He came to ministry to us, to bring us life. We see Jesus was against four things and He was for four things:

Jesus came to give every human being who calls on Him life, wholeness and power. He calls us to continue this. We can't do it without God's power. Jesus has made the power available to us through the experience known as the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Before He ascended into heaven Jesus told His disciples that the key to their ministry that would change the world would be the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. They would receive the very same power Jesus had (read Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8). He desires us to have the same power.

4) THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO WILL GIVE US THE POWER WE NEED IN OUR LIFE. In His earthly ministry, Jesus depended totally on the Holy Spirit for every healing and miracle He performed. The Holy Spirit is a person, just as Jesus is a person. A basic teaching of *all* Christianity is that God is a trinity. One God, one Godhead which is made up of three persons is a mystery we accept by faith. It is revelation (John 14:16, 17, 26 and John 16:13).

Sadly, there is much ignorance about the Holy Spirit and His work. A whole world is dying, suffering and on its way to hell with sin, sickness, crime, addiction, poverty and war and so many of our churches ignore the very power, *the only power*, that can turn this whole mess around.

In the Holy Spirit, we have the person Who will reproduce the very life of Jesus Christ within us. He and He alone will give us the power to touch other lives the way Jesus touched them—touch them for good, forever so that they will never be the same.

Don't you want this power today?

CHAPTER TWO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JESUS

In this chapter, we want to examine the special relationship Jesus had with the Holy Spirit during His earthly ministry.

First, let's go back to the very beginning of creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth as formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep;

*and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.
(Genesis 1:1-2)*

We read further in Genesis 1:26-27:

*Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.
And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

We see God creating man in God's own image and likeness, with God's own spiritual and moral likeness. God created man and woman as His spiritual masterpiece and He breathed spiritual life, the Holy Spirit into man (Genesis 2:7). God then had an inner communion and intimacy with man. Man and woman were created whole, complete, with no imperfections. They were in harmony with God and nature. Man was given dominion over the earth and was placed in a garden. It was man who named the animals, not God (Genesis 2:19-20).

God, however, gave man one limitation. He was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man was not to decide for himself what was right or wrong, but to obey God in the matter.

We know from the Bible, of course, that the devil entered the garden and tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. We know they sinned and as a result of sin, man's spirit died; the Holy Spirit left. Adam and Even lost their relationship with God because of their sin. Sin entered the world and spoiled it.

At this low point in human history, we see something remarkable. Even though man had failed, GOD'S LOVE FOR MANKIND HELD STRONG. At this early point in the Bible, God already promises to send a Redeemer, here known as "the seed of the woman." (Read Genesis 3:15.) God addresses the devil and tells him that although the devil successfully tempted man, God was going to send a Redeemer to save mankind. A battle would take place and the serpent, or devil, would bruise the Redeemer's heel, but the Redeemer would crush the serpent's head. God was saying that He would send His Son Jesus to save humanity. In this battle, the devil would bruise the humanity of Jesus when Jesus was nailed to the cross. But Jesus would crush the devil's head. Jesus would destroy the power and force of evil (the law of sin and death) that was turned loose in the world by Adam's

sin when Jesus would rise from the dead and restore the power of the Holy Spirit to humanity. As the Apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:8, Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, to destroy the power of evil.

So God, in His love, stayed faithful to His promises to humanity. The whole Old Testament is the history of God's faithfulness to fallen, sinful man. God still works in the Old Testament through the Holy Spirit, but only in limited ways. God can only find an obedient person "here and there" and when He does, He places His special power, the Holy Spirit, upon them so they can become mighty through Him: Noah, Moses, Samson, David, the prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah. But we also see God making a wonderful promise to pour out the Holy Spirit in a massive way after the Redeemer comes. In Joel 2:28-32, God promises the power of the Holy Spirit would be available to all manner of humanity—men, women, young, old, all races, all social classes, in fact *whosoever* would call upon the Lord. Man's original intimacy with God would be restored. This great outpouring of the Holy Spirit started on the Day of Pentecost and continues to this day. In fact, the Apostle Peter's sermon on Pentecost quoted Joel. But it would all depend upon the coming of the Redeemer.

At a special moment there suddenly came a moment known as "the fullness of time." (Galatians 4:4) At this moment, the Redeemer, the Savior, was born. We see the Holy Spirit at work in a special way. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel appeared to a young, pure, Jewish virgin woman named Mary and told her that if she said "Yes" to God, the power of the Holy Spirit would conceive a child in her womb. She said, "Yes." When her fiancé Joseph found she was pregnant, he was concerned, but the angel told him in a dream that the child was holy and had been conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, the human body of the Redeemer was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born without the stain of Adam's sin. The Second Person of the godhead became man; God became one of us.

We see that when Jesus grew up and it came time for Him to minister, the power of the Holy Spirit was upon Him and He did nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had to accomplish three things:

1) JESUS HAD TO BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD. Jesus destroyed the power of the devil through the cross. Throughout history, the spiritual powers of evil have tried to strike back at God by trapping mankind in sin and evil.

In the Old Testament, in Isaiah and Ezekiel, we see that once there was a very powerful, beautiful angel, Lucifer, Son of the Morning, created by God.

At some point, pride caused him to rebel against God and he was cast out of heaven into a state of spiritual darkness. About one-third of the angels followed him. Since that moment, these spirit beings (demons) have tried to strike back at God by trying to destroy mankind, the masterpiece of God's creation, by trapping men in sin, addictions, crime, violence and war which we see even today.

In Genesis, God told Adam and Eve the serpent would bruise the Savior's heel, but the Savior would crush the serpent's head. On the cross, the physical humanity of Jesus was bruised through His physical death. But Jesus crushed the power of evil by offering Himself to pay for the forgiveness of sins. He let His suffering substitute for the punishment we should have received. A great power was released on earth, a power which would forgive sin and set people free. The devil thought he was destroying the Son of God on the cross, but it was a big mistake. The devil was destroying his own power.

2) JESUS HAD TO RISE FROM THE DEAD AND DESTROY THE POWER OF DEATH. Jesus had foretold many times that He would be crucified, but would rise on the third day. The root cause of death was the sin in the world. Jesus, by His life of perfect obedience and sinlessness earned His own resurrection from the dead and He earned eternal life for each of us if we would believe in Him and accept Him as our Savior. Eternal life would be His free gift to us. Romans 8:11 states the Holy Spirit raised the body of Jesus from the dead. Jesus defeated the hold and the fear death held on mankind. Man's greatest fear is death and extinction. The devil's biggest hold on man was the fear of death, another way of striking back at God's masterpiece. As one preacher once said, the devil thought he had the ace card for defeating man with death, but Jesus had a trump card known as the resurrection.

3) JESUS HAD TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT. During his earthly ministry, Jesus said, "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."

Before the resurrection while Jesus was on earth, He took on the basic limitations of a human being. He did have the fullness of the Holy Spirit within Him; He ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit: He healed the sick, raised the dead. Walked on water, forgave sins, and cast out demons. But He could only be in one place at one time.

However, when Jesus ascended into Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit back

to empower His disciples. He poured out the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit became Jesus' personal representative on earth and reproduces the life of Jesus within us. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfilled His ministry and what John the Baptist had spoken of in Matthew 3:11, that Jesus would be the One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is now unlimited. His enemies thought they could get rid of Him when they crucified Him, but after He rose from the dead, His enemies found He was now alive and in thousands of places as He lives in the hearts of believers through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Christians, our great proclamation is now 1 John 4:4: "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

CHAPTER THREE WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

God has always existed. Before anything in our universe existed, God existed. He always will exist. He had no beginning and He will have no end. We read, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or even Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God." (Psalm 90:2) God is eternal.

God is a powerful being. In fact, He is all-powerful. All power in the universe came out of Him and exists only by His will. Also, God is uncreated; He is self-sufficient and depends upon no one for His existence. He has life within Himself. No one else in the universe can say that they have life within themselves.

God is also complete within Himself. He needs no advice from another being; He needs no knowledge or help from anyone else. God has complete knowledge within Himself: He knows everything that will happen. He knows every fact of science because He created the laws of science. Again, we read, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and opened into the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13) God also knows every possibility. Not only does He know what has happened and what will happen, but He also knows what could have happened but did not. Nothing escapes His knowledge.

So, God is perfectly powerful: He is also morally perfect. God is light, love and justice. In other words, He is perfect goodness. "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5) This, of course, is true in a

“physical” sense—one characteristic of God’s being is that He is light. When the writers of the Bible described this light, they called it the “glory” of God. This light or glory is bright, warm, life-giving, and knowledge-containing.

The light of God is also true in a moral sense. “God is love.” (1 John 4:16) God’s morality, everything He does, is motivated by love. There is no darkness or evil within God. He is not kind one day and cruel the next. He Himself always desires the absolute best for all of His creation. God’s love, therefore, is the moral aspect of His light. (Conversely, evil is the moral aspect of darkness brought about by creatures with God-given free will choosing to sin.)

God is perfect justice. He balances everything out just right. He has set up a standard of love and light and declared that everything must conform to this standard. God’s justice is not harsh, cruel justice, because His justice is complemented by mercy. His justice has only *one* aim: that everything He has created must conform to His light and love.

What a magnificent Being God is! Can you imagine standing in the presence of such a being? God has perfection in Himself and consequently has total self-confidence, total contentment, total happiness, and total self-assurance. There is no tension, no depression, no frustration, no uneasiness within God’s personality. His very presence emits this confidence and sense of satisfaction. God has had and always will have this happiness and contentment. God’s presence is like an eternal spring morning filled with rest, energy, health, freshness, brightness and newness of invigorating life. When we experience God’s presence, we want to be alive and enjoy the fullness of life. The perfection of God and His eternal life endows us with a feeling and atmosphere that is more than a million and even a billion times stronger than we experience on the most beautiful spring morning you can imagine. In fact, this is what we call the happiness of Heaven, being in God’s presence and having His own life and happiness within us.

So that is God. We know from the Bible that in this Being called God is the manifestation of three persons. We may call this “the Godhead” or we may call this “the Trinity.” Whatever name we use, we know the reality. We did not figure this truth out by ourselves; it was revealed to us. Jesus Christ told us there were three divine persons within the Trinity or Godhead. We believe that Jesus Christ is one of those three persons and therefore, He ought to know. We believe His words. Once we know His words, we begin to understand how each one works. It may at times seem difficult to understand how one Being can have three persons within Himself because we as humans have one being and one person, so we are limited in our

experience to that type of thinking: one and one. But God is different from us: He is three and one. Again, we can't understand it with a limited human mind; we believe it because Jesus Christ said it.

Within the Godhead (Trinity), there is only perfect love and intimacy. They trust each other perfectly because they are perfect. There is no competition, no strife, and no possibility of any disagreement. This too might be difficult for us to understand because in our sinful, broken nature we sometimes find it hard to get along with even those we love the most. No matter how intimate a husband and wife are, they still have disagreements. Even the closest brothers and sisters still occasionally argue. This is because something is imperfect in our personalities; sin has injured the openness and spontaneity we should have. We fight because we are afraid we'll lose something if we let the other person be right. Our strife is motivated by selfishness and fear of losing. God, however, has no fear in Himself since each person of the Trinity (Godhead) is perfect, complete, and all-powerful. They have nothing to fear and nothing to prove and are totally relaxed and self-confident in each other's presence so they have absolute and total love, sharing and trust toward each other. They live in an eternal state of mutual love and admiration. Imagine how wonderful life could be if we humans would enter this life of the Godhead as God desires us to!

Who are these three persons? Matthew 28:19 states they are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call the first person "the Father." He has other names. He revealed Himself to Abraham as "El-Shaddai." (Genesis 17:1) He revealed Himself to Moses as "I Am That I Am." (Exodus 3:14) The prophet Daniel called Him "The Ancient of Days." (Daniel 7:9) The Father is the One who thought up and drew up the plan for creating the universe so that we could be born and live forever, sharing in God's life and happiness. He sits on the Great White Throne in Heaven. The names He revealed to Abraham, Moses and Daniel portray His power and authority. He is also perfect love, so Jesus called Him "Abba" or "Father." The Father's desire for creation came from His longing to share His love more fully by creating humans so He could have the pleasure and joy of experiencing people partaking of His own everlasting life. By acting upon His desire, the Father gained an immense harvest of love because someday every person who gets to Heaven will see His magnificent love directly and willingly go before His White Throne in love and worship thanking Him for the eternal inheritance of life they possess. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 and Revelation 4:1-11).

The second person of the Godhead (Trinity) is the Eternal Word. He sits on a throne at the right hand of the Father. He always existed with the Father

and it is the Eternal Word's function to speak forth all that the Father wishes to say. At creation, the Father shared His plan with the Eternal Word who then spoke all things into existence. In John's Gospel we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:1,3; read also Hebrews 1:1-3). Just as your words reveal what is going on inside of you, so the Eternal Word would speak forth creation and reveal what was going on inside of God. The Eternal Word did this to perfection by becoming man. We also know the Word as Jesus Christ (John 1:14). He is also known as the Son of God. Part of the Son's work would be His atoning death to pay for the sins of the world, an assignment He freely accepted from the Father.

The Father knew from before creation that man would use his free will to sin and a perfectly holy and just God could not allow sin into His presence. If man were ever to be able to enjoy eternal life, a payment would have to be made for sin. The Eternal Word, the Son of God, freely accepted the task and the Son of God also became the Savior of the world and the Lord of creation. In this dispensation of time, because He is Lord, we come to God through Jesus and we worship and praise Jesus. He is currently building up what is known as the Kingdom of God. When He has finished and everything is complete, He will give the Kingdom back to God the Father and we will all worship the Father. It will be Jesus' gift of love to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

Now we come to the third person, the Holy Spirit. His work is to exercise God's power throughout the created universe. Scripture calls Him "the power of the Highest." (Luke 1:35) In other words, the energy to sustain all matter and all forms of life in the universe comes from the exercise of the Holy Spirit's power. The Holy Spirit loves the Father and the Son, and He does nothing on His own, rather uses His power throughout all eternity serving the purposes of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit even puts His own identity aside in order that either the Father or the Son may be fully manifest through His presence. (In a way, it's similar to when a Christian "dies to self" and lets Christ live through him, the Holy Spirit, in a sense "dies to Himself" in order that the Father or Jesus can be manifest through His presence.)

When the Holy Spirit allows the Father to be manifest through Him, He is known as Spirit of the Father. The Holy Spirit does the same thing when He serves Jesus, Who is now in Heaven at the right hand of the Father (Acts 3:20). Someday Jesus will return in bodily form to earth, but right now He is made present in our heart through the work of the Holy Spirit. It is through

the Holy Spirit that the Spirit of Christ is manifest to us. Jesus Himself described the work of the Holy Spirit when He said, “He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall he speak... He shall glorify Me.” (John 16:13-14)

Most importantly, the Holy Spirit is the One Who expends whatever energy is necessary to maintain matter and life in the created universe, and He only expends that energy according to the plan, design, and wishes of the Father and the Son, never according to any plan of His own. Every created thing in Heaven, including angels and the New Jerusalem, is maintained by the Holy Spirit’s power. Everything in our universe—matter, physical human life, and also human spiritual life—is maintained by the Spirit’s power. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Life (Revelation 11:11). The Holy Spirit’s power raised Jesus’ physical body from the dead (Romans 8:11). All miracles of God are done by the Holy Spirit’s power. That’s the Holy Spirit’s work for all eternity: to sustain every created thing by His power.

So we come to the moment of creation: “In the beginning God created the heaven...” (Genesis 1:1)

The Father gave Jesus (the Eternal Word) the plan for the spiritual universe, Jesus spoke the design, and the Holy Spirit manifested the power and energy according to the Word and suddenly there came into being Heaven and angels and the cities of Heaven.

“...and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

Then the Father gave Jesus the plan for the physical universe, Jesus spoke out the design, and the Holy Spirit exercised the power and energy and the physical universe came into being. Within moments all the atoms in the universe were created and flung out over the tremendous distances which make up our universe and the Holy Spirit began forming and fashioning the elements and the universe as we know it (Genesis 1:2-3). God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit had begun their plan of redemption.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ is alive and sitting at the right hand of God the Father in heaven right at this very moment. He is also present and active in our world through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us that the

Holy Spirit puts aside His own will and places Himself totally at the disposal of Jesus. Jesus told us:

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

- John 16:13-14

Because the three Persons of the Trinity are united and know Each Other with perfect intimacy, the Holy Spirit can reproduce Jesus perfectly in the here and now of your life and mine.

God the Father sent His Son to the world to save men. Originally, God created the human race and put Adam, the first man, at the head. When Adam sinned, the whole human race was thrown off its intended course. Part of Jesus' mission was to establish a new human race that would be restored to God's original purpose. The Apostle Peter tells us, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession... for you once were not a people, but now you are the People of God." (1 Peter 2:9-10) Paul also tells us about God's plan to start a new human race with Jesus at the head:

Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ...Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself; that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth.

- Ephesians 1:3,9-10 (King James Version)

We join this new human race by faith and we are "born again." The Holy Spirit then starts working in us and on us to mold our personality (that is, our desires, hopes and wants) into the personality of Jesus. Through Adam's sin, the human personality became characterized by pride, greed, lust, envy, anger and competition. It was never God's will that these attitudes, which cause all the crime poverty, war and hurts, be present in this world. It is, however, God's will to reproduce within us the perfect personality of the head of the new human race, the Lord Jesus Christ, when we surrender our

lives and our whole selves to Him. Read carefully what Paul tells us about the personality of Jesus:

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those which are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- Philippians 2:3-12

In other words, there was no greed, pride, lust, envy or competition in Jesus' personality. His total lifestyle was serving, caring, loving and healing. God's plan for man was for him to have this same loving, caring, sharing personality: I love you and you love me because God first loved us and we loved Him back (Matthew 22:37-40). We walk together in peace and harmony and the whole world becomes a reflection of this harmony. This can only come about if I place your welfare above my own and you place my welfare above your own because we know it pleases God (1 John 4:16-21). When man sinned, however, life became a rat race; mankind began seeking self-glory rather than the benefit of God and his own fellow humans. Man became a “go getter” instead of a “go giver.”

Jesus, however, lived His life according to God's original purpose: a life of service and obedience to the Father. Through His life, death and resurrection, He made available the very same type of life through His giving of the Holy Spirit to all who believe in Him. This supernatural gift, or grace, is known as the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

I think it is significant that Jesus' personality is called the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. In the Book of Revelation, we are told that in Heaven there is a tree of life from which we'll eat fruit for life and health. Fruit is necessary for good health. Often, when children want a snack, their mother will give

them fruit instead of candy or pastry. In olden days, people who traveled on long sea voyages would get a vitamin C deficiency and their teeth and gums would bleed, and their bones become brittle. This is because they went so long without eating fruit, the chief source of vitamin C. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is like the vitamin C of our spiritual life.

The Fruit of the Spirit, put simply, is Love. God is Love (1 John 4:16). Jesus is Love, a far greater Love than any mere human love possible. Paul tells us this love is exhibited in nine ways: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22) Also, read 1 Corinthians 13 about the Fruit of the Spirit. Let’s go through each one of these:

1. LOVE – You become concerned about another so that you would give up your life for them.
2. JOY – A happiness, cheerfulness, and delight that comes from God and which you want to share with others. It becomes strength in times of trouble.
3. PEACE – Calmness, security and harmony with others because you know God is in charge and taking care of you.
4. PATIENCE – You are longsuffering with others and don’t turn your back on them even if they fail you, because God doesn’t turn His back on you when you fail Him.
5. KINDNESS – You are considerate, soothing, easy to be with. You make your point to someone without putting them down or being harsh.
6. GOODNESS – You put your God-given love into action by helping others even when a sacrifice is needed.
7. FAITHFULNESS – You speak out openly and believe in your heart that God is going to make everything work out all right, no matter how things look at the moment.
8. GENTLENESS – You don’t strike back when someone tries to do you wrong. You treat them with forgiveness as if they had never done you wrong in the first place.
9. SELF-CONTROL – There is a God-given balance in your life. You don’t go into raging anger or stuff yourself with food and drink until you’re sick. People see this balance as strength and are attracted to you as a steady, reliable person.

Obviously, anyone with this personality is quite the person! This was and

is Jesus. Can you imagine what a wonderful world this would be if everyone had this type of personality? There would be no more wars, poverty, crime or sickness of the human spirit. Yet this is the inheritance of every person who wants it. The Holy Spirit loves to develop these virtues in those who want them because they reproduce and glorify Jesus.

There is a real need for a Christian revolution in our world today. We need both the “bold revolution” of proclaiming the Gospel in public and the “quiet revolution” where the Kingdom of God is built up by the Fruit of the Spirit. I am reminded of how Jesus described the Kingdom of God: “It is like yeast kneaded into dough, which works unseen until it has risen high and light.” (Luke 13:20-21, The Living Bible.)

We want a better world. We pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” A better “big world” can only come about if we start with the “little world” of our daily lives.

We grow in the Fruit of the Spirit as we draw closer to Jesus. Jesus said, “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit.” (John 15:4-5) Jesus must become our ideal, our hero, and our source. When a young boy looks up to a sports figure as his hero, he copies everything the player does down to the last detail. It’s the same when a young girl looks upon an actress or singer as her heroine. Likewise, as we copy our hero, Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us the resources to be just like Him.

Finally, the Holy Spirit helps us become like Jesus in one other way. He allows us to go through difficult situations to increase our exercise of love, joy, patience and gentleness. Often, when we are first born again and baptized with the Holy Spirit, we feel like we are walking on clouds. We love everyone and seemingly have infinite patience and joy. But one day someone comes along that we can’t seem to love or we get into a situation where we just can’t have patience or joy. We ask, “Why am I going through this? Has God deserted me? Did I sin and get Him angry? Why do my problems seem so big? Why isn’t my spiritual life as easy as it used to be?” We may feel downhearted. When this happens, however, the Holy Spirit is actually inviting us to draw closer to Jesus so we can exercise more of His love, patience, and joy than we ever thought possible.

REJOICE... because it means growth. If you’ve ever admired the massive muscles on body builders, did you also realize their muscles had to endure great pain to grow? Those magnificent biceps had to be tortured until the blood rushed in and built up the tissue larger so it could survive. The Holy Spirit permits us to confront difficult situations so Jesus’ grace can rush in

and build us up (and we help others in the process too!). Jesus said, “Every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2) Remember, trials and tribulations mean growth; don’t be afraid of them. It’s easy to be joyful, loving and patient when everything is nice. Jesus died and rose again so we could be loving, joyful and patient even when everything isn’t so nice.

THINGS TO DO:

1. I will pray for the Holy Spirit to reproduce Jesus’ personality in me.
2. I will read the Bible carefully to learn about Jesus.
3. I will make Jesus my hero. I will desire with all my heart to become an exact copy of Him and I will trust the Holy Spirit to help me succeed at it.

**CHAPTER FIVE
THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

In the beginning, God originally created the first man Adam with a physical body, a mind, and a spirit. God then placed the Holy Spirit within Adam’s spirit, bringing man’s spirit to life. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7)

Adam received two great benefits from having the Holy Spirit within him. First, he had a special unity with God. Adam (and Eve) actually communicated with God just as you and I might communicate with our husband, wife, or best friend. In fact, it was a deeper communication than we humans have with each other; it was a communication based on trust and intimacy. God and man were comfortable with each other; there were no misunderstandings. The Holy Spirit within Adam was the link between God’s mind and Adam’s mind and between God’s Spirit and man’s spirit. God and man walked and talked together in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8). God would give man any guidance he wanted or needed.

Adam’s second great benefit from having the Holy Spirit within was power. Adam actually shared in God’s creative and ruling power over the earth and everything in it. Adam had within himself the same power that caused the explosion through which the universe came into being. This

power would help man be fruitful. God had said, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

Man was to have a life of growth, optimism, and victory. He was to be master of all he surveyed. Man was also to have dominion over nature. He could control the animals and even the weather because of the power of the Holy Spirit. Adam was to tend the Garden of Eden and dress it. He was to work but it would not be drudgery; it would be fun and a creative challenge (Genesis 2:8). Man would not taste death; the Holy Spirit within him would constantly renew and replenish his life (Genesis 2:7).

Adam lost all these benefits when he sinned. The Holy Spirit cannot abide in the presence of sin because of God’s goodness and justice. God is love; sin is anti-love. God is holy; sin is anti-holy. God and sin are like gasoline and water; they just don’t mix. When Adam sinned, the Holy Spirit departed from Adam. Without the Holy Spirit within, Adam lost direction for his life and became alienated from God. The lines of communication broke down. Without the Holy Spirit’s power, sin became easier for Adam and his descendants. Adam was filled with gloom, selfishness, and self-pity. He lost his power. Man’s lifespan became shorter because sin weakened his body. He lost control over nature and over himself. Without the Holy Spirit, man was little more than a clever animal.

God, however, did not desert man. Whenever man messes up the original plan that God has for his life, a loving, patient God simply formulates a new plan which is usually better than the original because it is filled with mercy and forgiveness; then he offers it again to man. Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and later under the leadership of Moses, God formed the nation of Israel (read Genesis and Exodus in the Bible). God would send the world the Savior through this nation; this Savior would restore the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was not available to all people, but God would from time to time send the Holy Spirit upon the leaders and teachers of Israel so they would have special power and communication with God to accomplish His purposes. Samson, for example, received great strength to protect his people. Once, a lion attacked Samson. “Behold, a young lion came roaring toward him. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he (Samson) tore him (the lion) as one tears a kid, though he had nothing in the hand.” (Judges 14:5-6) The great King David had similar power and guidance to rule. God also gave the Holy Spirit to His prophets, special men chosen to teach Israel the ways of God and to warn political leaders and people to repent when they had turned from

holiness and justice. The prophets had a special communication with God. The prophet Ezekiel, for example, said, “And the word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them.’” (Ezekiel 6:1-2) Although God only gave the Holy Spirit to certain individuals on a “here and there” and “now and then” basis, He promised through the prophets that a day would come when he would restore the Holy Spirit and power on a mass basis to whosoever would come to Him and ask for the Holy Spirit.

And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days... And it will come about that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be delivered. (Joel 2:28-32)

This restoration of the Holy Spirit’s power came as a result of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the Savior God had promised Who would not only save man from sin but also restore the creative power of the Holy Spirit which had been lost. This restoration began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and will continue until the end of what we call “the Church Age.”

So, one of the most important parts of Jesus’ mission was to make available to people the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. When you are baptized in water, you are dunked or soaked in water, and you come up dripping wet. When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit, you are dunked or soaked into the person of the Holy Spirit and you are dripping with God’s love, strength, and power. It is a spiritual event that you can’t see physically but it is very real because of the tremendous effect it has upon your life and behavior. You are in a new dimension with God. Being born again is like a cake and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is like the frosting on the cake.

John the Baptist preached about this baptism Jesus would give: “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:7-8)

After He rose from the dead, Jesus Himself told His disciples to wait until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit when they would receive power. The Greek word for power is *dunamis*, or dynamite. The Holy Spirit would be like spiritual dynamite within them and they would become “dynamic” people. Jesus said, “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My

Father (the Holy Spirit) upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told them, “John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1:5,8) Notice that Jesus didn’t give the disciples an option; He gave them a command. He didn’t say, “Be baptized with the Holy Spirit if you like,” or “It would be nice if you were baptized with the Holy Spirit.” No, He commanded them to wait for this power because it was an essential step in the restoration of their broken, fragmented, defeated humanity. In fact, this power is absolutely essential for the ministry of healing and reconciliation that Jesus established.

True to both His and the Father’s promise, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost when 120 followers, including His mother Mary, were baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in a new prayer language we call “tongues” (read Acts Chapter 2). The first thing that occurred was that the disciples were restored to a special unity with God. Small flames of fire rested on each of their heads. This was to symbolize that the Holy Spirit was now available again to each individual.

In the Old Testament (read Exodus, Chapter 3), God appeared in a burning bush, and only Moses, His appointed leaser, could talk To Him. The other people couldn’t approach God. But on the Day of Pentecost, the burning bush broke up into little flames and the Holy Spirit took up residence within each person. Their power was restored; they were ready to take on the world; nothing could stop them; the sky, literally, was the limit. Peter, who had been weak-willed and had denied Jesus, was now a bold preacher. Miracles followed: the sick were healed, the dead were raised, bruised and broken hearts and spirits were set free and made whole (Acts 3:4-8; Acts 8:5-8; Acts 9:36-41). Love abounded everywhere (Acts 2:44-47).

This Baptism with the Holy Spirit is still available to us today. Millions have undergone this experience. We receive the same Holy Spirit the disciples received. He has the very same effect on us. Our unity with God is restored and there is a new awareness of the presence of God. We become constantly aware of God’s presence even as we go about our daily business. It’s an amazing experience. Also, we feel new power within. We are better able to resist sin and do positive good. Love, compassion and patience flow more easily from our personality. It’s easier to reach out to other people and be an instrument of strength to them. And, each and every person begins sharing in Jesus’ ministry of healing and reconciliation through the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians, Chapter 12).

Along with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit comes the power to pray in “tongues” just as the disciples did on the Day of Pentecost. “Tongues” is the word used to describe praying in a language you don’t understand. You open your mouth and start speaking words you don’t understand with your mind. It is actually the Holy Spirit within you praying to God on your behalf. The Holy Spirit prays to God the Father for us night and day, and when we pray out loud in tongues we are consciously joining in the prayer the Holy Spirit is praying for us at that very moment (Romans 8:26-27).

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit have the power to pray in tongues from the moment they receive this baptism. They may or may not actually pray in tongues, but whether they do or not, they have the power within them to do so.

Because “tongues” is a real language, there is always an interpretation or translation of everything spoken in tongues. How does it work? Well, first you pray in tongues. Then you let your mind clear. The first thought that comes to your mind after letting it clear is Jesus Christ speaking to you through the Holy Spirit. The thought that comes to your mind always is in agreement with Scripture in the Bible. It’s really so simple and yet so miraculous! It’s the same as God walking and talking with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, only He’s walking and talking with you! The ability to pray in tongues and communicate with God is His gift to you; you can use it any time you choose, day or night. You simply operate by faith and believe God is meeting you and communicating with you whenever you exercise praying in tongues because He promised He would, and He is faithful to His promises.

Although you have the power to pray in tongues and interpret at any moment in your life once you are baptized with the Holy Spirit, there are some times when it is not appropriate to do so. In other words, there are some “do”s and “don’t”s involved in praying in tongues. Everyone should have a private prayer time every day and this is a good time to also pray in tongues. Do pray in tongues at small, home-type prayer meetings. I love to go to home prayer meetings of about a dozen people or so. We talk about the Bible, pray together, and sometimes end with coffee and cake and fellowship. Often, during prayer time, some of us will pray in tongues, worshipping and praising God in our unknown language. It is a beautiful, moving experience.

Some of the “don’t”s of praying in tongues involve larger public gatherings and church services. One should never use tongues or the interpretation of tongues to disrupt a church service. One shouldn’t interrupt a preacher in the middle of his sermon with tongues and interpretations

because this causes confusion in the church, and the Holy Spirit *never* causes confusion. Also, *don't* hold conversations with other people in tongues. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God." (1 Corinthians 14:2, King James Version) "Tongues" is vertical, between God and man, not horizontal, between man and man. I once saw two men in a church shaking hands and talking to each other in tongues. They *looked* ridiculous and *were* ridiculous because they were abusing God's gift.

Now it sometimes happens in large assemblies or church services that Jesus wants to give a message to the assembly or to an individual through the operation of tongues and interpretation. When this happens, someone will stand up in the church and pray in tongues or go up to an individual and pray over them in tongues. Then someone else will stand up and give the interpretation. This manner of operating tongues in public is good. It usually happens at a quiet moment in the service set aside for ministering to those who are sick or depressed by other needs. The tongues and interpretation are not a disruption to the sermon or service, but are to help to comfort someone in need. This is good. This is a "do."

How much importance should you place behind a message you receive in this manner? Sometimes an important decision in your life may be involved. The Bible has some good guidelines to follow in 1 Corinthians 14. If the message deals with something you have been worried about that no one else knows about, this should give you confidence in the interpretation that God is revealing something to you. Once I was worried about something and a woman in church gave me a "tongues" interpretation about the problem. No one knew I was worried about that problem. Therefore, I had great confidence in that interpretation when it offered me comfort and a solution to the problem.

Another way of proving the truth of such a message is to hear it two or three different times from two or three different people in two or three different places. It's like God confirming something to you again and again. This would be a true message. The person interpreting the tongues message, furthermore, should be known in the church and have a reputation for love and humility. Also, you can ask the church leaders to judge the prophecy or interpretation and evaluate it. Paul said, "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge." (1 Corinthians 14:29, King James Version)

Finally, you ask, "How can I receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit? How can I enter into this close relationship with God and receive this power within me?" There are three basic things you must do.

First, you must be “born again” (John 3:3 and 3:7). This is a must. The Holy Spirit’s power will not be given to someone who has not asked forgiveness for their sins and for Jesus to come live in their heart. You must be truly sorry for your sins, believe that Jesus is the Son of God Who rose from the dead, and ask Him to forgive your sins and come and live in your heart. On the day of Pentecost, when the crowds asked Peter how they could receive the Holy Spirit, he said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38, King James Version) In other words, there can be no sin standing between you and God; the way to get rid of sin is by asking God’s forgiveness.

Second, because Jesus Christ is the One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, you must be seeking a closer relationship with Him. Other people may idolize or copy movie stars, sports heroes or political figures, but your desire is to copy Jesus Christ so that when you walk down the street, people almost don’t see you anymore, but they see Jesus Christ. Jesus will honor your seeking and baptize you with the Holy Spirit so you will have the power to be like Him. The Holy spirit will reproduce the fullness of Jesus’ life within you.

Third, you must have an attitude of praise, joy and love. You must be thanking God and encouraging people. You can’t have resentment in your heart or a grudge against anyone. If Jesus could forgive those who crucified Him even while He was on the cross, you must forgive anyone who has hurt you.

If you meet these requirements, you are in a position to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and have this deep experience with God. Sometimes people who belong to a prayer group find it helpful to have the leaders of the group lay hands on them and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Some people in the Bible received the Holy Spirit this way (Acts, Chapters 8, 9 and 19). At other times, the Holy Spirit just instantly came upon people who were seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and no laying on of hands was involved (Acts 10). There is no one set way; God can act in many ways. The important thing is that you are seeking a closer relationship with Jesus.

I can’t tell you how you will receive the Holy Spirit, but I promise you *will* receive the Holy Spirit if you are seeking Jesus. Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” (Luke 11:13, King James Version).

CHAPTER SIX THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This chapter is dedicated to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:8, we read that when Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, He gave supernatural spiritual gifts to mankind. It's important for us to realize that in Jesus Christ, God became a man. God became one of us. John 1:14 states, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That could also be translated, "God build His house in our neighborhood." Jesus' body was conceived miraculously, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of a young virgin. Although He was divinity, Jesus was also fully human. Jesus knows what it's like to be human. That should be comforting because we are human 24 hours a day. Jesus knows what we need. We really need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We need the life of Jesus reproduced in us and through us. Jesus led the perfectly obedient, sinless and successful life. His power and His gifts help us become like Him. We always remain human, but through the Holy Spirit we become God-gifted humans.

One of the most common problems people suffer from is an *inferiority complex* (the "I can't do it..." syndrome). Our human tendency is to look down on ourselves as fragmented inferior people when God really wants to lift us up and make each of us count for something good.

God accomplishes this through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some people don't believe God wants to give people supernatural gifts today. They say, "Maybe He did in Bible times, but not today. Others believe God does do supernatural things today, but not for them. They say, "God's too busy for me" or "I'm not important enough."

On the Day of Pentecost we saw that Peter proclaimed that the power of the Holy Spirit was available to anyone who comes to God, repents of sin, and believes in the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Once a person becomes a Christian, they can then receive the experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit where they are "baptized" or "dunked" in the power of the Holy Spirit. Such a person is then in a position to be used by God in the church, in the Body of Christ, with one or more of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12.

The New Testament Greek word for gifts is *charis*. This is where we get the English word *charisma* or *charismatic*. Our modern understanding of the word is usually inaccurate. We think of *charisma* as a special ability arising from an individual's own personal strength: a politician, actor, or athlete is said to have *charisma*. That, however, is actually the opposite of the Bible

meaning. The Bible meaning of *charisma* is that God places a gift of His power upon an ordinary or even weak person so they may use supernatural power to be a blessing to other people. The gift comes from God, not from the person's own strength or own holiness. It's God smiling on an ordinary person so they can smile on someone else.

Before we discuss the Gift of the Holy Spirit, we must emphasize two things: 1. All Christians, whether baptized with the Holy Spirit or not, *have* the Holy Spirit within them if they truly believe in Jesus as their Lord. We are all "born again" through the life and power of the Holy Spirit. 2. The common meeting ground of all Christians is the *person* of Jesus Christ. Praying in tongues or praying for healing is not the most essential thing or what makes a Christian a Christian. A personal relationship with Christ is more important than *anything* else. Having the risen Christ in our heart is what makes a Christian a Christian. Christ within us is what makes us brothers and sisters in Christ and children of God the Father.

With that said, however, it must also be emphasized that the power that comes through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the fully victorious spiritual walk that God wants us to have. Spiritual warfare can be very wearisome and strenuous for the Christian who is not empowered through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. God has given and has made available to His Church, supernatural gifts and supernatural power to help, build up and bring healing to the hurting people in the Church and in the world.

If we read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, we see listed nine special gifts:

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Gift of Faith
4. Gifts of Healing
5. Working of Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Speaking in Various Kinds of Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues

These gifts are simply the risen Jesus Christ continuing His ministry on earth through His people. All these gifts are just Jesus doing again what He did when He walked the earth. He does it through you and me by the same power of the Holy Spirit which He operated in during His earthly ministry.

The Apostle Paul starts off 1 Corinthians 12 by reminding the Corinthian Christians that at one time they were held spiritually captive in spiritual darkness. Corinth was a rich commercial city, but it was also a morally wild

and wooly city. Every kind of evil and degrading excess existed there. They were into idolatry and worshiping false gods. They had “temple prostitution.” Temple prostitutes would hang out at a big fountain in the center of the city where local and visiting businessmen would go and pay them to perform adulterous sex as part of their religious worship at the pagan temple in Corinth. There was substance abuse, alcohol abuse and drugs. They were into the strange and degrading world of psychic and occult phenomena. The city was morally rotten at its foundation. Human dignity was degraded in every possible way. Human dignity was being dragged through the mud.

In the middle of this, Paul came and preached about Jesus, the cross and the resurrection. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon many and set them free. As they were converted and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, they were also baptized with the Holy Spirit and the supernatural gifts began working in their midst to build people up, heal them and set them free.

The spiritual gifts are for the common good of the Body of Christ. There are nine gifts, but there’s only one purpose: the common good of all the people in the Body of Christ, to build them up, heal them and restore their human dignity.

Let’s close this chapter by re-emphasizing that God wants all Christians to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and to pray for the healing of the sick. God wants the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in all churches and through all Christians. We live in a world that desperately needs the healing ministry of Jesus. It is through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that Jesus brings His ministry to this world. The Church is the Body of Christ. It’s imperative that the very life of Jesus Christ comes to this world through His Body.

We need Jesus now more than ever.

CHAPTER SEVEN THE HOLY SPIRIT— THE BARRIER BREAKER

The Apostle Paul tells us of a very special ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in Ephesians 2:13-16:

13But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

*14For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,
15by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,
16and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.*

The Lord Jesus Christ came to bring a whole new way of living. The Holy Spirit, who does the work of Jesus, is the only One who can truly break down barriers—He overcomes religious barriers and hang-ups, racial prejudices and barriers, and He gives us a new perspective and power for facing the problems we encounter in this world.

TURN TO THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AND READ CHAPTER 10.

As this chapter opens, we see Cornelius, a Roman centurion, an army captain. The Romans were the conquerors, oppressors, and occupiers of Israel. Cornelius was an officer in this conquering army, a gentile and a foreigner. But he was also a God-fearing man who prayed and gave alms to the poor. God took notice of this and sent an angel who told Cornelius to send a messenger to the city named Joppa and to invite a man named Simon Peter to his house and he would hear from Peter about the Savior Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, at Joppa, Simon Peter is praying on a housetop and he's getting ready for lunch. He's hungry. Suddenly Peter has a vision. A large sheet comes down from heaven. All kinds of animals are on the sheet. Some were considered clean by Peter's religious tradition and some were unclean. A voice from heaven stated, "Peter, take and eat." In other words, Peter, you're really hungry; start eating. Peter immediately thought of all his old religious laws and he protested, "I've never eaten anything unclean or unholy." He had never eaten pork or shellfish. But the voice continued, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." This vision happened three times.

Suddenly, the gentile messengers from Cornelius arrive and tell Peter that an angel commanded Cornelius to send for Peter to come preach the Gospel to the Romans. Suddenly, the larger impact of God's vision becomes apparent to Peter. God had been telling Peter he should not consider any food unclean or unholy. But He was giving Peter a larger, more significant message: All Christians should never consider any human being as unclean or outside the circle of God's love simply on the basis of their race,

nationality or culture. Up to now, Peter would never have gone to a gentile's house. Such an act would have broken the Jewish religious law and made Peter himself unclean. Above all, he would never have gone to a Roman soldier's house.

God was saying, "Look, Peter, get with the program. The whole human race is very special to Me. I created them all. My Son Jesus died for them all. My vision I gave you wasn't about pork chops and shellfish; it was about all human beings."

It really shakes up a lot of people when you say God loves all people of all colors and races. He loves those who are red, yellow, black, white and all mixtures in-between. God looks past national origin and loves Americans, Russians, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Jews and Arabs.

When you take Jesus seriously and Christianity seriously and *live* it, it's earth-shaking. It can threaten a lot of people who don't want what the Gospel is fully about. We're talking about God's love, love from the heart, the Holy Spirit's love. We're not talking about the phony and hypocritical concern of "limousine liberals" who have their pictures taken with minority children, but then send their own children to exclusive, private schools so they'll never have to rub elbows with these same children. We're talking about the Jesus Christ type of love that comes from the heart that brings God's love and healing to the sick and the poor on a daily basis. We're talking about the love of Christ that ministers to the poor, the sick, the addicted, the demon-possessed of all races so the risen Jesus Christ can bring salvation, healing and wholeness into broken lives. We're not talking about Sunday morning religion where you dress up, go to church and sing like an angel, but then go and live like a devil the rest of the week. We're talking about Christianity as a way of life.

In Romans 5:5, Paul wrote, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." This was the case with Peter. His heart was right but up until the vision, his head was wrong. Peter had the love of the Holy Spirit in his heart so God could reach him and change him. He had AGAPE love where you try to bring about God's best in someone's life whether or not they ever return that love. It's the kind of love that is the only hope for our world today.

We read back in Acts 4:32 that those who believed were of one heart and one mind. But up to this time, the early Christians had kept themselves in Jerusalem. God now said to Peter, "You're on the right track; now there's a whole big world out there. Take My Son and His message to that whole big world."

So, Peter goes down to Cornelius' house. Cornelius has the whole house

filled with friends and relatives to hear the Gospel. Peter comes and starts preaching the Gospel. Peter starts by saying, “I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” He adds, “A few days ago, I would never have come here, but God showed me He offers His love to everyone.” He’s no respecter of persons; He doesn’t play favorites. (Some people have been gagging on that ever since. Some people want to believe God loves only their little exclusive group.)

Peter starts preaching: “I’ve got Good News for you Romans. Jesus is the Son of God. He was crucified but He rose from the dead. Through Him there is forgiveness of sins and new life. If you’re sick, He can heal you. If you’re in bondage to sin, He can set you free.” The Romans listened and started believing, in effect saying, “This is good stuff! We believe!” And when they believed, a spiritual explosion happened and the Holy Spirit fell on the Romans just as He did on the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost and they began praising God and praying in tongues. God began moving in their midst in such a great way that Peter couldn’t even finish his sermon.

At that moment, when God poured out the Holy Spirit on the Romans, He was speaking definitively, once and for all, that His love, the love of His Son, and the love of the Holy Spirit is available for all people. **ONE OF THE GREATEST WRONGS IS A FAILURE TO LOVE ALL PEOPLE OF ALL RACES WITH GOD’S LOVE. GOD WILL NEVER LET ANYONE “GET BY” WHEN THEY HATE OR ATTACK ANOTHER HUMAN BEING ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RACE, FOR HE CREATED THEM ALL.** God will always have a day of reckoning for any racist.

The Holy Spirit is the One who broke down the barriers Peter had toward the gentiles. It’s one thing to be a believer in Jesus Christ; it’s another thing to be a believer who is also a disciple. In Luke 9:23, Jesus said that we have to take up our cross daily and follow Him. We become a Christian saved by grace in one moment of time when we repent and believe in Jesus as Lord and accept for our lives what He did on the cross for us. That gets us into heaven. We are justified apart from the works of the Law (Romans 3:28). Becoming a disciple, however, is a lifetime project. The Holy Spirit, given to us by Jesus, gives us the power and love to follow Jesus and become His disciple. The deepest, most important part of our Christian experience is when, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we begin to love the way Jesus Christ loves and the Holy Spirit’s power explodes within our spirit and breaks down every manmade and every cultural barrier that would separate people and frustrate the saving, healing, delivering love God wants moving among His creation. The saving power of Jesus Christ is greater than any racial, religious, cultural, social or economic barrier (Galatians 3:28).

CHAPTER EIGHT HE SPEAKS NOT OF HIMSELF

There is a very simple song sometimes sung in many of our Christian churches today. Perhaps you've heard it:

*Oh, how He loves you and me;
Oh, how He loves you and me;
He gave His life; what more could He give?
Oh, how He loves you;
Oh, how He loves me;
Oh, how He loves you and me*

The song is so simple and direct, and yet when people hear it, some weep, some are converted and change their lives, sick bodies are sometimes healed, mentally ill people have been set free from their oppression, personal relationships that have been broken, such as husband and wife or parent and child, have been restored. Why is this so and how can these things be? The answer is that the Holy Spirit has, on occasion, blessed this song, anointed it, with His life –giving power because the song honors Jesus. The Holy Spirit does His part by making Jesus real.

We actually feel the great love that was within Jesus when He ministered to those with hurts and needs. We feel the love and depth of the sacrifice Jesus made when he went to the cross to die for you and me. The Holy Spirit pours out the life and presence of God on these occasions; this is why healings take place. God's presence is total life and total security; anything that comes into the presence of such life and security must be healed or reconciled. The closer a sick body or sick mind gets to the presence of God, the more it MUST be healed. The closer a broken relationship gets to the presence of God, the more it MUST be reconciled.

The Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of Life," the One Who pours out the life of God, dedicates His activity to glorifying Jesus by putting supernatural approval on everything authentically connected with the life of Jesus and the Spirit of His ministry. The Holy Spirit does this because He loves Jesus so very much. He is more aware than we are of the great, awful sacrifice Jesus made for us. The Holy Spirit loves Jesus so very much because of this. He carefully watches over and continues the ministry of healing and reconciliation Jesus began when He walked the earth nearly 2000 years ago.

That ministry began in the town of Nazareth on a Saturday, or Sabbath,

when Jesus stood up to read in the synagogue as was customary for Jewish males to do. He read:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

(Luke 14:18-19)

To everyone's astonishment, Jesus proclaimed, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." (Luke 4:21) In other words, the prophets of olden times had been writing about Him and now He was beginning the task He was destined for from before the creation of the universe. He would live a life of loving obedience to the Father and bring healing and reconciliation to men. In the end, He would give His life, but He would rise from the dead and His ministry would continue on through the power of the Holy Spirit as it was given to men.

Everyone who consecrates their life to Christ and willingly dies to self can take on the personality of Jesus and become an actual, living extension of Him. This means that the Holy Spirit will put His supernatural approval (anointing) upon everything we do insofar as we do it on behalf of Jesus, in obedience to Jesus, and in harmony with the character of Jesus. This has powerful implications because it means our lives will become instruments of healing and reconciliation. There will be a compassionate touch in everything we do.

The Holy Spirit's power will give us a share in God's CREATIVE activity—we will be fruitful in what we do. We'll have new and better ideas drawn from the mind of Christ. We'll have a share in God's REDEEMING activity—we'll minister to seemingly hopeless situations and through a wisdom and compassion beyond our own human resources, we'll be God's instrument for bringing victory. We'll also share in God's RECONCILING activity—we'll go out of our way to reconcile enemies, even reaching out to those who misunderstand or persecute us. We'll become peacemakers through the power of the Holy Spirit. We'll be the initiators, the ones who take the risk, the first step.

We'll finally share in God's LIBERATING activity—freeing people from demonic possession or oppression, habit, compulsion and fear. Jesus came to set captives free. He promises true liberation if we follow Him without reservation. "He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." (Matthew

10:39) It seems like an impossibility or contradiction, but it's not. It's truth: The more you give up your ego to become like Jesus, the more you become an individual who is unique, special and authentic, because as you do, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of infinite possibility, starts directing and organizing your life into the truth of Jesus' own words: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

The Holy Spirit speaks of Jesus in other ways. He glorifies Jesus. He magnifies Jesus and Jesus alone. Jesus Christ is God's final and definitive statement of His purpose for mankind. There are no others; there will be no others "coming from heaven" to save men or lead them into the truth. We have many false messiahs today gaining great popularity, but the Holy Spirit has no part with them. The Holy Spirit *never* puts His seal of approval on the work of *any* other religious founder, including Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, or any Eastern or other religion. One thing we must *never* forget: the Holy Spirit is very, very jealous on behalf of Jesus. The Spirit is loving, merciful, and kind beyond our imagination, but will never compromise when it comes to giving honor and glory to Jesus and Jesus alone.

We also see the Holy Spirit's work in worship. The difference between a dead church service and a live one is the presence of the Holy Spirit. He brings a meeting alive the more perfectly it represents Jesus. This is also true of the Bible which is simply a dead letter without the Holy Spirit bringing it to life. Some people find the Bible hard to read because they don't have the Holy Spirit within them to enlighten their mind and bring the Bible to life. The same is true of preaching and Holy Communion. Both can be dull and formalistic unless the Holy Spirit is present to bring them to life. The Holy Spirit also performs miracles in the name of Jesus Christ, healing sick bodies, curing oppressed minds and solving impossible problems as a sign that someday, at some time, Jesus Christ will accomplish a final victory over all sin and suffering.

The Holy Spirit also speaks of Jesus by convicting people of their sin. Conviction is when the Comforter makes you feel uncomfortable about your sin. The Holy Spirit may convict you through love, opening the eyes of your heart how you are hurting God, your fellow man, or yourself and throwing your life away through your sins. You may repent, cry, change and then feel new joy, purpose and victory. Only the Holy Spirit may convict you through fear: you'll suddenly be aware of the horror of eternal damnation in hell. As a result, you will repent and change your life. When you do, you'll feel relief, the fear will go, and you'll have new joy, purpose and victory. Either way, through love or fear, the Holy Spirit is trying to bring you into fruitful,

eternal life. As Jude wrote in his epistle: “And of some have compassion, making a difference; and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire.” (Jude 22-23) In other words, the Holy Spirit is going to do what He has to in trying to bring you to Jesus.

Another work of the Holy Spirit on behalf of Jesus is to lead us into the truth. Jesus said, “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13) When Jesus was on earth, He taught people (the truth). Right now, it’s the Holy Spirit’s work to teach us those things Jesus would teach if He were physically present with us.

The Holy Spirit does this through a process. First, He deals with us about a certain matter. We have an inner “sense” that something is correct or incorrect. The Bible says, “Greater he is [the Holy Spirit] that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4) Pentecostal Christians call this inner sense “the witness of the Holy Spirit.” Then, the Holy Spirit will bring certain parts of the Bible alive to your mind about the truth He is trying to teach you. You might open your Bible and your eyes will look upon a verse that settles your problem!

The Holy Spirit can also confirm what He is teaching you through the teachings of chosen leaders in the Body of Christ who are filled with the Holy Spirit, obeying Christ, and living holy lives. You might even go to them in private if you respect them and feel comfortable with them. The Holy Spirit will use them to lead you into the truth. The early Christians knew there was safety in numbers, safety in “checking it out” with loving, respected leaders in the Body of Christ. When faced with a problem, they would get together, pray and settle the issue. In Acts, Chapter 5, after dealing with some important issues, Peter said, “It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us...” (Acts 15:28) If we follow this process, the Holy Spirit will protect us and lead us into the truth and into God’s perfect will for our lives in *all* circumstances we face.

Still another work of the Holy Spirit on our behalf in the name of Jesus is that He intercedes for us. “Intercede” means to “go between” *Inter* means between; *cede* means “to go.” Proceed means “go forward.” Recede means “go back.” Intercede means “go between.” When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God the Father to act as our Great High Priest. He now spends His whole time interceding for us. He’s constantly working out a plan for our life. Even if we mess up one of His plans, he can work out a new one. He brings these plans to the Father, who will approve if it has Jesus’ approval. Paul the Apostle wrote: “Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

The Holy Spirit within us has perfect communication with Jesus and constantly reproduces in us that same intercession that Jesus is making when we yield to Him and pray in the Spirit.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

(Romans 8:26-27)

Again, the Holy Spirit doesn't make intercession according to what He wants; He reproduces in us what Jesus is doing before the Father: "For he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak... for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:13-14)

Whenever we pray in tongues, we are joining in the intercession that Jesus is making on our behalf before the Father. In effect, we are saying, "God, I want to know Your will for my life so I can be in harmony with Your perfect plan for me." As we submit in this way, we become more aware of God's "architecture" for our life, we cooperate with Him and our life becomes more productive than we could ever imagine.

Finally, the Holy Spirit is constantly working on and in us to bring us into conformity with the image of Jesus Christ. In the final analysis, WE will "speak not of ourselves, but of Jesus." The Spirit will use any willing heart to be a vessel of the love and compassion of Jesus. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us." (Romans 5:5) As we become willing, Jesus' love is shed abroad; we can't keep His love inside of us, it has to come out. This leads to the perfecting of what He has started within us by His free gift of grace. We, in turn, begin to show grace and mercy to others. As we do, we walk even deeper into God's life and Kingdom. We forget ourselves and do good to others regardless of how they respond to us, just as Jesus forgot His own self and did good to us regardless of how we responded. Jesus Himself said:

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me

(Matthew 25:34-40)

Jesus Christ was, is, and ever shall be, healing and reconciliation.

(Bible quotes in this chapter are from the King James Version.)

CHAPTER NINE THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

In this final chapter, we will now consider the Holy Spirit in one more aspect of His work. He is called the “Spirit of Life” (Genesis 7:22; Romans 8:2). The person and work of the Holy Spirit is the full manifestation of every aspect of God’s own life.

The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life performs three works: 1) He imparts life; 2) He supplies energy; and 3) He produces order.

First, the Holy Spirit imparts life - life of a very special kind - God’s own eternal life. In New Testament Greek this is called *zoe*; in Old Testament Hebrew it is *chayyim*. The very notion of *zoe* or *chayyim* goes beyond a solitary existence. This kind of life is eternal - it will never die and in fact it cannot be touched by even a hint of death. Moreover, it is life-producing and life-generating. It is the kind of life that continually reproduces and expands and knows no limiting factor. It is such a superior form of life, it destroys lesser, defective forms of life that enters its presence. It is pure life. Such is the life of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit imparts to a person, at the moment of the new birth, the superior, eternal life of God Himself. The born again believer will never die spiritually, will

abound in their life in obedience to God's will, and if the individual cooperates with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit's power will destroy the old sin life and enable the person to defeat, even put to death, the old, defective life of sin.

Second, the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life imparts energy. This energizing (*energeo* in Greek) effectively works in an individual to produce visible, actual results of godly and eternal value. The energy of the Spirit of Life working within a person accomplishes the work of sanctification, holiness and Christ-like character. The essential nature of this energy is God's love. In Galatians 5:6, the Apostle Paul writes of faith which works by love. The exact translation is faith "energized" by love, the love of God which brings to pass God's perfect justice, mercy and holiness.

Third, the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life brings order. Where there is no order, there is confusion. Confusion is the work of satan (James 3:14-16) while order is the work of the Spirit of Life, the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:33). The purpose of God's order is that the abundance of His life, light and love may flow in its maximum fullness. The Spirit of Life, in the process of bringing order, also separates out anything that would pollute or pervert that order and then destroys the pollution and perversion so that His life may flow and work to the fullest.

As we examine the Bible, we can see how the scriptures bear witness to this three-fold work of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life. In Genesis 1, the creation chapter, we see the Holy Spirit moving on the waters, bringing order to creation, bringing life-imparting energy and fruitfulness to creation and the crowning of creation with man being created in the very image and likeness of God, the Creator. The end result was that God could look at His created order and see and declare that "it was good."

By Genesis, chapter 7, we see that the world had become so corrupted by sin and disorder that God sent a flood to separate and destroy that which was polluting and preventing His work and that everything that was disobedient and rebellious to God died and lost the breath of the Spirit of Life (Genesis 7:22).

In the New Testament, when God sent His Son Jesus to the earth, Jesus told Nicodemus (and us) that we must receive a new birth, a second birth, a birth "from above" by which we receive divine, eternal life (*zoe*) into our spirit. Jesus warned in John 3:6 that what is born of the flesh is flesh (inferior, destructible, incompatible with divine life) and what is born of the Spirit is spirit (eternal).

Jesus later stated in John 6:63, "It is the Spirit who gives life (*zoe*), the flesh profits nothing; the words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

Jesus was explicitly stating that the words He spoke would become God's instrument for imparting divine life, divine energy, and divine order with the life of everyone who believed on His words.

In the Book of Acts, chapter 2, we see on the Day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 in the Upper Room and imparted a new life and power upon them and they brought a new supernatural order to the Body of Christ through the Spirit's gift of praying in tongues. At the Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9, man's rebellion caused God to confuse men's languages to impede their sinful unity. Now at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit brought a new order whereby God could have men pray in new tongues and the Holy Spirit would enable all to understand through His interpretive power. At Pentecost also, the Holy Spirit released His life - giving of gifts into the Body of Christ through faith in Christ Jesus (Acts 2:38-40).

In the great chapter 8 of the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul teaches about his revelation of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life. Paul first teaches that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). Thus, we learn that the Spirit of Life Himself operates in a very orderly manner according to the law of life which liberates people from the law of sin, death and decay. We also learn that He is the Spirit of life *in Christ Jesus*. He is committed to imparting His life, energy and order through Christ Jesus alone!

We see in Romans 8:11 that the power of the Holy Spirit is so strong it was able to heal and raise the bruised, battered, dead body of Jesus back to life in a new glory, a glory which set the physical body free from natural limitations. If the Spirit of Life could perform that resurrection on the body of Jesus, His power is sufficient to solve any problem we face. Furthermore, Paul tells us in Romans 8:13 that the Spirit of Life can actually separate sin and the deeds of the flesh out of our being and put them to death so we can be liberated into the spiritual freedom of being sons of God even while on this earth.

The Apostle Paul further writes about the operation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, bringing order along with the manifestations of power (1 Corinthians 14:33). He also writes that Adam, the first man, because of his sin, only imparts natural life to his descendants. Jesus, however, the last Adam, became a life-giving spirit. This is another witness by Paul that the Holy Spirit, as Spirit of Life, is committed to imparting His life, energy and order, ONLY through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45-49). In the book of Hebrews 6:4-5, Paul writes that it is through the Holy Spirit that we taste the powers of the world to come. The Spirit of Life breaks into this sinful, fallen, polluted, perverted world with His life energy, and order, and we

partake of these through the Holy Spirit Who imparts His life through Jesus Christ.

However, it is not only in this life we “taste” the powers of the world to come. The Apostle John, in the Book of Revelation, reveals the vision he received of the Eternal Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem. We see in revelation 21:10 to Revelation 22:5 that this city is brilliantly, eternally alive, built with exact order and beauty, and everything polluted and perverted has been separated and cast into eternal fire. We see productive, fruit-bearing life in abundance. At the center of the city, we see a throne with Almighty God sitting upon it with His Son Jesus, the Lamb, at His right hand. From the center of the throne flows a river of the water of life which is the Holy Spirit Himself, the Spirit of Life. All in the city can drink freely from this river.

To have the right to drink from this river of eternal life, however, we must be children of God, which can only come about through the new birth (John 3:5, 8). If you do not have Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, I invite you to pray, as I close this book, and ask Jesus Christ into your heart. Repent, and turn away from your sin and turn to God and begin to live for Him:

“Dear God, I come to You and admit I am a sinner. I’m sorry and I want to turn away from my sin and live for You. I accept what Jesus did for me on the cross as my only way to Heaven. I publicly proclaim Jesus as my Lord and I really believe You raised Him from the dead. If You give me the grace and the strength, I’ll live the rest of my life to please You. Amen.”