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The Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

(2019)

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The Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

Topics.

- The Holy Spirit is the holy power of God.
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and of the Son.
- The Holy Spirit and the promise of God.
- Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit.
- Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
- The comforter and helper.
- The Holy Spirit teaches and gives understanding.
- The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The illumination of the Holy Spirit.
- Grieving the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION

In older Bibles the translators used the title Holy Ghost this is simply the ancient term for the title Holy Spirit and refers to the same thing which is God's Spirit. There are many aspects to the Holy Spirit like a diamond has a multitude of colours the Holy Spirit has a variety of functions and ministries. To limit the Holy Spirit to one aspect or one function or one ministry is like limiting a diamond to one colour and limiting the nature and Spirit of God to one task. The primary focus of this study is upon the various meanings and applications of the Holy Spirit.

1

Spirit: from Strong's Concordance can refer to any of the following:

- A life-giving spirit (i.e., the vital principal of life by which the body is kept alive).
- The disposition or influence which fills and governs the mind.
- The rational spirit, the power by which a human, feels, thinks and decides.
- The power of knowing, desiring, deciding and acting
- The efficient source of any power affection, emotion or desire etc.
- A spirit higher than man, but lower than God (i.e. an angel).
- The divine nature of Christ, of God and the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE HOLY POWER OF GOD

- **Matthew 1:20:** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Here we see Old Testament Bible prophecy concerning Jesus birth fulfilled, thousands of years before Jesus birth God promised David that the Messiah the Christ would come through his loins. In Matthews and Luke's genealogy of Jesus we discover that Joseph came through the line of David's son Solomon. This is the reason Matthew traces the line through Solomon and naturally gives Joseph's line, because Joseph acted as foster father to Jesus, being legally responsible for him. Matthew in his genealogy of Jesus says, Jacob is the father of Joseph (Matt. 1:16) while Luke says in his genealogy of Jesus says, Heli is the father of Joseph (Luke 3:23). Obviously, Jacob and Heli cannot both be Joseph father therefore Joseph relationship to Heli must be different to his relationship to Jacob. David was the father of Nathan (Luke 3:31), most Scholars believe Mary came through the line of Nathan because Heli (also called Eli) was her father. This is the reason Luke traces the line through Nathan and since Jacob was the father of Joseph Heli it is believed was Joseph father in law. Heli (Eli) descended from David's son Nathan and was Mary's father (Luke 3) while Jacob descended from David's son Solomon and is Joseph father (Matt. 1). Heli gives birth to Mary (Luke 3) and Jacob gives birth to Joseph (Matt. 1) so both Joseph and Mary where descendants of David.

NOTE: since Joseph is not the true father of Jesus Matthew deliberately and carefully says in verse sixteen in his genealogy of Jesus that Jesus was born of Mary, but leaves Joseph out. Joseph did not beget Jesus like all the previous fathers mentioned in the genealogies (see the KJV). The virgin birth is plain in both Matthews and Luke's genealogies. Jesus birth is of the Holy Spirit in the following two ways: -

1. Through the fulfilment of prophecy.
2. Though the virgin birth by the power of the Holy Spirit.

MARY JOSEPH'S ESPOUSED WIFE

2

Mary is called Joseph's espoused wife meaning she was promised in marriage, the Old Testament often recognized a woman who has had intercourse with a man with the intention of staying together and having children as a wife (this is why concubines and prostitutes were not counted as wives), but Joseph has not known Mary this way even though she was pregnant, this is why Joseph is recognized, as the legal father of Jesus, not the biological father that is why Mary is called Joseph's espoused wife. Mary being pregnant by God's creative power is still biblically recognized as being betrothed to Joseph while seen as his wife by law, not by consummation (Lk 2:4-5). Some people have difficulty in accepting the virgin birth, but consider the following six statements which show six creatures that all have the appearance of man yet they all come from a different origin:

1. Adam made from the dust of the earth and enlivened by the breath of God.
2. Eve made from part of Adam while he was in a deep sleep.
3. Cain born by sexual reproduction.
4. Isaac born by a woman past menopause and a very aged man.
5. John the Baptist was born to a woman that was barren and very old.
6. Angels appear like men, but immortal and with much greater powers.

And of course, Jesus was born of a virgin without the intervention of a man. If it was possible to gather the previous six people and the Lord Jesus Christ in one room and look, talk and examine them all as we might, they would nevertheless all have the appearance of a man, but each has a very different origin. Therefore, it should not be difficult to conceive that

God through His creative power by the Holy Spirit created the seed within Mary or altered a cell as modern scientist can do today to begin the birth process. Added to this today man is able to manipulate the genes and clone a creature from the DNA of another creature, scientists can artificially impregnate a virgin so that she gives birth and technically it is within the grasp of science that a dead person may also be cloned, more than this we know God is so creative He is able to produce creatures that look, eat, talk, sleep and walk like man in at least seven different ways and we cannot tell the difference between them. Then added to all of these is the fact that while the earth was void and in darkness God spoke and creation came into existence how simple for God to speak the word to Mary and bring that word also into existence.

The Holy Spirit in this context is the power of God that brought about the birth of Jesus. For further information concerning Jesus birth, see the following title:

- Virgin Birth and the Promised Seed of Abraham and David
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON

- **Matthew 10:19-20:** Jesus tells his disciples: when they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

In these verses we are told the Spirit of the Father will give the disciple what to say. Mark in his account wrote:

- Jesus tells his disciples: when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit (Mark 13:11).

In these verses we are told the Holy Spirit will give the disciples what to say. Luke in his account wrote:

- Jesus tells his disciples: “the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:12).

In these verses we are told the Holy Spirit will give the disciple what to say. Luke also wrote:

- Jesus tells his disciples: “settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.” (Luke 21:14-15).

In these verses we are told Jesus will give the disciples what to say. From these verses we see that the Holy Spirit is the same as the Spirit of God the Father and the Spirit of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ and is the inspiration of the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ working upon the mind to inspire a person to speak the messages of God and of Christ in a particular situation and impart God's knowledge and God's wisdom concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

The reason the Holy Spirit can be seen as the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God his heavenly Father is because God who is the source of all life poured out His Spirit upon Christ without limitation at Jesus water baptism, added to this God has exalted Jesus above every principality and power and given him all authority. Even more than this God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are united in perfect love and perfect unity of mind, plans and purposes therefore whatever the Son inspires us to do will be what the Father Himself desires us to do and whatever the Father inspires us to do will of course be exactly what Christ desires for us. This

is because the will of Jesus is in perfect harmony with the will of his heavenly Father. There is nothing Christ would inspire us to do or say that would not be in the sovereign and eternal will of his heavenly Father. This is why the title the Holy Spirit can sometimes be used to denote the Spirit of God and at other times the Spirit of Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE MORTAL LIFE OF JESUS

- **Matthew 27:50:** Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his Spirit (ghost in KJV).

It is still 3pm (9th hour) of Passover Day and Jesus is on the cross he breathed up his last breath and yielded up his Spirit, meaning he gave up his life and died. The Spirit in this context refers to Jesus mortal life. The fact Jesus died must make those who believe Jesus is the immortal invisible Almighty God question what they have been taught since if God died, He cannot be immortal, because immortal means indestructible whoever has immortal life cannot die, if they could they would not be immortal.

Added to this Jesus is not invisible multitudes saw him, touched him and ate with him whereas no one has seen the full form of the invisible God this is why he is called the immortal invisible Almighty God. Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HUMAN GENES OR DNA

- **Luke 1:35:** the angel answered Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Come upon you is the same as overshadow you, the Holy Spirit is not a person, but is seen as the power of the Most High. In many verses the Holy Spirit is personified in the same way that wisdom is personified as a woman and Jerusalem is personified as the mother of Israel. The power of God is called the Holy Spirit because it is God's Holy power and God is Holy. For further information concerning personification see the title:

- Personification in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Holy Spirit caused Mary's conception therefore the Holy Spirit has the power to change human genes or DNA. If the Holy Spirit is a distinct personality and person from God (as many believe) then he would be the Father of Jesus, rather than God? And if Jesus was really God (as many believe) and Mary is Jesus mother then the expression "Mary the mother of God?" would be a correct and true statement. For further information concerning this, see the title:

- Trinity (Doctrine of the Trinity)" in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE PROMISE OF GOD

- **Luke 24:49:** behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you (the apostles). But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

This verse is in the context of Jesus telling his disciples that he has spoken his words to them so that everything written about him in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms would be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and tells them that it is written, that the Christ must suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Jesus then tells them to stay in the city of Jerusalem until he sends the promise of his Father upon them and they are clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:44-49). In this context the Holy Spirit refers to the promise and power of God which came upon the apostles in Acts chapter two. Though the primary focus of this power is upon the gift of speaking in a language they had never learned, but those who spoke it clearly understood what they were saying the promise and power of God also embraces the following:

- The power the apostles had to heal the sick of all kinds of physical and mental illness and all kinds of diseases.
- The inspiration of the Spirit upon the apostle's minds to quicken to them all the words the Lord had spoken.
- Men and woman prophesying and having visions concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Forgiveness of sins and righteousness through faith in Christ and God's grace.
- Deliverance from the power and bondage of the Law to condemn.
- Eternal life by faith and by God's grace.

The Holy Spirit in this context can be seen as God's holy agency that He uses to bring about His promise and that He used to bring His power upon the apostles and also upon those He chooses. For further information see:

- Acts 2 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

JESUS BAPTISES WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **John 1:31-33:** I (John) myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

God filled Jesus with the Holy Spirit without measure meaning without any limitations this is why Jesus was able to do the wonders and miracles that he did. Every brother and sister in Christ have a measure of the Holy Spirit but unlike Jesus it is with limitations. The following verses show that God is able to take a portion of His spirit from one person and place it onto others as He chooses:

- Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD and he gathered seventy men of the elders and placed them around the tent then the LORD came down in the cloud and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it and two men named Eldad and Medad remained in the camp and the Spirit rested on them and so they also prophesied (Num. 11:24-26).

This clearly shows that God is able to pour out His Spirit in varying portions on whoever he chooses. Being baptized with the Holy Spirit in this context means:

- Being baptised into Christ and his Kingdom.
- Being baptised into the truth in contrast to the prideful, hypocritical religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests the Pharisees and scribes) who were ministering from selfish ambition for their own gain.

The Holy Spirit concerning Christ in the context of what John is saying embraces all the fullness of God's Spirit wisdom and power dwelling within Christ in every way. The Holy Spirit concerning faithful believers refers to that portion of God's Spirit, wisdom and power dwelling in the mind and heart.

OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

- **John 7:38-39:** Jesus said: "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Holy Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Many believe Jesus statement, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water, refer to the gift of speaking in other languages as recorded in (Acts 2:1-4). But the statement is directed to whoever believes and to whoever comes to the Lord so it has a much wider application than just those in the upper room and the few they transferred the gift onto by the laying on of hands. The whoever will believe embraces everyone who belongs to Christ it is referring to the spiritual event that takes place in the human heart and mind in that moment when a sinner through repentance and faith is delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13) and the focus of their mind and priority of their life is transformed from desiring the things of this world to desiring the things of God. The reason their heart is filled with rivers of living water is because they know the love of God is toward them and that God imputes righteous to them as a free gift because of their faith in Christ. rivers of living water rise up because they are delivered from the bondage of the law and attaining to righteousness that leads to eternal life by self-effort, works and adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions and delivered in God's Kingdom by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by God's grace. Added to this God's fills the heart and mind of all who have made Christ the King and Lord of their life with His love and with joy and contentment.

For as yet the Spirit had not been given: these words of Jesus words refer to the Holy Spirit (i.e. the spirit of righteousness has not yet been granted because Jesus was not yet glorified). This is referring to Jesus death and resurrection. Christ death and resurrection totally destroyed the need for the old covenant with all its religious laws, ceremonial rites, the need for the Levitical priesthood and the need for the temple Christ's death and resurrection robbed the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) of all their power and religious control they held over the people because no-one needs a human priest to intercede for them since Jesus is the perfect and eternal High Priest for everyone who belongs to him. This is another reason rivers of living water flow out of the heart of those who are united to Christ by faith and love.

Believe: it is interesting to notice Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me (John 7:38) In the last four hundred years the word, believe has undergone a radical change of meaning, so that in modern meaning in some circles of Christianity it is very different from its pre-modern meanings. This is because for many modern Christians believing means believing a set of claims, a set of statements a set of doctrines.

- Believing that God exists.
- Believing that the Bible is the word of God.
- Believing that Jesus is the Son of God born of the Virgin Mary.
- Believing that he died for our sins and that he rose from the dead.
- Believing that he is the only way to salvation.
- Believing that he will come again and so on and so forth.

Obviously, these are all true statements, but intellectually believing in these statements and trusting in them will not save a person, yet this is what many modern Christians think believing means today. Many are taught that providing they intellectually believe and affirming a fixed set of beliefs (i.e., doctrines) to be true they are saved (these doctrines will vary depending on what church a person is in). But, prior to about the year 1600s the word believe had a very different meaning in Christianity as well as popular usage. It did not mean believing statements to be true, but rather the object of belief was always upon a person, not a statement. This is the difference between believing that and believing in. To believe in a person is quite different to intellectually believing a series of statements about that person. In pre-modern English believing meant believing in and thus a relationship of trust, loyalty, and love (i.e. to most to believe meant, to belove). Until about four centuries ago, believing in God and Jesus did not mean I believe that the following statements about God and Jesus are true rather to believe in God and Jesus had the following two primary meanings:

1. To trust in God and Jesus in contrast to trusting in statements about God and Jesus for this would be believing that in contrast to believing in (true biblical faith is to trust in God as known in Jesus).
2. To commit one's allegiance, loyalty and love to God and Jesus.

Believing faith involves, faithfulness, loyalty, allegiance and commitment to God as known in Jesus in contrast to believing statements about God and about Jesus the two are very different, the first leads to a transformed life, the second leads to an emphasis on intellectually believing right statements. The following Scriptures show that the path to eternal life is not through intellectually trusting in a set of doctrines to save us, but through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in him.

- Jesus said, "Whoever *believes in him* may have eternal life, for God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever *believes in him* should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:15-16).

- Whoever *believes in him* is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:18).
- Whoever *believes in the Son* has eternal life. (John 3:36).
- Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; *whoever comes to me* shall not hunger, and *whoever believes in me* shall never thirst. (John 6:35).
- Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life, *I am the bread of life*. (John 6:47).
- Whoever *believes in me*, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' (John 7:38).
- Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. *Whoever believes in me*, though he die, yet shall he live. (John 11:25).
- Jesus cried out and said, "*Whoever believes in me*, believes not in me but in him who sent me. (John 12:44).
- I have come into the world as light, so that *whoever believes in me* may not remain in darkness. (John 12:46).
- The Scripture says, "Everyone who *believes in him* will not be put to shame. (Romans 10:11).
- Everyone who calls on the *name of the Lord* will be saved. (Rom. 10:13).
- As it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and *whoever believes in him* will not be put to shame." (Rom. 9:33).
- For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and *whoever believes in him* will not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:6).
- Whoever *believes in the Son of God* has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. (1 John 5:10).

NOTE: this does not mean that it is wrong to believe in statements about God, Jesus and the Bible (clearly this is right and proper), but believing in statements will not save a person rather the statements are to lead a person to Christ who is the only one who can save anyone to eternal life, it is trusting in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ that saves us not trusting in statements about him. The statements are the guide to lead us to Christ and the manual to show us how to faithfully follow him and teach us his ways and reveal to us the glory of his heavenly Father, the glory of Christs return and the glory of the eternal life and everlasting glory that that God has promised to those who love His Son and faithfully follow him.

THE COMFORTER

- **John 14:16-18:** Jesus told the apostles: I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper (Comforter in KJV), to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus told the apostles that he will send them another comforter; this same comforter in other Scriptures is referred to as the Spirit of truth this title does not suggest a person. I will send you another Helper/Comforter answers, closely to the only promise of the Spirit Jesus made in the Gospels when He said I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. The expression another Helper/Comforter implies that the disciples have already had experience of one who was a Helper/Comforter this we of

course know was Jesus himself, as long as Jesus was with them their strength was reinforced from him. Jesus was saying when he goes the Spirit will take his place there will be another power with the apostles which does for them what Jesus did while he was with them. The presence of the Spirit is Jesus own presence in Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS

- **John 14:26:** Jesus told the apostles: the Helper (Comforter in KJV), the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

In the previous chapter Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem knowing he would be mocked, cruelly tortured and crucified and that after his death and resurrection the chief Priests, Pharisees and scribes would aggressively set about persecuting the newly established church. Jesus is in this verse is preparing his disciples for future events that they will find themselves in because of the Gospel. Christ knows once he has ascended, he will send the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth and bring to remembrance the things that he has told them and to comfort and strengthen them in the face of persecution (this event happened in Acts chapter 2).

NOTE: this does not mean that Christians can sit around in prayer waiting for God to mystically teach them the Scriptures without them having to read them (as some think), but it does mean that while we are reading them and meditating upon them the Holy Spirit by inspiration can bring understanding to our minds. In this context the Holy Spirit refers to the divine inspiration of God upon the mind and to the spiritual strength and comfort that comes to the heart in times of persecution, sorrows, hardships and troubles.

9

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALLOWS THE LOVE OF GOD INTO A BELIEVER'S HEART

- **Romans 5:5:** Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Paul in this verse is saying even though we have to wait for the revealing of the hope the waiting does not put us to shame because God's love fills our hearts while we are patiently waiting for Christ who is our hope to return. The following is one of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures and clearly shows how much Christ loves us, the apostle Paul wrote to the brothers and sisters at Rome:

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ laid down his life that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works. In spite of our sinful aberrations and dysfunctions God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. Paul also wrote, "While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life (Romans 5:10). These are breath-taking statements and should be an overwhelming comfort to every brother and sister of Christ since they carry an astoundingly and perfect example of love and are some of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since they clearly show how much Christ loves us.

Paul in the same letter also wrote the following:

- While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6).

This means that even though we were full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our corrupted earthly bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, envy, jealousies, anger and such like things) Christ died for us he laid down his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works. In spite of our corrupted fallen nature God that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were ungodly and indifferent to God and His ways and in many cases blasphemers. Sadly because of a lack of perceiving this great love God has toward us that these verses (and others like them) shine a spotlight on some in the Christian faith tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes, they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world. When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and spiritually crown and cloth us with a royal and majestic robe of righteous so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

HOPE: when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie (Rom. 8:24). The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

FAITH AND HOPE

The difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. Faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in. faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith. The Holy Spirit in the context of (Rom. 5:5) is that Spirit that brings God's love to our hearts and our minds.

GOD'S LOVE POURED INTO OUR HEARTS

The words, "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit," (v5) mean that God's love is poured into the believer's heart by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and by the knowledge of God that the Bible reveals. Prior to the Bible being in print the knowledge of God was revealed to the prophets and apostles by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Men and woman had to rely on the prophets, priests and religious leaders to learn about God. Those seeking God had to rely on men receiving God's word by inspiration and revelation and then imparting that knowledge.

Today we have access to those same messages and the same knowledge through the written word of God. No one needs prophets today since everything we need to know concerning God and salvation is contained in the Canon of the Bible. The Scriptures are the written inspired Spirit messages of God that came through the prophets, the apostles and Christ himself. They reveal the knowledge and love of God and through this knowledge the Holy Spirit acting on the Spirit words of God and the heart of the faithful believer fills them with God's love. Today it would be right and proper for a brother or sister in Christ to say, "As I read the Bible the love of God is poured into my heart." In this context the Holy Spirit refers to the Spirit and the word of God which impart God's love to the hearts and minds of those who have made the Lord Jesus Christ the King and Lord of their life.

GENTILES, ARE SANCTIFIED, BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Romans 15:15 -16:** But on some points I (Paul) have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Paul here is saying that he has been called to be a minister of Christ to the Gentiles as a priest before God to teach the Gospel to the Gentiles so that whatever they offer to God in praises, worship, teaching, service and such like things would be done in love and grace with the right heart attitude, the right motive and with the right behaviour and with integrity so that whatever they do in Christ's name would be acceptable to the Holy Spirit meaning it would honour God and bring a good testimony to the name of Christ and the Christian Faith. The Holy Spirit in this context embraces the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ since anything that is acceptable to the Holy Spirit will also be acceptable to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and anything that is offensive to the Holy Spirit would also be offensive to Jesus and his heavenly Father.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES AND GIVES UNDERSTANDING

- **1 Corinthians 2:12-13:** Now we have received not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom, but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

Paul says that he and the apostles and by extension all who believe in Christ have received, the Spirit who is from God, that they might understand the things freely given to them by God. The Spirit from God in this context refers to the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ which is that Spirit within us that desires to honour God and the name of Christ and that opens our eyes to the things of God and the word of God. The apostles received the Gospel of God from Jesus himself, before and after his resurrection and when the Holy Spirit fell upon them in the upper room. Paul received the Gospel by the Spirit when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Today we receive the same Spirit of God and the same Gospel through the written words of Jesus. In this context the Holy Spirit is that influence on the mind that quickens the written words of Christ to those with a right heart attitude and gives them understanding concerning the way to God and the path to Salvation and eternal life.

THE BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **1 Corinthians 6:19:** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit because it is our mind and our heart that the Spirit, the word and the love of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ dwell and because of this we should not live to satisfy our pride and our ego, but live to honour the Spirit of God and the Lord Jesus Christ dwelling within. The Holy Spirit in this context refers to everything concerning God that spiritually dwells within our minds and our hearts.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SCRIPTURE

- **2 Timothy 3:16:** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

All Scripture is breathed out or spoken by God or God's Spirit, therefore speaking with or by the Spirit is speaking God's word. In the mind of New Testament writers any passage of Scripture was seen as being spoken by God.

Mark wrote:

- David himself, in the Holy Spirit declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" (Mark 12:36).

When David spoke Scripture, it is spoken of as the Holy Spirit speaking through him.

The author of Hebrews wrote:

- Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice" (Heb. 3:7).

Moses spoke this, but the writer of Hebrews says, the Holy Spirit said it.

Paul wrote:

- The Sovereign Lord who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage and peoples plot in vain?" (Acts 4:25).

In this verse Paul says the Sovereign LORD spoke by the Holy Spirit through David. What Scripture states, is really what God has spoken or said. This is true irrespective of whether or not in the particular passage that cited the words are ascribe to God, or are the statements of the human author. The Holy Spirit used the writers of Scripture, to pass through them the message that God wished to communicate to man. Speaking in the Spirit or by the Holy Spirit denotes: -

- Speaking God's truth.
- Speaking what God says.
- Speaking from God's viewpoint as opposed to speaking from our own natural mind or the world's viewpoint.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is not a person, existing independently of God it is a way of speaking about God personally acting in history and of speaking of the risen Christ personally acting in the life and the witness of the faithful church and the faithful believer. The New Testament and apostolic thought generally present the Holy Spirit as the wisdom, nature, character and power of God acting or imparting that part of His nature to His people, enabling them to achieve or accomplish His plans and purposes for history, or the believer's own personal life.

Nowhere in the New Testament is the Holy Spirit represented as having an independent personality to God Himself.

THE ILLUMINATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Biblical knowledge needs to be complemented by an interior illumination of or by the Holy Spirit in order to make that which a person has learned really become God's living revealing word in the heart and mind of the believer. This is generally referred to as the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the most common ways Christian's grieve the Holy Spirit of God is to fall back under the law and trust in self-effort, good deeds or adhering to ceremonial practices, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to earn or maintain salvation. Some of these things may be good in themselves, but if a person is trusting in them for salvation or for maintaining their salvation, they are grieving the Holy Spirit, because they are denying the saving grace that comes as a pure gift through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Added to this when we trust in anything other than Christ and God's grace, we not only nullify what Christ achieved for us on the cross, but we also make his brutal, bloody and cruel death count for nothing.

Bible House of Grace