



Study Guide

EXPLORING THE HOLY SPIRIT

secret  church

www.secretchurch.org

Program Notes

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

6:00 p.m.	Musical Worship
6:20 p.m.	Teaching Segment 1
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:35 p.m.	Teaching Segment 2
8:35 p.m.	Area Highlight
8:55 p.m.	Giving Report/Offering
9:05 p.m.	Break
9:20 p.m.	Teaching Segment 3
10:20 p.m.	Prayer
10:40 p.m.	Break
10:55 p.m.	Teaching Segment 4
11:55 p.m.	Musical Worship
12:00 a.m.	Dismiss

BOTTLED WATER ONLY is allowed in the Worship Room. Please do not bring food or other types of beverages into the Worship Room. Beverages will be available in the lobby for attendees during the break time.

RESTROOMS are located in the lobby. Additional men's and women's restrooms are located in the Modular Building area outside the lobby to the right as you exit.

SO AS NOT TO DISTRACT FROM THE STUDY, please turn all cell phones and pagers to the "silent" or "off" position while in the Worship Room. We realize many parents need to keep in touch with baby sitters, but if you must use your phone during the evening, please go into the lobby before calling.

BIBLES are available free of charge in the lobby. If you do not have your personal Bible, please keep the Bible you receive as our gift. David will be teaching from the New International Version (NIV).

SECRET CHURCH RESOURCES are available for purchase in the lobby before and after the sessions and during each break. Following this evening's teaching, a four-CD audio set of the sessions will be available for purchase for \$29. A two-DVD set of videos of the sessions will be available for \$39 in the coming weeks.

ONLINE RESOURCES, including free MP3 audio downloads of the teaching sessions, Quicktime (MOV) videos of the teaching sessions, study and prayer guides in Portable Document Format (PDF) and links to persecuted church resources are available at the Secret Church web site, www.secretchurch.org.

Beyond These Walls...

We're glad you've decided to attend tonight's Secret Church meeting. But even if nobody showed up, it would still be worth the effort. Actually, this Bible study will hopefully benefit far more people outside this room than those present. Here's why...

Tonight we will be recording the teaching sessions and, in the coming months, these sessions will be transcribed and translated into many different languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Arabic. The foreign-language versions of Secret Church will be available online as translations are completed. But that is just the beginning.

Most Christ-followers around the world don't have access to seminaries or Bible colleges. In fact, most parts of the world have no formal Christian teaching at all. Dr. Platt will be leading additional Secret Church studies, creating thirty to forty hours of Bible teaching on the Old and New Testaments, Covenants, Disciple-Making, Bible Study and Teaching and other topics. We will then load all Secret Church teachings onto iPods® for distribution worldwide. These sessions together will comprise a "seminary on a stick"—a mini-course in solid Bible knowledge accessible to anyone.

During the evening we will be taking an offering. All proceeds will directly support persecuted Christians worldwide through both ongoing ministry initiatives, as well as providing Secret Church Bible teaching materials in many native languages. Imagine a house-church leader in Asia or the Middle East, now able to attend hours of Bible teaching classes as he plugs in a video iPod® with Secret Church teaching in his own language. With your help, this is becoming a reality.

EXPLORING THE HOLY SPIRIT

ONE OVER-ARCHING QUESTION...

Are we dependent on ourselves or are we desperate for His Spirit?

Four Reasons Why We Must Be Desperate For His Spirit...

- We have an assignment we cannot fulfill.
- We have a privilege we cannot forsake.
- We have a family we cannot forget.
- We have a God we cannot fathom.

Four Prayers For Our Time Together Tonight...

"When God has something very great to accomplish for His church, it is His will that there should precede it, the extraordinary prayers of His people."

Jonathan Edwards

- May God's presence come down.
- May God's Word come home.
 - ▶ May we receive His Word.
 - ▶ May we reproduce His Word.
- May God's holiness come through.
- May God's people come alive.

Four Facets Of Our Study...

- The Holy Spirit: Mystery and History
- The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - ▶ Who He is.
- The Work of the Holy Spirit
 - ▶ What He does.
- The Holy Spirit: Significant Issues
 - ▶ Blasphemy against the Spirit.
 - ▶ Baptized in the Spirit.
 - ▶ Filled with the Spirit.
 - ▶ Gifted by the Spirit.
 - ✦ What about prophecy?
 - ✦ What about tongues?
 - ✦ What about healing?

THE HOLY SPIRIT: MYSTERY AND HISTORY

"To profess to know a great deal about the Spirit of God is contrary to the nature of the Spirit of God. There is a hiddenness to the Spirit that cannot be uncovered. There is an immediacy of the Spirit that cannot be shoved into vision. There is an invisibility of the Spirit that cannot be forced into visibility. There is a reticence of the Spirit that cannot be converted into openness. For these reasons one feels helpless, inadequate, and unworthy to write a line about the Spirit."

Bernard Ramm

The Mystery Of Exploring The Holy Spirit...

- The Spirit is intangible.
- The Spirit is inexhaustible.
- The Spirit is knowable.
- The Spirit is personal.
- The Spirit is experiential.
- The Spirit is essential.
- The Spirit is controversial.

The History Of Exploring The Holy Spirit...

The Patristic Era...

- Gnosticism
 - ▶ The Holy Spirit is the "mother" of Jesus and others.
- Montanism
 - ▶ Montanus and his followers were "mouthpieces" of the Spirit.

The Medieval Era...

- Schism
 - ▶ Does the Spirit proceed from the Father and the Son?

The Reformation Era...

- Calvinism
 - ▶ The Spirit gives us confidence in the inspiration of Scripture and is involved in every facet of salvation.
- Puritanism
 - ▶ Progressive sanctification involves the mortification of sin and growth in godliness.

The Modern Era...

- Scholasticism
 - ▶ The study of the Spirit is secondary to other doctrines.
- Arminianism
 - ▶ Decreased emphasis on the sovereignty of the Spirit.
- Perfectionism
 - ▶ Believers can experience complete sanctification in this life.
- Revivalism
 - ▶ Transitioned from focus on the Spirit's role in regeneration to man's role in regeneration.
- Rationalism
 - ▶ Human reason is the supreme standard; therefore, the spiritual is not authoritative.
- Romanticism
 - ▶ Emphasized feeling and emotion to the neglect of doctrine and truth.
- Liberalism
 - ▶ Questioned the inerrancy and inspiration of Scripture.
- Pentecostalism
 - ▶ Started with Asuza Street Meetings in Los Angeles in 1906.
 - ▶ Major teachings:
 - ✦ Baptism in the Holy Spirit is subsequent to conversion.
 - ✦ Speaking in tongues is evidence of baptism in the Spirit.
 - ✦ All the spiritual gifts in the New Testament are to be sought and used today.
- Miscellaneous Movements
 - ▶ Charismatic Movement
 - ✦ Affirms the availability and use of all the New Testament spiritual gifts in the church today.
 - ▶ Third Wave Movement
 - ✦ In addition to affirming all the New Testament gifts, emphasizes signs, wonders, and miracles which accompany evangelism.

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: WHO HE IS

Uses of "SPIRIT" in Scripture...

- A natural use - "wind."
- An angelic use - "an evil spirit."
- Human life - "breath" or "spirit."
- Human attitude - "a spirit of love."
- A divine use - "The Spirit of God" or "The Holy Spirit."
 - ▶ Sometimes a reference to the divine attribute - "God is spirit."

The Holy Spirit's Personality...

- The Spirit is not a force.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.
(Luke 4:14 NIV)

You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.
(Acts 10:37-38 NIV)

- The Spirit is not a feeling.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
(John 14:26 NIV)

- The Spirit is a person.

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
(Acts 13:2 NIV)

- ▶ He has personal characteristics.

Intelligence...

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
(John 14:26 NIV)

Will...

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

(1 Corinthians 12:11 NIV)

Emotions...

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

(Ephesians 4:30 NIV)

- ▶ He has personal affections.

He can be lied to...

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

(Acts 5:3-4 NIV)

He can be grieved...

Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

(Isaiah 63:10 NIV)

He can be quenched...

Do not put out the Spirit's fire...

(1 Thessalonians 5:19 NIV)

He can be resisted...

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"

(Acts 7:51 NIV)

He can be blasphemed...

"And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."

(Matthew 12:31 NIV)

- ▶ He has a personal ministry.

He leads us...

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
(Romans 8:14 NIV)

He witnesses to us...

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
(Romans 8:16 NIV)

He helps us...

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.
(Romans 8:26 NIV)

The Holy Spirit's Deity...

“As to the Holy Spirit, if he is not fully God, the implications for salvation are again serious. Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit regenerates believers and indwells and fills them, but if the Holy Spirit is a lesser God or no God at all, how can we be sure that he can do any of these things? Moreover, unless he is coequal in being and purpose with the Father and the Son, what guarantees that even if he tried to do such things, the Father and the Son would recognize his actions as appropriate and relate to us accordingly?”

John Feinberg

- He is equated with God.

- ▶ To lie to the Spirit is to lie to God.

*Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing?
You have not lied to men but to God.”*
(Acts 5:3-4 NIV)

- ▶ The temple of God is the temple of the Spirit.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
(1 Corinthians 3:16 NIV)

- He is identified with God.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

- He is linked with God.

And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

(Exodus 17:7 NIV)

So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did."

(Hebrews 3:7-9 NIV)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving'"

(Isaiah 6:8-9 NIV)

They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: " 'Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."

(Acts 28:25-26 NIV)

"The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

(Jeremiah 31:31-34 NIV)

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

(Hebrews 10:15-17 NIV)

- He possesses the attributes of God.

- ▶ He is omnipresent.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

(Psalm 139:7-10 NIV)

- ▶ He is omniscient.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:10-11 NIV)

- ▶ He is omnipotent.

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

(Luke 1:35 NIV)

- ▶ He is eternal.

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

(Hebrews 9:14 NIV)

- He performs the works of God.

- ▶ He distributes God's gifts.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

(1 Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV)

- ▶ He brings God's salvation.

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

(Titus 3:5 NIV)

- ▶ He inspires God's Word.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:16 NIV)

- What about Islam?

- ▶ Islam denies the Trinity.

"People of the Book [Christians], do not transgress the bounds of your religion. Speak nothing but the truth about Allah. The Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, was no more than Allah's apostle and His Word which he cast to Mary: a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His apostles and do not say: 'Three.' ...Allah is but one God.

Allah forbids that He should have a son!"

Sura 4:171, 383-384

- ▶ Islam dethrones the Spirit.

"We sent to her [Mary] our ruuh [angel Gabriel], and he appeared before her in the form of a man..."

Sura 19:17-19

The Holy Spirit's Humility...

- The Spirit is equal in essence.
- The Spirit is subordinate in function.
- ▶ He assists the Father.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

(Genesis 1:2 NIV)

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

(Psalm 33:6 NIV)

- ▶ He exalts the Son.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”

(John 16:12-14 NIV)

- ♦ In Scripture...

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

(1 Peter 1:10-12 NIV)

- ♦ In Salvation...

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”

(John 15:26 NIV)

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV)

The Holy Spirit’s Authority...

- He makes His presence known.

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again. However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the Tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp.

(Numbers 11:25-26 NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

(Acts 2:1-4 NIV)

- He makes His power known.

God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.
(Hebrews 2:4 NIV)

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words,
but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power...*
(1 Corinthians 2:4 NIV)

I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done- by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.
(Romans 15:18-19 NIV)

- He makes His purpose known.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8 NIV)

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
(Acts 13:2 NIV)

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: WHAT HE DOES

Four Stages in Redemptive History...

- Creation
 - ▶ What role does the Spirit play in creation?
- Fall
 - ▶ How does the Spirit relate to sin in the world?
- Redemption
 - ▶ How does the Spirit re-create us into the image of Christ?
- Consummation
 - ▶ How does the Spirit bring our salvation to completion?

THE SPIRIT AND CREATION

One Key Title...

- “The Spirit of God”

Two Key Truths...

- The Spirit manifests the presence of God in the world.
 - ▶ He has full participation in all of Scripture.
 - ▶ He has particular application in the New Testament.
- The Spirit displays the power of God at work.
 - ▶ The Word of God is His Almighty speech.
 - ▶ The Spirit of God is His Almighty breath.

Three Key Themes...

- The Spirit creates.
 - ▶ The Spirit works with the Son to accomplish the will of the Father.

*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep,
and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*
(Genesis 1:2 NIV)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.*
(John 1:1-3 NIV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
(Colossians 1:15-16 NIV)

- ▶ The Spirit gives life to all creation.

By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent.
(Job 26:13 NIV)

These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
(Psalm 104:27-30 NIV)

- ▶ The Spirit gives life to all creatures.

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
(Genesis 2:7 NIV)

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
(Job 33:4 NIV)

- The Spirit sustains.

- ▶ He is the divine Orderer.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
(Genesis 1:2 NIV)

- ▶ He is the divine Preserver.

If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust.
(Job 34:14-15 NIV)

- ♦ He preserves man's breath.

Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."
(Genesis 6:3 NIV)

As long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils...
(Job 27:3 NIV)

- ✦ He preserves man's spirit.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

(Psalm 51:10-12 NIV)

For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. I will not accuse forever, nor will I always be angry, for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me-- the breath of man that I have created."

(Isaiah 57:15-16 NIV)

- ▶ He is the divine Provider.

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.

(Nehemiah 9:20 NIV)

Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people-- where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock?

Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them...

(Isaiah 63:11 NIV)

- The Spirit governs.

- ▶ He controls nature.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

(Isaiah 40:7 NIV)

- ▶ He guides history.

Look in the scroll of the Lord and read: None of these will be missing, not one will lack her mate. For it is his mouth that has given the order, and his Spirit will gather them together. He allots their portions; his hand distributes them by measure. They will possess it forever and dwell there from generation to generation.

(Isaiah 34:16-17 NIV)

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

(Psalm 143:10 NIV)

THE SPIRIT AND THE FALL

The Spirit convicts of sin...

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment; in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer.

(John 16:8-10 NIV)

The Spirit responds to sin...

- He reflects the pleasure of God in obedience.

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him."

(John 1:32 NIV)

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

(John 3:34 NIV)

- He reflects the displeasure of God in disobedience.

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

(Judges 13:24-25 NIV)

The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

(Judges 14:6 NIV)

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house.

(Judges 14:19 NIV)

As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

(Judges 15:14-15 NIV)

Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.
(Judges 16:20 NIV)

Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.
(1 Samuel 16:14 NIV)

- ▶ When we sin, we grieve the Spirit.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
(Ephesians 4:30 NIV)

- ▶ When we sin, we lie to the Spirit.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"
(Acts 5:3 NIV)

- ▶ When we sin, we resist the Spirit.

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"
(Acts 7:51 NIV)

- ▶ When we sin, we defile the Spirit.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV)

- ▶ When we sin, we quench the Spirit.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt.
(1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 NIV)

- ▶ When we sin, we insult the Spirit.

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?
(Hebrews 10:29 NIV)

The Spirit gives victory over sin...

- We live in the Spirit.

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live...

(Romans 8:13 NIV)

- We battle in the Spirit.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

(Ephesians 6:12-17 NIV)

- We pray in the Spirit.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

(Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

THE SPIRIT AND REDEMPTION

Three Stages...

- Redemption Anticipated
 - ▶ Genesis-Malachi
 - ▶ The Spirit with Israel
- Redemption Accomplished
 - ▶ Matthew-John
 - ▶ The Spirit on Christ
- Redemption Applied
 - ▶ Acts-Revelation
 - ▶ The Spirit in the Church

Redemption Anticipated: The Spirit With Israel

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is a transitory presence.

Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.
(1 Samuel 16:14 NIV)

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
(Psalm 51:11 NIV)

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is an unfulfilled promise.

The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks, till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field.
(Isaiah 32:14-16 NIV)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.
(Ezekiel 36:26-28 NIV)

“I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.”
(Ezekiel 39:29 NIV)

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”
(Joel 2:28-29 NIV)

■ The Spirit enables the work of God.

▶ He empowers God’s people to lead.

The Lord said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.”
(Numbers 11:16-17 NIV)

So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him.”
(Numbers 27:18 NIV)

The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel’s judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him.
(Judges 3:10 NIV)

When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.
(1 Samuel 10:10 NIV)

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.
(1 Samuel 16:13 NIV)

▶ He equips God’s people with skills.

Tell all the skilled men to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest.
(Exodus 28:3 NIV)

Then the Lord said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.”
(Exodus 31:1-5 NIV)

Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers-- all of them master craftsmen and designers."
(Exodus 35:30-35 NIV)

- ▶ He enables God's people for victory.

Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people-- where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, who led them through the depths?
(Isaiah 63:11-13 NIV)

So he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied.
(1 Samuel 19:20 NIV)

- ▶ He encourages God's people to persevere.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
(Psalm 143:9-10 NIV)

"But now listen, O Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I have chosen. This is what the Lord says-- he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."
(Isaiah 44:1-3 NIV)

So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.
(Zechariah 4:6 NIV)

But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, 'declares the Lord. 'Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'
(Haggai 2:4-5 NIV)

- The Spirit inspires the worship of God.

These are the last words of David: “The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel’s singer of songs: @@ “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.”
(2 Samuel 23:1-2 NIV)

- The Spirit reveals the Word of God.

He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen-- for they are a rebellious house-- they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”
(Ezekiel 2:1-8 NIV)

- ▶ Revelation: The prophet receives the Word.
- ▶ Inspiration: The prophet relays the Word.
 - ✦ He proclaims the Word in speech.

Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, “This is what God says: ‘Why do you disobey the Lord’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.’”
(2 Chronicles 24:20 NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.
(Isaiah 61:1-4 NIV)

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.
(Micah 3:8 NIV)

- ✦ He proclaims the Word in Scripture .

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus- he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.”
(Acts 1:15-17 NIV)

You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.”
(Acts 4:25-26 NIV)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
(2 Peter 1:20-21 NIV)

Redemption Accomplished: The Spirit on Christ

“The Church has never sufficiently confessed the influence of the Holy Spirit exerted on the work of Christ. The general impression is that the work of the Holy Spirit begins when the work of the mediator on earth is finished, as though until that time the Holy Spirit celebrated His divine day of rest. Yet the Scripture teaches us again and again that Christ performed His mediatorial work controlled and impelled by the Holy Spirit.”
Abraham Kuyper

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is a transitory presence.
 - ▶ On Christ, the Holy Spirit is a permanent presence.

Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”
(John 1:32-34 NIV)

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is an unfulfilled promise.
 - ▶ On Christ, the Holy Spirit is a fulfilled promise.

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord-- and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he see with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears.
(Isaiah 11:1-3 NIV)*

*Aware of this, Jesus withdraw from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope."
(Matthew 12:15-21 NIV)*

*The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
(Luke 4:17-21 NIV)*

The Spirit and the Incarnation of Christ...

- The Spirit prepares the way for the Incarnation prophetically.

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"
(Luke 1:41-42 NIV)*

*His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us- to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."
(Luke 1:67-75 NIV)*

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
(Luke 2:25-32 NIV)

- The Spirit makes possible the Incarnation physically .

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."
(Luke 1:29-35 NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1:18-21 NIV)

The Spirit and the Baptism of Christ...

- At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit confirms the Old Testament promise.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:16-18 NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."
(John 1:29-34 NIV)

- At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit commissions Christ for ministry.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "you are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert...
(Mark 1:9-12 NIV)

The Spirit and the Temptation of Christ...

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert...
(Luke 4:1 NIV)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.
(Luke 4:14 NIV)

- The Spirit led Jesus to the desert.
- The Spirit empowered Jesus in the desert.
- The Spirit delivered Jesus from the desert.

The Spirit and the Works of Christ...

- Jesus worked in the power of the Spirit.

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

(Matthew 12:25-28 NIV)

- Jesus worked in the joy of the Spirit.

At the time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

(Luke 10:21 NIV)

The Spirit and the Passion of Christ...

- The Spirit empowered Jesus for the cross.

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

(Hebrews 9:14 NIV)

- The Spirit vindicated Jesus in the resurrection.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Romans 1:1-4 NIV)

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

(1 Timothy 3:16 NIV)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit...

(1 Peter 3:18 NIV)

The Spirit and the Ascension of Christ...

- The Ascension is the catalyst for the coming of the Spirit's presence.

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

(John 7:37-39 NIV)

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

(Acts 1:4-9 NIV)

- The Ascension is the key for the continuation of the Spirit's work.

When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

(Acts 7:54-56 NIV)

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

(Romans 8:34 NIV)

- The Ascension is the confirmation that the Spirit will lead the church to Christ's second coming.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

(Acts 1:10-11 NIV)

For in him you have been enriched in every way- in all your speaking and in all your knowledge- because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

(1 Corinthians 1:5-9 NIV)

REDEMPTION APPLIED: THE SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

- In Acts, the One who possessed the Spirit now pours out the Spirit.

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
(John 14:12 NIV)*

*By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
(John 7:39 NIV)*

- The Holy Spirit enables the church to...

- ▶ Experience God's presence.

- ▶ Obey God's commands.

- ▶ Fulfill God's purpose.

- The Holy Spirit inaugurates a shift...

- ▶ From a few of God's people to all of God's people.

- ▶ From limited power to unlimited power.

- ▶ From one nation to all nations.

- The Holy Spirit awakens a people...

- ▶ The church stands in awe.

- ▶ The world stands amazed.

The Spirit regenerates...

- The Holy Spirit alone is able to bring new life to God's people.

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

(John 3:5-8 NIV)

- ▶ We must not confuse regeneration.
- ▶ We must not complicate regeneration.
- ▶ We must be clear on regeneration.
- ▶ So what happens in regeneration?

- The Spirit opens our eyes.

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

(Acts 16:14 NIV)

- ▶ The new birth is necessary to know God.
- ▶ The new birth is impossible without God.

✦ We are morally evil.

The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

(Genesis 8:21 NIV)

✦ We are spiritually sick.

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

(Matthew 9:12 NIV)

✦ We are slaves to sin.

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

(John 8:34 NIV)

✦ We are blinded to truth.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
(2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV)

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.
(Ephesians 4:18 NIV)

✦ We are lovers of darkness.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light...
(Ephesians 5:8 NIV)

✦ We are children of wrath .

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
(Romans 5:8-10 NIV)

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
(Ephesians 2:3 NIV)

✦ We are spiritually dead.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23 NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...
(Ephesians 2:1 NIV)

▶ The new birth is dependent on the Spirit.

■ The Spirit changes our heart.

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 3:3-7 NIV)

“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

(Ezekiel 36:24-27 NIV)

▶ He cleanses us.

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

(1 Peter 1 :23 NIV)

▶ He indwells us.

■ The Spirit enables our belief.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

(John 6:44 NIV)

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.”

(Acts 11:18 NIV)

On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

(Acts 14:27 NIV)

He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

(Acts 15:9 NIV)

- ▶ He enables us to turn from sin.

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
(Acts 2:38 NIV)*

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...
(Acts 3:19 NIV)*

- ▶ He enables us to trust in Christ.

*They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved- you and your household."
(Acts 16:31 NIV)*

- The Spirit transforms our lives.

- ▶ He transforms us for our eternal good.
- ▶ He transforms us for the Father's eternal glory.

*"Therefore say to the house of Israel, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes."
(Ezekiel 36:22-23 NIV)*

The All-Important Question...

- Have you been born again by the Spirit?

The Less-Important Question...

- Were Old Testament believers regenerated by the Holy Spirit?
- Our commonality with Old Testament believers...
 - ▶ We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone from the Spirit alone.
- Our differences with Old Testament believers...
 - ▶ We are saved by grace alone...
 - ▶ ...through faith alone...

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

(Romans 4:20-25 NIV)

- ✦ Old Testament: Faith looking forward.
- ✦ New Testament: Faith looking backward.

▶ ...in Christ alone...

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

(Hebrews 11:24-28 NIV)

- ✦ Old Testament: An anticipated Messiah.
- ✦ New Testament: An ascended Messiah.

▶ ...from the Spirit alone...

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

(Ezekiel 36:27 NIV)

- ✦ Old Testament: An incomplete experience of the Spirit.
- ✦ New Testament: An indwelling experience of the Spirit.

The Spirit indwells...

- The Holy Spirit unites our lives with Christ through His presence in us.

“We must examine this question. How do we receive these benefits which the Father bestowed on his only-begotten Son- not for Christ’s own private use but that he might enrich poor and needy men? First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us...

All that he possesses is nothing to us until we grow into one body with him... {And} the Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself.”

John Calvin

- ▶ Our body becomes His home.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
(1 Corinthians 3:16 NIV)

- ▶ His resources become our riches.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
(Luke 11:11-13 NIV)

We ask for gifts; He gives us the Giver.

We ask for the supply; He gives us the Source.

We ask for money; He gives us the Bank.

The Spirit sanctifies...

- The Spirit transforms our lives into the image of Christ so that we come to mirror the standing we already have in God's sight.
- Sanctification is driven by the Trinity...
 - ▶ The Father planned for us to be holy.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
(Ephesians 1:4 NIV)

- ▶ The Son died for us to be holy.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
(Ephesians 5:25-27 NIV)

- ▶ The Spirit works for us to be holy.

- Sanctification is centered on Christ...

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
(2 Corinthians 3:16-18 NIV)

- ▶ As we behold the glory of Christ, we are cleansed of past sin.

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
(1 Corinthians 6:11 NIV)

- ▶ As we behold the glory of Christ, we are purified of present sin.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.
(1 Peter 1:1-2 NIV)

- ▶ As we behold the glory of Christ, we are empowered over future sin.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.
(Romans 8:9-11 NIV)

- ✦ He changes our desires.

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
(Romans 8:5 NIV)

- ✦ He develops our discipline.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other; so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.
(Galatians 5:16-18 NIV)

The Spirit comforts...

- The Holy Spirit comes alongside us.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever...
(John 14:16 NIV)

- Paraclete = One who is called alongside.
 - ▶ Possible Translation: Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Comforter, Strengtheners, Supporter, Advisor, Ally, Champion.

- The Spirit is our sacred Advocate.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, The Righteous One.
(1 John 2:1 NIV)

- The Spirit is our strong Comforter.

- ▶ He gives strength in the heat of the battle.

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
(Ephesians 6:17 NIV)

- ▶ He gives solace in the heart of our pain.

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
(John 16:7 NIV)

"I have told you these things, so that in men you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
(John 16:33 NIV)

The Spirit teaches...

- The Holy Spirit takes all that belongs to Christ and makes it known to us.

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."
(John 16:12-15 NIV)

- We need the Spirit to know God.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.
(1 Corinthians 2:10-12 NIV)

■ We need the Spirit to know ourselves.

- ▶ He testifies to us.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”

(John 15:26 NIV)

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

(Romans 8:15-17 NIV)

- ▶ He convinces us.

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...

(John 16:8 NIV)

- ▶ He reminds us.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

(John 14:26 NIV)

■ The Spirit teaches the Word.

- ▶ Without the Spirit, we’re dead.
- ▶ Without the Word, we’re deluded.

■ How does the Spirit teach us the Word?

- ▶ Revelation...

On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Leodicea.”

(Revelation 1:10-11 NIV)

▶ Inspiration...

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...
(2 Timothy 3:16 NIV)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
(2 Peter 1:20-21 NIV)

▶ Illumination...

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
(Psalm 119:18 NIV)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
(Ephesians 1:17-19 NIV)

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.
(1 John 2:20 NIV)

▶ Proclamation...

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.
(1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NIV)

■ So what do we do?

- ▶ Read for revelation.
- ▶ Study for inspiration.
- ▶ Pray for illumination.
- ▶ Practice proclamation.

The Spirit guides...

- The Holy Spirit leads God's people to accomplish God's will.

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

(Romans 8:13-14 NIV)

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

(Galatians 5:18 NIV)

- The Spirit guides individuals.

The spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

(Acts 8:29 NIV)

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

(Acts 8:39-40 NIV)

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

(Acts 16:6-7 NIV)

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me."

(Acts 20:22-23 NIV)

- The Spirit guides the church.

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

(Acts 15:28 NIV)

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

(Acts 20:28 NIV)

How specific is God's will for your life?

- Remember the two wills of God...

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.
(Genesis 50:20 NIV)

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
(1 Timothy 2:3-4 NIV)

- God's revealed will: What He declares in His Word.
- God's secret will: What He decrees in the world.

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
(Psalm 139:16 NIV)

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
(Ephesians 1:4 NIV)

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.
(Acts 4:27-28 NIV)

- God's secret will is absolutely specific.
 - ▶ Nothing happens apart from God's activity.
 - ▶ Nothing happens accidentally.

He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that all men he has made may know his work, he stops every man from his labor. The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen. He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through them. At his direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever he commands them. He brings the clouds to punish men, or to water his earth and show his love.
(Job 37:6-13 NIV)

"Do you hunt the prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of the lions when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in a thicket? Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?"
(Job 38:39-41 NIV)

He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them.
(Job 12:23 NIV)

*Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months
and have set limits he cannot exceed.*
(Job 14:5 NIV)

*But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands;
deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.*
(Psalm 31:14-15 NIV)

I know, O Lord, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.
(Jeremiah 10:23 NIV)

*Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on
business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your
life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say,
"If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."
(James 4:13-15 NIV)*

*The Lord Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will stand."
(Isaiah 14:24 NIV)*

▶ Everything happens purposefully.

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from
afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth- everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."
(Isaiah 43:5-7 NIV)*

*For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether
thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*
(Colossians 1:16 NIV)

- God's revealed will is clearly specific.
 - ▶ Good news for all who are looking to find God's will...
 - ♦ It's not lost!
 - ▶ Walk in His will...

So what is the Spirit leading me to do?

- God's revealed will for your life...
 - ▶ Be saved.
 - ▶ Be Spirit-filled.
 - ▶ Be sanctified.
 - ▶ Be submissive.

■ Making specific decisions...

- ▶ Consult the Word.
 - ✦ Does God's revealed will (i.e., Scripture) prohibit this action?
 - ✦ Will this action cause you to neglect a command in God's revealed will (i.e., Scripture)?
 - ✦ If the Word addresses it, obey the Word!
- ▶ Exercise wisdom.
 - ✦ Pray confidently.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

(James 1:5-8 NIV)

- ✦ Gather information.
- ✦ Consider all your options.
- ✦ Seek godly counsel.
- ✦ Choose wisely.

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair- every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

(Proverbs 2:1-11 NIV)

- ▶ Do what you want!

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

(Psalm 37:4 NIV)

The Spirit intercedes...

- The Spirit enables us to pray according to the Father's will.
- The Son intercedes for us.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

(Romans 8:32 NIV)

- The Spirit intercedes within us.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

(Romans 8:26-27 NIV)

- The Spirit intercedes for our good.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

(Romans 8:28 NIV)

- ▶ He conforms our prayers.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us- whatever we ask- we know that we have what we asked of him.

(1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

- ▶ He transforms our lives.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

(Romans 8:29-30 NIV)

- Should we pray to the Spirit?

- ▶ On one hand... Yes, because the Spirit is God.
- ▶ On the other hand... In Scripture, no one prays to the Spirit.

- So how should we pray?

- ▶ Pray to the Father.

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."

(Matthew 6:9 NIV)

- ▶ Pray in the name of the Son.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

(Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV)

- ▶ Pray in dependence on the Spirit.

The Spirit unifies...

- The Spirit creates a profound oneness in the people of God.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
(2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

“The Ekklesia is never conceived of [in the New Testament] as an institution; but exclusively as a fellowship of persons, as a common life based in fellowship with Jesus Christ as a fellowship of the Spirit and a fellowship of Christ.”

Emil Brunner

- How the Spirit works in the church...

- ▶ He destroys barriers.

Then the apostles and elders with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers. With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers. To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings. We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul - men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements...
(Acts 15:22-28 NIV)

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
(Ephesians 2:17-22 NIV)

- ▶ He brings peace.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
(Ephesians 4:3-6 NIV)

■ The effect of the Spirit's work in the church...

- ▶ Unprecedented unity with one another.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
(Acts 2:44-47 NIV)

- ▶ Unselfish dependence on one another.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
(1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV)

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
(1 Corinthians 12:21-26 NIV)

The Spirit bears fruit...

■ The Spirit produces the life of Christ in every facet of our character.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
(Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

■ The fruit of the Spirit is supernaturally produced.

- ▶ The works of the flesh are natural (man-made).

■ The fruit of the Spirit is extraordinarily expressed.

- ▶ The works of the flesh are ordinary (man-manufactured).

- Love...
 - ▶ Fleshly love is conditional.
 - ▶ Spiritual love is unconditional.

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

*While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:5-8 NIV)*

- Joy...
 - ▶ Fleshly joy is susceptible to circumstances.
 - ▶ Spiritual joy supersedes circumstances.

*And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 13:52 NIV)*

*You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.
(1 Thessalonians 1:6 NIV)*

- Peace...
 - ▶ Fleshly peace is partial and fleeting.
 - ▶ Spiritual peace is complete and eternal.

*The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
(Romans 8:6 NIV)*

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...
(Romans 14:17 NIV)*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13 NIV)*

- Patience...
 - ▶ Fleshly patience is triggered by a short-fuse.
 - ▶ Spiritual patience perseveres through long-suffering.

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
(Ephesians 4:2 NIV)*

■ Kindness...

- ▶ Fleshly kindness is quick to condemn.
- ▶ Spiritual kindness is quick to show compassion.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
(Ephesians 4:32 NIV)

■ Goodness...

- ▶ Fleshly goodness produces inevitable hypocrisy.
- ▶ Spiritual goodness produces consistent integrity.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.
(Ephesians 5:8-10 NIV)

■ Faithfulness...

- ▶ Fleshly faithfulness creates inevitable doubt.
- ▶ Spiritual faithfulness reflects consistent devotion.

*Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*
(Revelation 2:10-11 NIV)

■ Gentleness...

- ▶ Fleshly gentleness asserts power with arrogance.
- ▶ Spiritual gentleness surrenders to real power with humility.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
(James 4:10 NIV)

■ Self-Control...

- ▶ Fleshly self-control indulges in excessive pursuits.
- ▶ Spiritual self-control expresses disciplined passion.

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.
Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*
(Galatians 5:24-25 NIV)

The Spirit gives gifts...

- By His grace, the Holy Spirit equips every Christian to edify the church for the glory of Christ.
- Spiritual gifts are given by God's Spirit.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:7 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts are given according to God's sovereignty.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.
(Ephesians 4:7 NIV)

The Spirit incites worship...

- The Spirit leads the church to glorify God through Jesus Christ.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
(Ephesians 5:18-21 NIV)

- We misdefine worship according to external circumstances.
- Jesus redefines worship according to internal circumstances.
 - ▶ The reality of His presence.
 - ▶ The response of our hearts.
- When we are filled with His Spirit...
 - ▶ We express praise with one another.
 - ▶ We extend thanks to God.
- In spirit and truth...

You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."
(John 4:22-24 NIV)

- ▶ Worship without the Spirit is hypocrisy.
- ▶ Worship without the truth is idolatry.

The Spirit empowers witness...

- The Spirit fills the church so that the Gospel will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
(John 20:21-22 NIV)*

*"Jesus' insufflation was 'acted prophecy' of what the promise of the Father
would make powerfully possible at Pentecost."
Graham Cole*

- God is glorified in the completion of the Incarnation.
- God is glorified in the continuation of the Incarnation.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
(Acts 1:8 NIV)*

- The Spirit fills us with power.

*He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in
the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
(Luke 24:46-49 NIV)*

- ▶ Jesus outlines the message.
- ▶ Jesus explains the method.
- ▶ Jesus promises the means.

*"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will
defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."
(Luke 12:11-12 NIV)*

*But when they arrest you, do you worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given
what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
(Matthew 10:19-20 NIV)*

Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.
(Mark 13:11 NIV)

- The Spirit gives us a purpose.

But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"
(Numbers 11:29 NIV)

When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him and he uttered his oracle: "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly..."
(Numbers 24:2-3 NIV)

"The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue."
(2 Samuel 23:2 NIV)

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon me, and he told me to say: "This is what the LORD says: That is what you are saying, O house of Israel, but I know what is going through your mind."
(Ezekiel 11:5 NIV)

"And afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls."
(Joel 2:28-32 NIV)

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
(Acts 2:4 NIV)

- The Spirit outlines our plans.
 - ▶ The whole Gospel...
 - ▶ From the whole church...
 - ▶ To the whole world.
- Wake up... The Spirit wants the world for Christ!

The Obvious Conclusion...

- Without the Holy Spirit, we have nothing.
- With the Holy Spirit, we have everything.

THE SPIRIT AND CONSUMMATION

The Spirit assures...

- We are confident in the life of Christ in us because of the Spirit He has given us.

Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.
(1 John 3:24 NIV)

We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
(1 John 4:13 NIV)

- The family metaphor...

- ▶ The Spirit testifies that we are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
(Romans 8:15-17 NIV)

- The financial metaphor...

- ▶ The Spirit is a down payment of our salvation.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
(2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NIV)

- The agricultural metaphor...

- ▶ The Spirit is the firstfruits of our salvation.

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
(Romans 8:23 NIV)

- The legal metaphor...

- ▶ The Spirit is a seal.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession- to the praise of his glory.
(Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV)

The Spirit glorifies...

- The Spirit will complete His sanctifying work in His people.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
(2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV)

But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.
(Galatians 5:5 NIV)

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.
(Revelation 22:17 NIV)

THE HOLY SPIRIT: SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Significant Issues...

- Blasphemy against the Spirit.
- Baptized in the Spirit.
- Filled with the Spirit.
- Gifted by the Spirit.
 - ▶ What about prophecy?
 - ▶ What about tongues?
 - ▶ What about healing?

Blasphemy Against The Spirit...

And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

(Matthew 12:31-32 NIV)

The Definitions...

- Sin: Deliberate disobedience against God.
- Blasphemy: Defiant irreverence toward God.

Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.

(Leviticus 24:16 NIV)

“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

(Mark 2:7 NIV)

The Difference...

- Blasphemy against the Son of God is forgivable.
 - ▶ The avenue to forgiveness is repentance.

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

(1 Timothy 1:13-14 NIV)

- Blasphemy against the Spirit of God is unforgivable.
 - ▶ The avenue to forgiveness is rejected.
 - ▶ Willful unbelief.
 - ▶ Persistent refusal.
 - ▶ Final denial.
 - ▶ Permanent refutation leads to permanent condemnation.

Practical Implications...

- We must realize the unforgivable sin is a sin of the heart, not the lips.
- We must avoid labeling anyone as guilty of the unforgivable sin.
 - ▶ We trust that God alone knows a person's heart.
 - ▶ So we work and we pray with a constant hope.
- We must be desperate for the Spirit of God in our lives and ministries.
 - ▶ If a person rejects the Spirit, how will they be saved?
 - ▶ If Christ-followers ignore the Spirit, how will they lead others to salvation?

*“Unction is the sweetest exhalation of the Holy Spirit. It carries the Word like dynamite, like salt, like sugar; makes the Word a soother, an accuser, a revealer, a searcher; makes the hearer a culprit or a saint, makes him weep like a child and live like a giant; opens his heart and his purse as gently, yet as strongly as the spring opens the leaves. This unction is not the gift of genius. It is not found in the hall of learning. No eloquence can woo it. No industry can win it. It is the gift of God - the signet set to his own messengers. It is heaven's knighthood given to the chosen true and brave ones who have sought this anointed honor through many an hour of tearful, wrestling prayer. Earnestness is good and impressive; genius is gifted and great. Thought kindles and inspires, but it takes a diviner endowment, a more powerful energy than earnestness or genius or thought to break the chains of sin, to win estranged and depraved hearts to God, to repair the breaches and restore the church to her old ways of purity and power.
Nothing but holy unction can do this.”*

E.M. Bounds

Baptized In The Spirit...

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body- whether Jews or Greeks,
slave or free- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
(1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV)*

Differing Views...

- Baptism in the Spirit is concurrent with conversion.
- Baptism in the Spirit is subsequent to conversion.

The Case For a Subsequent Spirit Baptism...

- The disciples experienced regeneration (salvation) before Pentecost.

*Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
(John 20:28-29 NIV)*

- Jesus told the disciples to wait to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

*On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
(Acts 1:4-8 NIV)*

- The disciples then received a baptism of the Spirit after regeneration.

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
(Acts 2:4 NIV)*

- This pattern is then repeated throughout the book of Acts.

*But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 8:12-17 NIV)*

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."
So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.
(Acts 10:44-48 NIV)*

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not ever heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

There were about twelve men in all.

(Acts 19:1-7 NIV)

Defining Spirit Baptism...

■ John the Baptist...

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

(Matthew 3:11 NIV)

"I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

(Mark 1:8 NIV)

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

(Luke 3:16 NIV)

I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

(John 1:33 NIV)

■ Pentecost...

"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

(Acts 1:5 NIV)

Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

(Acts 11:16 NIV)

■ Paul...

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

(1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV)

Conclusions...

- For Paul, baptism by/in/with the Spirit occurs at conversion.
- What about Pentecost?
 - ▶ Yes, the disciples were regenerated (born again) before Pentecost.
 - ▶ However, is this narrative normative?
 - Pentecost demonstrates a unique shift in redemptive history.
 - Jesus' disciples were living in a time of covenant transition.
 - Regarding Jesus, they understood the new covenant...
 - ▶ They believed in an ascended Messiah.
 - Regarding the Spirit, they still lived in the old covenant...
 - ▶ They had an incomplete experience of the Spirit.
 - At Pentecost, disciples with an old covenant experience of the Spirit became disciples with a new covenant experience of the Spirit.
- What about other “second experiences in Acts”?
 - ▶ None of these experiences even mention “baptism in the Spirit.”
 - ▶ The new covenant realization of the Spirit is simply and clearly following the plan of the Spirit.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8 NIV)

- ▶ In Acts 10 and 19, the hearers needed a new covenant understanding of both Christ and the Spirit.
- The New Testament, therefore, does not teach a subsequent “second baptism” of the Spirit to be sought after conversion.
- Instead, the New Testament teaches that baptism with the Spirit occurs at conversion.

Practical Implications...

- Be confident in your baptism.

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off- for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

(Acts 2:38-41 NIV)

- ▶ Baptism in the Spirit is a distinctive blessing for new covenant believers.
- ▶ Baptism in the Spirit is a universal blessing for new covenant believers.

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

(Galatians 3:14 NIV)

- Beware of two-class Christianity.
- Be cautious in your judgment.
- Be active in seeking the Spirit!
- Be biblical in talking about experiences with the Spirit.
 - ▶ Look for the fruit of the Spirit.
 - ▶ Focus on the filling of the Spirit.

Filled With The Spirit...

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

(Ephesians 5:18 NIV)

One Command...

- “Be Filled” - An imperative.
 - ▶ To be filled with the Spirit is an instruction, not a suggestion.
 - ▶ The fullness of the Spirit is not an option to consider; it’s a command to obey.
- “Be Filled” - Plural.
 - ▶ The Spirit fills the church.
- “Be Filled” - Passive.
 - ▶ Not us possessing more of the Spirit.
 - ▶ Instead, the Spirit possessing more of us.
 - ▶ We yield to the Spirit’s filling.
- “Be Filled” - Present, Continuing Action
 - ▶ This is not only a one-time event.
 - ▶ This is also an ongoing experience.
 - ▶ Baptism in the Spirit is a once-for-all gift.
 - ▶ Filling with the Spirit is a gift given multiple times for multiple purposes.

Three Categories...

- General followers of Christ.

Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.
(Acts 6:3 NIV)

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.
(Acts 6:5 NIV)

He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.
(Acts 11:24 NIV)

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 13:52 NIV)

- Leaders in the church.

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous- to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
(Luke 1:15-17 NIV)

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
(Acts 9:17 NIV)

- Opportunities for ministry.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!”
(Acts 4:8 NIV)

Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.
(Acts 13:9-12 NIV)

Four Results...

- Renewed worship.

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Ephesians 5:19-20 NIV)

- Renewed fellowship.
- Renewed submission.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
(Ephesians 5:21 NIV)

- ▶ Marriage is dependent on the Spirit's filling.
- ▶ Parenting is dependent on the Spirit's filling.

- Renewed power (for proclamation of the Gospel).

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
(Acts 4:31 NIV)

Gifted By The Spirit...

- By His grace, the Holy Spirit equips every Christian to edify the church for the glory of Christ.

By His grace...

- A definition:
 - ▶ Charismata = Grace Gifts
- A distinction:
 - ▶ Natural talents are evidence of common grace.
 - ▶ Spiritual gifts are evidence of saving grace.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.
(1 Corinthians 12:11 NIV)

...the Holy Spirit equips every Christian...

- Every Christian is gifted.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:7 NIV)

- Every gift is important.

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.
(1 Corinthians 12:15-20 NIV)

- ▶ We must guard against self-depreciation.
 - ✦ "I'm no good; you don't need me."

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
(1 Corinthians 12:21-26 NIV)

- ▶ We must guard against self-exaltation.
 - ✦ "You're no good; I don't need you."
- ▶ God says, "You need each other."

■ New Testament lists of spiritual gifts...

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

(Romans 12:6-8 NIV)

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NIV)

And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

(1 Corinthians 12:28 NIV)

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:11 NIV)

- ▶ They often overlap.
- ▶ They include some characteristics and expectations of all Christ-followers.
- ▶ They are more illustrative than exhaustive.
- ▶ They demonstrate the rich and beautiful diversity of the body of Christ.

...to edify the church...

- Spiritual gifts are given for service.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:7 NIV)

So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.
(1 Corinthians 14:12 NIV)

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.
(1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts depend on God's sovereignty.

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.
(1 Corinthians 12:18 NIV)

God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.
(Hebrews 2:4 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts may vary in strength.

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.
(1 Timothy 4:14 NIV)

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
(2 Timothy 1:6 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts may vary in significance.

I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?
(1 Corinthians 14:5-6 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts can and should be sought.

But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.
(1 Corinthians 12:31 NIV)

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.
(1 Corinthians 14:1-4 NIV)

So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.
(1 Corinthians 14:12 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts require self-examination.
 - ▶ Ask God to show you your gifts.
 - ▶ Then discover your gifts as you serve.

...for the glory of Christ.

- Spiritual gifts exalt the head of the church.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
(Ephesians 4:15-16 NIV)

- Spiritual gifts anticipate the coming of Christ.

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.
(1 Corinthians 1:7 NIV)

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
(1 Corinthians 13:8-12 NIV)

The Question...

- Are miraculous gifts mentioned in the New Testament valid for use in the church today?
- Miraculous gifts...
 - ▶ Remarkable/Special/Sign/Charismatic Gifts
 - ▶ Includes signs and wonders, casting out demons, prophecy, tongues, and healing.

Two Views...

- Cessationism:
 - ▶ Miraculous gifts ceased with the apostles and therefore are no longer applicable in the church today.

“The four temporary sign gifts included miracles, healings, tongues, and interpretations of tongues. These four sign gifts had a unique purpose- to give the apostles credentials, to let the people know that these men all spoke the truth of God. But once the Word of God was inscripturated, the sign gifts were no longer needed and they ceased.”

John MacArthur

- Continuationism:
 - ▶ Miraculous gifts are available to all Christ-followers and therefore are active in the church today.

Cessationism...

- Jesus and the apostles had a unique ministry that involved miraculous gifts.

“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.”

(Acts 2:22 NIV)

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

(Acts 2:43 NIV)

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.

(Acts 5:12 NIV)

*So Paul and Barnabas spend considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord,
who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them
to do miraculous signs and wonders.*
(Acts 14:3 NIV)

*The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the
miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.*
(Acts 15:12 NIV)

- Miraculous gifts were given by God to authenticate apostleship.

*The things that mark an apostle- signs, wonders and miracles-
were done among you with great perseverance.*
(2 Corinthians 12:12 NIV)

*For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience
received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This
salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who
heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles,
and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*
(Hebrews 2:2-4 NIV)

Continuationism...

- Jesus sends us out to carry on the ministry He began, which includes miraculous gifts.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
(John 20:21 NIV)

He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
(Luke 9:2 NIV)

Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'
(Luke 10:9 NIV)

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do
even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*
(John 14:12 NIV)

- Miraculous gifts are evident among Christ-followers who are not apostles.

*Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders
and miraculous signs among the people.*
(Acts 6:8 NIV)

When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.
(Acts 8:6 NIV)

Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?
(Galatians 3:5 NIV)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.
(1 Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV)

Conclusions...

- We must honor the unique authority of Christ, the New Testament apostles, and the Old Testament prophets.
- We must honor the unfathomable ministry of the Spirit in the church today.
- Seek spiritual gifts that most edify the body of Christ.
- Take the Gospel to the lost, especially to unreached peoples who have no special revelation.
 - ▶ Trust the authority of His Word.
 - ▶ Ask God to attest to His Word.
- Be open regarding the Spirit of God...
 - ▶ Yet discerning according to the Word of God.

What About Prophecy?

The Gift of Prophecy...

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

*But the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:8-13 NIV)*

- The gift of prophecy is temporary.
 - ▶ Will it cease when Scripture is complete?
 - ▶ Will it cease when Jesus comes back?

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understand him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

(1 Corinthians 14:1-5 NIV)

- Until Jesus comes back...
 - ▶ Christians desire the gift of prophecy.
 - ▶ The church is edified with the gift of prophecy.

Three Categories of Prophecy:

False Prophecy...

You must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.

(Deuteronomy 13:3 NIV)

“But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”

(Deuteronomy 18:20 NIV)

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord.”

(Jeremiah 23:16 NIV)

- Consists of dishonest lies.
- Involves deceptive speech based on no revelation.
- Ignores divine Scripture.

True Prophecy...

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

(Isaiah 61:1-4 NIV)

- Consists of inspired truth.
- Involves direct speech based on new revelation.
- Results in divine Scripture.
 - ▶ In the Old Testament... prophets.

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth."

(Jeremiah 1:9 NIV)

- ▶ In the New Testament.... apostles.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God- (Romans 1:1 NIV)

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

(1 Corinthians 2:13 NIV)

I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather,

I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

(Galatians 1:11-12 NIV)

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.
(2 Peter 3:1-2 NIV)

- Scripture is...
 - ▶ True.
 - ▶ Authoritative.
 - ▶ Unique.
 - ▶ Sufficient.
 - ▶ Complete.

The Gift of Prophecy...

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.
(1 Corinthians 14:29-31 NIV)

- Consists of Spirit-prompted talk.
- Involves indirect speech based on established revelation.
- Tested by divine Scripture.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.
(1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 NIV)

- The gift of prophecy is...
 - ▶ Imperfect.
 - ▶ Fallible.

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.
(2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NIV)

- ▶ Similar to, yet distinct from, teaching.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach...
(Romans 12:6-7 NIV)

- The gift of prophecy in the New Testament...

- ▶ Speaking about the future.

One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world.

(Acts 11:28 NIV)

After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

(Acts 21:10-11 NIV)

- ▶ Disclosing sins in unbelievers' hearts.

But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

(1 Corinthians 14:24-25 NIV)

- ▶ Encouraging the church.

But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

(1 Corinthians 14:3 NIV)

Implications...

- Remember that Scripture alone contains authoritative truth for all situations of all times.
 - ▶ Therefore, know the Word.
- Consider that the Spirit may grant the gift of prophecy to apply biblical truth at particular times or in particular situations.
 - ▶ Therefore, seek the Spirit.

What About Tongues?

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.
(1Corinthians 12:7-11 NIV)

Certainly Confused...

- Tongues are marked by subjective certainty for many.
 - ▶ Yet not every religious experience is divine.
- Tongues are marked by objective confusion for many.
 - ▶ Yet biblical evidence for the cessation of tongues is weak.

Tongues Defined...

- At Pentecost...
 - ▶ Tongues = intelligible languages that may warrant translation.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the part of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs- we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"
(Acts 2:1-12 NIV)

■ Elsewhere...

- ▶ Tongues = unintelligible languages that may warrant interpretation.

But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

(1 Corinthians 14:19 NIV)

- ▶ Speaking in tongues involves prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.

For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.

(1 Corinthian 14:2 NIV)

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.

(1 Corinthians 14:14-17 NIV)

- ▶ Speaking in tongues is primarily directed to God.
- ▶ Speaking in tongues occurs in the Spirit.

Tongues Described...

■ In Public:

If anyone speaks in a tongue, two-or at the most three-should speak one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

(1 Corinthians 14:27-28 NIV)

- ▶ Speaking in tongues involves an interpreter who reports to the church the general meaning of what is spoken.
- ▶ Speaking in tongues is characterized by self-control.
- ▶ Speaking in tongues must edify the church and glorify God.

What then shall we say, brother? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

(1 Corinthian 14:26 NIV)

*I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.
He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets,
so that the church may be edified.*
(1 Corinthians 14:5 NIV)

■ In Private:

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.
(1 Corinthians 14:4 NIV)

*If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church
and speak to himself and God.*
(1 Corinthians 14:28 NIV)

Are Tongues Normative?

“A person should claim this gift in confidence when he is prayed with to be baptized in the Spirit... Yielding to tongues is an important first step, and it is worth putting effort into encouraging a person to yield to tongues, even to run the risk of being labeled ‘imbalanced.’ Often people can be helped to yield to tongues rather easily... After praying with a person to be baptized in the Spirit, the team member should lean over or kneel down and ask the person if he would like to pray in tongues. When he says yes, he should encourage him to speak out, making sounds that are not English... He should then pray with him again. When the person begins to speak in tongues, he should encourage him... After you ask to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and ask for the gift of tongues, then yield to it. Begin by speaking out, if necessary beginning by just making meaningless sounds.

The Holy Spirit will form them.”

Charismatic Manual

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

(Acts 10:44-48 NIV)

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

There were about twelve men in all.

(Acts 19:1-7 NIV)

- Tongues In Acts...
 - ▶ Occurs in groups.
 - ▶ Primary purpose is to demonstrate the advancement of the Gospel.

- Tongues in Corinth...
 - ▶ Occurs with individuals.
 - ▶ Primary purpose is to edify the church in worship.

- Conclusions...
 - ▶ Speaking in tongues is not normative evidence of New Testament faith.

 - ▶ Speaking in tongues is not a necessary expression of New Testament faith.

What About Healing?

To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.
(1 Corinthians 12 :8-10 NIV)

And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.
(1 Corinthians 12:28 NIV)

The Purpose of Healings...

- Healings authenticate the Gospel.
- Healings comfort the church.
- Healings remove hindrances to ministry.
- Healings glorify God.

The Gifts of Healings...

- The gift of praying in different kinds of situations with different kinds of needs for healing to occur.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
(James 5:13-16 NIV)

- Pray with purpose for healings.

- ▶ For the advancement of the Gospel.

Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

(Acts 5:14-16 NIV)

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

(Acts 9:32-35 NIV)

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!"

At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

(Acts 14:8-10 NIV)

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

(Acts 19:11-12 NIV)

- ▶ For the comfort of the church.

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man name Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

(Acts 20:7-12 NIV)

- ▶ For success in ministry.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

(Acts 9:40-43 NIV)

- ▶ For the glory of God.

Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

(Acts 3:6-10 NIV)

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

(Acts 3:16 NIV)

- Pray with faith for healings.

- ▶ The Kingdom is here.

When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’ “ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

(Luke 7:20-22 NIV)

▶ The Kingdom is coming.

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
(2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV)

As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.
(Galatians 4:13-14 NIV)

*Stop drinking only water, and use little wine because of your stomach
and your frequent illnesses.*
(1 Timothy 5:23 NIV)

Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.
(2 Timothy 4:20 NIV)

▶ He will heal our bodies.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.
(Romans 8:22-27 NIV)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession- to the praise of his glory.
(Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV)

▶ We will see His face.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says,

*“Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.
(Revelation 22:16-21 NIV)*

About the Teacher

Dr. David Platt, 30, is deeply devoted to Christ and His Word. David's first love in ministry is disciple-making—the simple Biblical model of teaching God's Word, mentoring others and sharing faith. He has traveled extensively to teach the Bible and church leaders throughout the United States and around the world. Atlanta natives, he and his wife, Heather, made their home in New Orleans until they were displaced by flooding following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

A life-long learner, David has earned two undergraduate and three advanced degrees. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (A.B.J.) from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Master of Theology (Th.M.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has previously served at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as Dean of Chapel and Assistant Professor of Expository Preaching and Apologetics, and as Staff Evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans.

David holds a deep and abiding passion for global disciple-making. "I believe that God has uniquely created every one of His people to impact the world. Some may count it as idealistic, but I believe it is thoroughly biblical, rooted in Psalm 67:1-2, yet covering Scripture from beginning to end. God is in the business of blessing His people so that His ways and His salvation might be made known among all people."

David practices what he preaches through his travel nationally and internationally, teaching from God's Word in churches, seminaries, the underground church or even under a shade tree in Africa or Latin America.

David and Heather have been married for nearly nine years. They are the parents of two sons, Caleb (2) and Joshua (born December 2007).

Brook Hills' Weekends

If you are not a part of Brook Hills we welcome you as our guest this evening. If you are not currently involved in a local church, we invite you to join us for worship gatherings and small groups at Brook Hills this week:

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.	Adult Small Groups
9:00 a.m.	Small Groups for All Ages Worship Gathering
11:00 a.m.	Small Groups for All Ages Worship Gathering
6:00 p.m.	Worship Gathering

SMALL GROUPS

Brook Hills Small Groups of 8-12 adults gather weekly for Bible study, prayer, friend-building and ministry action. What's great about Small Groups is that they meet at all days, times and locations. Some meet on the church campus on Sundays, others meet in homes or area gathering places during the weekend—so there's one near you at a time and day that fits your family and schedule.

For a complete listing of Small Group opportunities visit us online at www.brookhills.org/local or stop by the Connection Central desk in the lobby for assistance connecting to a group.

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