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**Spiritual  
Explanations  
and  
Definitions.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn the Bible at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Spiritual Explanations and Definitions.

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### Topics.

- The Holy Spirit, God's power and Mary.
- God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.
- You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if God's Spirit dwells in you.
- Through sin the body is dead, through righteousness the Spirit is life.
- Being led by the Spirit, living by the Spirit and renewed in the Spirit.
- May you be kept blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and a sound mind.
- Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits.
- The Spirit and truth and the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.
- The human Spirit, the New-Spirit and the flesh.
- In the Spirit, setting the mind on the Spirit and shown by the Spirit.
- The conscience and the Holy Spirit.

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### THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD'S POWER AND MARY

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- **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.

It was the Holy Spirit that caused Mary's conception which means if the Holy Spirit is a distinct personality and separate entity and person to God Himself as many believe he would have been called the Father of Jesus, rather than God, added to this if Jesus was God (as some believe) and Mary was his mother, then calling "Mary the mother of God" would be a correct and true statement. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit and power of God it is called Holy because God is Holy it is God's enabling power and God's agency that flows from God and works in the world and through history to bring about God's eternal plans and purposes for the earth, for nations and for the individual.

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### GOD GIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM

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- **Luke 11:13:** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

The Holy Spirit in this context refers to the righteousness that leads to salvation and eternal life. In the context of this verse Jesus is saying that God will give the gift of righteousness that leads to eternal life to whoever from their heart desire to know God and with a right heart attitude are doing all they can that is within their power to find him. The gift of the Holy Spirit in this context embraces forgiveness of sin, the gift of eternal salvation and the gift of righteousness that God imputes as a pure a free gift to those who have faith in his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### THE SPIRIT AND LYING

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- **Acts 5:3-4:** Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup>While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

These Scriptures equate lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God. The Holy Spirit here refers to the power and authority invested by God in Peter. Those who lie to apostles speaking in the name of God and by His Spirit are rightly said to lie to the Spirit and to God. This principle applies to whoever lies or deliberately harms a faithful brother and sister in Christ in any way it is the same as if they are doing it to the Lord himself.

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## **YOU ARE NOT IN THE FLESH, BUT IN THE SPIRIT, IF GOD'S SPIRIT DWELLS IN YOU**

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- **Romans 8:9:** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

This means that those who are trusting in Christ for their righteousness are not in the flesh meaning they are not walking according to their own natural thinking, but are in the Spirit because of their faith and it is by this faith that the Spirit of God and of Christ (righteousness) dwells in them therefore the words, "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him," refers to those who instead of trusting in Christ for their righteousness are either trusting in their own self-efforts or trusting in the fact they strictly adhere to ceremonial rites and holy days and faithfully keep religious customs and traditions. The moment a Christian begins to trust in their own good works is the moment they nullify everything Christ achieved for them on the cross. If anyone of us could attain to the perfect demands of the law and to God's perfect Holiness and live a life free from sin Christ died for no reason. Jesus didn't lay his life down to a brutal bloody and cruel death so that we could attain to a sin free life this side of his return, but because we couldn't.

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## **THROUGH SIN THE BODY IS DEAD THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS THE SPIRIT IS LIFE**

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- **Romans 8:10:** But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

This means that those who are trusting in Christ for their righteousness even though their body is decaying and doomed to mortal death, they will be raised to eternal life because of the righteousness God freely imputes to them because of their faith in His Son. Notice Paul often uses the word 'if' in his letters; this no-doubt is because he is writing to Jewish brothers and obviously would not know who amongst them is trusting in Moses law and circumcision etc., for their righteousness and who is fully submitted in faith to the law of righteousness that comes by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ this is the reason Paul uses the word 'if' so often.

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## **GOD WILL GIVE LIFE TO YOUR BODIES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT**

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- **Romans 8:11:** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

This means whoever is trusting in Christ for their righteousness has God's Spirit dwelling in them and therefore just as God raised Christ from the dead to everlasting life and eternal glory God will also raise those who are by faith in Christ. This is the glory, the splendour and royal majesty of the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's simple and

magnificent plan of salvation puts every man and woman on a level playing field, since eternal life is not dependent on whether we are born a direct descendant of Abraham, a Hebrew, Jew or of any other nation or whether we are rich or poor, successful in this life or bankrupt, whether we live in beautiful homes or are a beggar on the street, we all have to come to God in the same way which of course is through humble repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other path to attain to righteousness that leads to everlasting life and eternal glory. Whoever walks with the Lord on this royal and golden path of faith God will raise to eternal life.

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## THE CONSCIENCE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

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- **Romans 9:1:** I (Paul) am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit.

God works through conscience; the conscience can be suppressed. Paul is saying his conscience is not polluted or deceived, it is not defiled, he knows his conscience is clear before God and that it is in harmony with God. It is because of this that Paul is able to say, that his conscience is bearing him witness in the Holy Spirit. This means that if Paul had to present his conscience before the holiness of God it would be clear. If Paul's conscience was in guilt before God, or not in harmony with God then Paul would not be able to make such a claim.

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## BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

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- **Galatians 5:18:** But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.

Being led by the Spirit is to be led by love (i.e., compassion, kindness, justice, mercy, grace, forgiveness and such like things). Whoever lives their life in love is not under the law because love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:10). The Spirit underpinning the six commandments of the law concerning mankind is love because each law concerning mankind protects the innocent from harm.

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## LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

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

The term, "Living by the Spirit is dealing with faith it is about living in faith believing and knowing God's favour and His grace is toward you and having a mind and consciousness that dwells in God's word and His eternal promises of hope and glory believing you are righteous in Christ before God and will be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. Living in the Spirit begins with a sinner hearing God's word then receiving and believing it. They are delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13). Their life is not only transformed and the eyes of their mind spiritually opened to God, but they also have new spiritual life and a new desire and a new passion toward God. If they starve that life, the passion and desire become very weak and may even die. If they continue to follow Christ and read his word and understand its truths, God's Grace and Christ's love then embrace those truths then that new life continues to grow within and will be outwardly manifested in a character of honesty and integrity, love and compassion. The strength and power of desire and passion produced in the heart to live a life that honours God is in direct proportion to the extent a believer embraces and believes the words of Christ. Obviously if those who confess to believe in Christ are only concerned with eternal life they will put very little thought and value upon actually living a life to honour God, in

contrast to this the highest goal of those who know God and the love of Christ is not only to live a life that honours the Lord, but also live as his humble servant. Just as the human body needs food to survive so too does the spiritual body, without feeding the Spirit with the word of God through reading the Bible, reading Christian books or listening to Christian tapes etc., and by fellowshiping with Christian friends it is very likely the Spirit will slowly weaken and in worst case scenario's die altogether meaning the believer forsakes their faith and turns from the Lord because they have starved the Spirit of God dwelling within. Walking by the Spirit is about character it is endeavouring to live as Christ lived and walking in the fruits of the Spirit (love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness etc.).

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## RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT

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- **Ephesians 4:23:** to be renewed in the Spirit of your minds.

Prior to being delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of Gods most beloved Son (Col 1:13) the focus of our mind was upon the things of this world and the things that would gratify self, ego and pride, being renewed in the Spirit of our minds means filling our minds and setting our thoughts upon the things of God and the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness etc.). Being renewed in the Spirit of the mind means putting off our old-self which belongs to our former manner of life and putting on the new-self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:22-23). This means setting the mind upon living in a manner that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Renewing the Spirit of our mind means determining to walk in a manner worthy of Christ with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love and being eager to maintain as much as it is in our power the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:2-3). It means the primary focus of our mind is set upon attaining to spiritual maturity to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:15). It carries the idea that the fixed desire and passion of our mind is set upon the goal to no longer live to gratify self, ego and pride as we once did, but is determined to grow up in every way into Christ who is the head of our life (Eph. 4:16).

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## DO NOT GET DRUNK WITH WINE, BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

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- **Ephesians 5:18-19:** do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**Debauchery:** carries the idea of self-indulgence, immorality and shamelessness.

The three main fruits of the Spirit are love joy and peace. The context of these verses is joy and being merry in the heart. This means that being filled with the Spirit in this context is about being filled with the joy of the Lord. It is about making melody (or being merry) in the heart and mind to the Lord by singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. There are some groups in the global Christian faith that claim it is wrong to express emotion in worship and praise because it is very easy for a false teacher to deceive his followers while they are in a state of exalted joyful worship, but the fault here is not the worship, but the false teacher. Certainly, it is wrong to assume a teacher is teaching truth simply because the worship and praise service maybe wonderful. Teaching and doctrines have to be checked against Scripture not songs and music or the emotions a believer may feel. This is because praise and worship arise from the hearts of a multitude of believers who love the Lord and God by the Holy Spirit inhabits the praises of His people so naturally those worshipping will

experience good emotions of joy and sometimes of conviction, repentance and godly sorrow, but even this is joy. But as wonderful as this maybe it is no guarantee that everything being taught is absolute truth. God does not want us to deny emotions of repentance and overwhelming joy, but he does want us to discern the spirits of those who are in authority and examine what they teach and not just assume because they are a gifted speaker or because we have wonderful worship and praise services that what they teach is what the prophets, the apostles and Christ himself taught.

**NOTICE:** Paul does not say, do not drink at all, but do not drink to excess, drinking alcohol is not a sin, but excessive drinking is dangerous and can lead to sin. Paul is simply saying don't drink excessive alcohol to be merry, but rather be merry in the Lord. (Even the secular world understand that excessive drinking weakens the will and leads to lose morals and often violence and results in behaviour that is often regretted when the drunken mind returns to its sober state thus the reason the Bible warns against excessive drinking.

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## DISREGARDING RIGHTEOUSNESS IS DISREGARDING NOT MAN BUT GOD

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- **1 Thessalonians 4:8:** Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

This verse is in the context of Paul telling brothers and sisters in Christ that they should live a life that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, because God has called us to live a life of righteousness (meaning doing what is just, fair, good, decent and right) and whoever disregards this instruction is not simply disregarding man's laws, but disregarding God who has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in this context refers to that Spirit within the heart and mind that desires to live a righteous life before God. When we outwardly deny this Spirit within, we are denying God because it is His Spirit that gives us this holy desire.

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## MAY YOU BE KEPT BLAMELESS AT THE COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

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- **1 Thessalonians 5:23:** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole Spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To be kept blameless does not mean to be without sin, if it was possible for anyone of us to achieve this glorious state while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose. Rather the words to be blameless carry the idea of living a lifestyle that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It means, forsaking those things that are against God's will and forsaking behaviour that could be harmful to another human physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally, mentally or spiritually and instead of being led by self, ego, pride, lust and greed being filled with the fruits of the Spirit, (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness, patience, grace and mercy and such like things). To be blameless also embraces the idea that we trust solely in our faith in Christ and God's grace for our righteousness, contrasted to trusting in self-effort and adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions it is about crowning our biblical knowledge in the royal robes of love and grace contrasted to being harsh, dogmatic and legalistic and doing as much as is in our power to maintain the unity of the faith in contrast to causing divisions, arguments, contentions and strife. It means confessing our sin before the Lord, repenting when we have offended God or hurt another person especially a brother or sister in the Lord and putting things right were possible when a wrong has been done.

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## GOD GAVE US A SPIRIT NOT OF FEAR BUT OF POWER AND A SOUND MIND

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- **2 Timothy 1:7:** for God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (a sound mind in the KJV).

The power of God in this context is love. The love of a sweetheart, a wife and children make the most timid bold when those they love are threatened or attacked. Likewise, it is the love of Christ and love of a dying world to see them saved to eternal life that dispels the fear of persecution and suffering in those who are devoted to the Lord in love and desire to see the lost saved. It is because of this love they overcome their own fears even unto death. The Holy Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of love.

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## DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TEST THE SPIRITS

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- **1 John 4:1:** Beloved, do not believe every Spirit but test the Spirits to see whether they are from God for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

The spirits in this verse not only refers to the deceptive heart attitude of the false teachers, but also to their false teachings. Jesus, Paul and Peter warn against false teachers who will be in the ministry for their own selfish ambition and greed, they distort and twist the Scriptures to their advantage and use those who sit under their ministry as merchandise not only to gain worldly riches and wealth, but to exalt their own pride and ego by the importance and fame they receive. These teachers are the most dangerous because they cleverly use the Bible and the Scriptures howbeit out of context, distorted and twisted so that their messages sound biblical while at the same time appeal to self, pride and ego and in this manner, they often become very successful in the world, but not before God.

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## EVERY SPIRIT THAT DOES NOT CONFESS JESUS IS NOT FROM GOD

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- **1 John 4:2-3:** By this you know the Spirit of God: every Spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,<sup>3</sup> and every Spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the Spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

**NOTICE:** this spirit of the antichrist was already in the world at the time of John.

The word spirit in these verses refers to the human spirit of true believers and the human spirit of antichrists and false teachers. Those who are of the Spirit of God; believe that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh meaning he came into the world through the birth of a woman and was born a human man, in contrast to this those who are not of the Spirit of God deny that Christ came into the world through a natural birth and deny that he is the Son of God.

**NOTE:** this does not mean that we have to believe that Jesus pre-existed with God from the foundations of the world as a Spirit Son and then become a foetus in the womb of Mary as many believe today. Certainly, Jesus was in the eternal mind of God from the beginning in that he was the central focus of Gods eternal plan of salvation for mankind. Christ was with God from the beginning in the same way as a woman who begins to plan having a baby sees the baby in her mind long before it is even conceived. The baby is not only very real in the mother's mind long before the baby is born, but she will prepare a room and make plans for its arrival, its well-being and its future. It is in this same sense that Jesus was with

God from the beginning; he was the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His plans, purposes and promises for mankind's eternal salvation. Much like an architect who designs a majestic building fit for a royal family, the entire structure and all its beauty and glory is fully completed in his mind long before the builders are even on the site upon which the structure is to be built. This is why the prophets of the Old Testament were able to speak of the coming of Israel's Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world long before he appeared, because God by his Spirit imparted to their minds the eternal plan he had purposed in his eternal mind from the beginning and inspired them to impart this eternal plan to the people of Israel. Since many do believe that Jesus is actually God and pre-existed with God the following may help and comfort those who are confused. It is interesting to notice that there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states we must believe that Jesus is God to be saved whereas in contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures that clearly state:

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

Whereas there is not one verse that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God, Christ would have told the apostles at least once in his discourses with them and in his messages of salvation, but all we find in the Scriptures is Jesus and the apostles proclaiming that people must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved. Jesus 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).

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## WHOEVER KNOWS GOD LISTENS TO THE APOSTLES

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- **1 John 4:6:** We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us (the apostles) whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of error.

Those who believe the teachings of the apostles not only belong to the Spirit of God's truth, but also become a citizen of his heavenly Kingdom. In contrast to this, religions and those who do not believe the messages of the apostles remain in error and also remain as a citizen of this world. The spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of truth dwelling in those who belong to God's Kingdom and the spirit of error dwelling in those who belong to this world.

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## THE SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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The English Standard Bible says:

- **1 John 5:6-7:** This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify.

The King James Bible says:

- This is he that came by water and blood even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit and these three are one (1 John 5:6-7).

In this verse John speaks of the Spirit as a third person and as the Spirit that witnesses because it is itself the Spirit of truth in our minds.

**Who came by water:** refers to Jesus water baptism upon which he began his ministry.

**Who came by blood:** refers to his death which sealed the new covenant in blood.

**The Spirit is the one who testifies:** refers to the voice of God the Father the Majestic Glory who said from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." God also said this at Jesus water baptism and at the Mount of transfiguration (Matt. 3:17) (Matt. 17:5) (Mark 1:11) (2 Peter 1:17). The King James Bible adds the words: "The father, the word and the Holy Spirit and these three are one. This does not mean that God the Father, the word and the Holy Spirit are all one person. The words, "The Father, the word and the Holy Spirit and these three are one" simply means all three:

- Are in perfect love and unity with each other.
- Have the same purpose, goal, plans, objective and motive.
- Are motivated and inspired from the same divine and eternal mind.

The words these three bear record, mean that the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit are all in perfect agreement with each other and the reason the words Jesus spoke testify of him is because what he spoke came to pass in his life and is death and his resurrection and the reason, the Spirit testifies of Jesus is because he lived a sinless life and demonstrated God's Spirit in love and power (miracles).

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## THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

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- **Revelation 19:10:** Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.

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The testimony of Jesus refers to everything Jesus spoke, did and claimed to be, holding to the testimony of Jesus carries the idea of believing everything about Jesus and believing all that he spoke. The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy for the following two reasons:

1. Jesus is the perfect and glorious manifestation of Gods will, purpose, plans and promises that he purposed and planed in his eternal mind before the foundations of the world.
2. It is by prophecy and faith that we believe Jesus will return in glory to fulfil God's eternal, majestic and royal plan for this world and for mankind.

The Spirit in this context refers to the Spirit of prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

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## BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

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**The Spirit and the flesh:** the mind, the thoughts, the will and the spirit viewed as a collective whole is a person's essence, meaning the core of who they are. In the Bible the higher nature within a man or woman that leans toward good is referred to as the Spirit of that person while the lower nature that is controlled by self, pride, ego and greed etc., is referred to as the flesh (or the old self). Since humans have been separated from God, all things are in a state of deterioration mankind is destined for death and creation is decaying and humans have to struggle to survive. Because of this struggle the flesh (self, pride, ego and greed) are the primary forces that control the human mind and heart (to lesser

or greater degree, depending on the person). The motive and actions of the flesh is the exact opposite of the motive and actions of the Spirit. Self is the focus of the flesh while the Spirit thinks of and considers others, when a person accepts Christ his Spirit through love influences their spirit to put to death the flesh.

**The new-spirit:** (the new-self) is created in the likeness of God it desires righteousness and holiness it puts away falsehood, speaks the truth and joins itself to others who belong to Christ. The new-spirit shares with anyone in need and only speaks good or edifying things that will build others up and encourage them. It does an honest day's work and is kind tender hearted and always prepared to forgive another (Ephes. 4:24-29, 32).

**The new-spirit does not:**

- Give any opportunity to wickedness, stealing bitterness wrath, slander malice or demand its own way.
- Sin when it feels the emotion of anger or speak corrupting talk.
- Live a lifestyle of sin and wrong doing.
- Rely on others for financial support, but does an honest day's work when it is able to do so.
- Grieve the Holy Spirit of God (i.e., does not do anything that brings dishonour and discredit to God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith) (Eph. 4:25-31).

**The new-spirit:**

- Speaks the truth and joins itself to others who belong to Christ.
- Helps and shares with anyone in need when it is in its power to do so.
- Only speaks good and edifying things that build others up.
- Is kind to others, tender hearted and always prepared to forgive those who offend (Ephes. 4:24-32).

The new-spirit is created after the likeness of God, in true righteousness and holiness, meaning it is without hypocrisy or pretence, it does not pretend to be something it is not and is honest in all it does and says (Ephesians 4:24).

**The flesh:** (the old spirit or old-self) is the opposite of everything the new-spirit is. The flesh embraces everything that is devoid of God and against His laws and the law of love. The flesh not only has no desire to follow God, but is actually hostile toward Christ and toward those who follow Christ. This is because the flesh is driven by self, ego and pride, but it does not mean that every man and woman on planet earth who is separated from God is hostile toward the Lord Jesus Christ and hostile toward those who follow him. The human heart is made up of varying degrees of the Spirit (i.e., humbleness, love and compassion etc.,) and varying degrees of the flesh (self, ego and pride etc.,) the degree that the Spirit or the flesh is ruling in a person's heart and mind will determine the degree of hostility toward Christ and those who following him.

Certainly, all who are without Christ are separated from God, but that does not mean that they are all hostile to God or to Christ. It may simply mean that many who do have a good heart have not yet heard the Gospel of God's love and grace in Christ or that they have been raised in religious legalistic controlling religions and turned away or been abused by false religious teachers etc., or that they simply have a wrong understanding of what true Christianity really is. It is interesting to notice in the New Testament during the time of Christ the most aggressively hostile people

toward the Lord Jesus Christ and his followers were the religious leaders of Jesus generation the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who served in God's temple and not the common people of the towns and villages and they accepted him.

**In the Spirit:** being in the Spirit carries the following two ideas, firstly, being controlled by the Spirit of God's love, meaning being controlled by kindness, longsuffering, patience, grace, mercy and forgiveness contrasted with being controlled by the flesh selfishness, impatience, unforgiveness, legalism and being judgmental and condemning and secondly, being in the Spirit of God's empowering presence that enables a person to enjoy fellowship with God and with Christ.

**Setting the mind on the Spirit:** setting the mind on the Spirit is to be focused on the things of God and upon the Lord Jesus Christ it is making Christ our best thought and setting our mind, will and heart upon following him. It is about having a mind that desires to please God and being mentally focused on the things of God. It is to set the mind on manifesting the fruits of the Spirit and endeavouring to live as Christ lived showing love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness to others and setting our mind on honouring God and bringing a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ in whatever we say and do.

**Shown by the Spirit:** the words shown by the Spirit is in the context of Paul intending to take the Gospel to certain towns and countries, but he said that he was shown by the Holy Spirit not to go, shown by the Holy Spirit in this context can refer to the collective attitude of a group of people, a crowd, or a nation. It can be likened to the secular world saying:

- The spirit of Australia showed me I had to love sport to be a true Australian, here the spirit is a term given to the collective attitude of the people of a nation.
- The spirit of the party said, if I don't drink and dance, they will think me square and snobbish. Here the unspoken voice of the spirit refers to the collective attitude of the mind and thinking of people at the party.
- The spirit of Christianity accepts most people this does not mean that there is a spirit named Christianity. The term applies to the collective spirit or attitude of all Christians.

Shown by the Holy Spirit can in some contexts mean that the Holy Spirit dwelling within a believer discerns the collective spirit (attitude) of a crowd, group or nation, if it discerns that it is one of hostility toward Christ it will warn accordingly, but if one of acceptance it will most likely say go hither. The results (good or bad) that the Gospel has had on a collective group of people can be spoken of as the attitude of the crowd or the spirit of the people. The following are simple examples of the spirit of a group:

- The purpose of the school is to give people as much opportunity as they can to succeed in life here the collective spirit of the school is education, help and encouragement.
- The purpose of a church is to witness, worship and fellowship here the collective spirit of the church is to honour and please God.

If the collective spirit of a crowd, group or nation is a righteous one it can be spoken of as the Holy Spirit of the crowd (this is especially true in worship). If the collective spirit of the people is hostile toward Christ then it would of course be spoken of as the evil spirit of the crowd. In Paul's case the result of preaching the Gospel was tribulation and persecution that is why Paul was able to say, the Holy Spirit (the collective spirit or attitude of the people that heard God's Holy Word) witnesses (shows Paul) in every city affliction await him (Acts 20:23).

In the New Testament all the things mentioned in the following lists are spoken of as being spirits:

- God's Spirit, Jesus Spirit and the Holy Spirit.

- God's word, eternal life, the Gospel, God's gifts and prophecy.
- Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God and of Christ.
- Mortal life, truth, humbleness, love (i.e., compassion, kindness, mercy grace and forgiveness etc.).
- Joy, meekness gentleness, modesty and an enthusiastic, passionate zealousness for the Lord.

These are all spoken of as spirits, added to this the following things are also spoken of as spirits:

- Every form of crippling disease and illness (physical or mental)
- Blindness and deafness, rebellion disobedience, divination (predicting and foretelling the future).
- Soothsaying (i.e., telling people future things they like to hear for the gain of money)
- Every form of deception and false teachers and their distorted and twisted teachings.

These are all spoken of as spirits in the New Testament.

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Bible House of Grace