

Willis Family Ministries
presents

About The
Holy
Ghost

(KJV Edition)

By Bill Willis

Preface

About the Holy Ghost was written to speak to three kinds of readers. The first kind of reader is the one who knows little or nothing about the Holy Ghost or the one who knows little or nothing about Christianity, in general. I pray that as you read this book and verify this teaching with the word of God that you will come to a personal saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and this wonderful gift (the gift of the baptism of the Holy Ghost) that He has given us.

The second kind of reader is the one who is a believer, a born-again Christian, who has been led to believe teachings about the Holy Ghost that are contrary to the word of God. These false teachings are designed to discourage God's children from desiring the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the power and authority that comes with it, or tries to convince you that this gift comes automatically when you recite a sinner's prayer. I pray that the Almighty Father will give you eyes to see and ears to hear so that you may be freed from the bondage of these false doctrines and experience the glory that awaits you when you open your heart to the truth.

The third kind of reader is the one who has been baptized with the Holy Ghost, but has not learned to use the power that is within you. I pray that you will put into practice what you read in these pages so that you can go out and effectively fulfill the Great Commission given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's begin, then, and discuss who the Holy Ghost really is.

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Introduction

If you are reading this book, then chances are that you have heard the name, Holy Ghost, but are unsure what He is all about. You may notice that I use the word “He” instead of “it” when discussing the Holy Ghost. I use that word because the Holy Ghost is God just as Jesus the Son is God and the Father is God. The Holy Ghost is one person of the triune God that we serve. You see, the Holy Ghost didn’t just suddenly appear on the Day of Pentecost. He has always been, just as the Father and the Son (or “Word”) have always been.

When studying the Holy Ghost, it is essential to establish the existence of the trinity. There are several belief systems within the realm of Christianity who deny the existence of the trinity, saying that they can find no biblical basis to support it. We will begin our discussion by citing occasions where the three persons of the trinity were manifested simultaneously and by giving further evidence of the existence of the trinity both before and after Christ’s ascension.

The next step will be to follow the Holy Ghost through the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, to see how He operated during the different portions of biblical history and prophecy. Then, in the last section, we will discuss the Holy Ghost’s characteristics and the manifestation of the power of the Holy Ghost in the life of the Christian.

It is my hope and prayer that after completing the reading of this book, that the reader will have a clear understanding of who the Holy Ghost is, accept His baptism, and use the power available through Him to help you in this life to live victoriously and work to bring unbelievers to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ with signs, wonders and miracles following.

So, you want to know about the Holy Ghost? Let us begin.

Chapter 1 The Trinity

In The Beginning

The most basic of beliefs among Christians is the belief in God. It was God who sent His son, Jesus, to die as a sacrifice for the sin of man. When looking for God in the scripture, one must merely turn to the first verse in the bible.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

Within the trinity, God is the Father, the creator of all things. Also in Genesis, we find the first mention of the Holy Ghost. It is important to keep in mind that the terms Spirit, Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are used interchangeably in the scripture. In the case of Genesis 1:2, the name Spirit of God is used.

And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
(Genesis 1:2)

From these two verses, we can see that God and the Holy Ghost were present at that beginning. But where, you may ask, was Jesus? That is a good question. If you will refer to the remainder of the first chapter of Genesis, you will notice that God created all things by speaking them into existence. In other words, God created with His Word. This is where we find Jesus, the Son, 'in the beginning.'

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."
(John 1:1-3, 14)

The 'Word' that was spoken of in this passage is Jesus Christ. This, then, is the first time that we see the three persons of God, simultaneously.

At Jesus' Baptism

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.
(Luke 3: 21-22)

This account of the baptism of Jesus can also be found in Matthew 3:13-17. In this scene, we see Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, coming to John to be baptized. When Jesus had completed this simple act of obedience, “the heaven was opened.” The Holy Ghost descended from heaven in the form of a dove. So, we have the Son and the Holy Ghost being seen by those present as two persons of God existing simultaneously. But then, the remaining person of God, the Father, made Himself known by declaring in a voice from heaven, “Thou art my beloved Son ; in thee I am well pleased.”

There you have it; all three persons of God manifested in a single event. This is perhaps the most compelling proof of the trinity in all of scripture. Still, there are those who will say that to prove the existence of the trinity, one must move beyond the ascension of Jesus. These are the people who contend that after the ascension, Jesus became all three persons of God, so that there no longer existed a trinity.

Let’s move on, then, to a time yet to come where we can see the trinity manifested.

In the Revelation

Throughout the book of Revelation, the person of God the Father is seen sitting on the throne with the Lamb by His side. Jesus, of course, is the Lamb that was slain, and is referred to as the Lamb throughout Revelation. Here are just a few examples:

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

(Revelation 7:9-10)

And I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

(Revelation 21:22)

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

(Revelation 22:1)

These passages clearly establish the existence, in a time yet to come, of God the Father and the Lamb, being Jesus the Son, existing simultaneously. But where, you may ask, is the Holy Ghost (or the Spirit) during this time? Revelation 11:3-12 tells of God’s two witnesses who prophesy for 1,260 days. At the end of that time, the Spirit is sent to resurrect these two men – the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Verse 11 tells us,

And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet.

(Revelation 11:11a)

The Spirit is also heard speaking in Revelation 14:13,

...Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

And again in Revelation 22:17 when,

...the Spirit and the bride say, Come.

From these references, it should be evident that the trinity existed in the beginning, during the earthly manifestation of Jesus, and in the time yet to come. Therefore, we can see that there is a blessed trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. The next step, then, will be to trace the manifestations of the Holy Ghost through the scriptures and to show the ways that the Holy Ghost functioned in various parts of biblical history.

Chapter II The Holy Ghost

In the Old Testament

As we will see in a later section, the Holy Ghost began to dwell in man beginning on the Day of Pentecost, as Jesus promised. Where, then, was the Holy Ghost before that day and how did He work in the lives of men?

You see, the Holy Ghost dwelt with man, but not in him. For the Holy Ghost to exercise His power, He had to “come upon” man or “fill” him for any given event. For instance, in the 11th chapter of Numbers, the Israelites had been complaining about their current situation. Both God and Moses were displeased with the people. Moses had begun to feel the burden of dealing with the people and went to God, telling Him that the burden was more than he could bear. So, God told Moses to gather seventy elders so that He could take of the Spirit, which He had previously given to Moses and put it on the elders, so that they could help Moses bear the burden of the people.

And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

(Numbers 11:25)

Notice here that the Spirit “rested upon them.” These men were not “filled” with the Spirit – the spirit merely rested upon them and they began to prophesy.

This brings up another important point. Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit comes upon men for the purpose of, or at least having the effect of causing men to prophesy. In the 22nd, 23rd and 24th chapters of Numbers, we read the account of Balak when he hired Balaam to speak a curse on the Israelites. Every time that Balaam spoke, he pronounced a blessing and not a curse.

*And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; **AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAME UPON HIM.***

(Numbers 24:2 emphasis mine)

Verses five through nine in that chapter give the blessing that the Spirit spoke through Balaam on the Israelite people. When reading this blessing, it becomes clear that the pronouncement given by Balaam when the Spirit was upon him was a prophecy in favor of the Israelites. This is one example of Spirit-controlled prophecy.

Probably one of the most interesting examples of Spirit-controlled prophecy, though, is found in 1 Samuel 19, when Saul sought to have David killed. Three times, Saul sent messengers to take David. All three times, the Bible tells us that the Spirit of God was

upon the messengers of Saul, and they prophesied. After this, Saul himself went to where David was and was set upon by the Spirit before he reached David. He prophesied as he went until he came to the place where David was with Samuel. In this particular case, the Spirit caused these men to prophesy in order to allow David an opportunity to escape. Verse 24 tells us that,

[Saul] stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night.

Saul was stopped dead in his tracks by the overwhelming power of the Holy Ghost, leaving David an avenue of escape.

Another wonderful example of the power of the Holy Ghost in the Old Testament can be found in the life of Samson. Many times, Samson had the “*Spirit of the Lord mightily upon him*” and performed great feats of strength. In Judges 14:5-6, Samson met a lion. When the “*Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him,*” Samson killed the lion with his bare hands. Again, in verse 19, after being betrayed by his wife concerning a riddle, “*the Spirit of the Lord came upon him*” and he slew thirty men “*and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle.*” Samson also performed other feats of strength through the power of the Spirit. As wonderful as these examples are, though, the best is yet to come.

In the New Testament Prior to Pentecost

In the New Testament Gospels, prior to Pentecost, the Spirit worked in much the same way as in the Old Testament, except that instead of the Spirit having “come upon” some as in the Old Testament, those in the New Testament began to be “filled” with the Holy Ghost. These are still special dispensations, as in the Old Testament, but these people were “filled” with the Spirit. For our first example, let us begin with John the Baptist.

When Gabriel appeared to Zacharias, the father of John, to announce John’s impending birth, he said to Zacharias,

*Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; **AND HE SHALL BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, EVEN FROM HIS MOTHER’S WOMB.***

(Luke 1:13-15 emphasis mine)

You see, we usually consider the Day of Pentecost as being the first time that men and women were “filled” with the Holy Ghost. As we can see from this scripture, though, that is not the case. Keep in mind, though, that this is a special dispensation, given during the time that the ruling authority in the earth was still held by the prince of the

power of the air, or Satan. It was only after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the second Adam, that the baptism of the Holy Ghost became available to all men.

Another special dispensation is found in Luke 1. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, a virgin, and told her that she would conceive and bear a son, whose name would be Jesus. When Mary asked the angel how this could be,

...the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
(Luke 1:35)

Later in that same chapter we find that,

...when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.
(Luke 1:41)

Elisabeth, then, spoke a blessing upon Mary.

Still in that same chapter, Zacharias, who had been struck dumb by the angel Gabriel for his disbelief, went with Elisabeth and the baby for his circumcision. When they called the baby Zacharias, Elisabeth told them that he was to be called John. Since there was no one in the family with that name, they began to use signs to ask Zacharias what the baby was to be called. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." Of course, this surprised all those who were present. Immediately, though, Zacharias' tongue was loosed and he began to speak and to praise God. Luke 1:67 says,

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied...

Let's look at one more example of a man being filled with the Holy Ghost prior to Pentecost. This man, though, was more than a man. He was and is the Son of God.

Jesus began His earthly ministry at age thirty. Before He began to preach, though, He went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Luke 4:1 tells us,

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost, returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

In verse 14 of the same chapter, we find,

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about.

Jesus began His ministry full of the Holy Ghost. With that power, throughout His ministry, the dead were raised, the sick were healed, the lame walked, the blind saw, and the dumb talked. The lepers were cleansed, and hearts were brought to repentance.

Let us move on, now, and take a look at prophecies concerning the Holy Ghost and then the teachings on the power and function of the Holy Ghost from Pentecost to the days yet to come.

Prophecy Concerning the Holy Ghost

Although there are many prophecies concerning the Holy Ghost, we will limit our discussion to but a few, so that we can then move on to the workings and functional characteristics of the Holy Ghost in the New Testament.

To begin, let's look at a prophecy given by John the Baptist. There were those who had come to hear John preach and to be baptized, who began to wonder if John was the Christ. Luke 3:16 tells us,

John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the lachet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

This mighty one, of course, was Jesus, who also gave several prophecies concerning the Holy Ghost. For instance, in Luke 12:11-12, Jesus tells His disciples,

And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: for the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Even before openly promising the Holy Ghost, Jesus was giving instructions to the disciples on giving heed to the Holy Ghost concerning their defense when persecuted for the Gospel.

Another example of prophecy by Jesus before openly promising the Holy Ghost can be found in John 7:37-39.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Looking to John 14:26, we find also where Jesus openly promised the Holy Ghost.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Then in Acts 1:4-8, Jesus gives the disciples instructions to wait for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

and being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel? And he saith unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

These were the last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples before He ascended into heaven. In the next section, we will be looking at the scriptures describing the coming of the Comforter and showing examples, instructions and descriptions of the power of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost and beyond.

Before we proceed, though, there is one more prophecy that bears recognition. Since we in the last days, all signs preceding the rapture of the church having been fulfilled, it is important to note a prophecy given by the prophet Joel that is now coming to pass.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

(Joel 2:28-29)

Oh, what a joyous time we live in. With the fulfillment of this prophecy, we are seeing great miracles and prophecies today that are fueling a worldwide revival. Praise be to God!!

Pentecost and Beyond

Now that we have covered the time leading up to the Day of Pentecost and some of the prophecies concerning the Holy Ghost, we can move on into what I like to think of as the meat of this subject.

When Jesus was crucified and laid in the tomb, He was not idle, even in a state of death. In Romans 4:9, Paul says,

Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

Why, though, did Jesus descend into the earth? In Revelation 1:18, Jesus says,

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

It was for this purpose, to take the keys of hell and death from Satan, that Jesus descended into the lower parts of the earth. A preview of the effect of this marvelous purpose can be seen in Matthew 27:51-53.

*And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; **and many bodies of saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.** (emphasis mine)*

Notice here that the saints who slept were no longer bound by death. Jesus now had the keys of hell and death, having redeemed mankind unto God. At this point, Satan no longer ruled and the Holy Ghost was free to dwell within man, beginning on that glorious Day of Pentecost when the Comforter was sent from God.

We will now journey through the book of Acts, beginning with the Day of Pentecost, to illustrate the activity of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost and beyond.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speaking in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

(Acts 2:1-11)

Notice in verse four that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Some will say that the Holy Ghost fell only on the disciples. However, Acts 1:15 tells us that there were about 120 people in that upper room, including Mary, Jesus' mother, and His brothers. Then, as Peter was speaking, he made this very interesting statement,

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

(Ac 2:38, 39)

Under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, Peter declared that this gift was not just for the apostles or just for that time period. It was for those thousands that he was speaking to, their descendants, those who were not present that day and as many as the Lord called. Has the Lord called you, Christian?

As we continue through the book of Acts, you will see that many others received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and that this baptism is a separate experience from receiving the Spirit of God or of Jesus at salvation.

Getting back to our text, though, these people who heard the disciples (and the others who had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost) speaking in their own languages were certainly amazed. According to verse thirteen of that chapter, some began to mock them, saying that they were drunk. Peter, though, stood and began to preach the first evangelistic message by a Spirit-filled believer since the ascension of Jesus. He preached the Gospel to these men through the anointing of the Holy Ghost and these men were "pricked in their heart" according to verse thirty-seven, and they asked Peter and the apostles what they had to do. After hearing what Peter had to say,

they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(Acts 2:41)

You see, when a believer speaks words that are anointed by the Holy Ghost, people will respond.

Turning now to chapter 4, after healing the lame man, Peter and John were taken by Saducees because they were grieved to hear these men preaching Jesus' resurrection. You see, the Saducees did not believe in resurrection. In Verse 7, they asked by what authority or name had these things been done. Peter was then filled with the Holy Ghost and boldly proclaimed to them the Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth. If you will remember, in the section on Prophecy concerning the Holy Ghost, we discussed the scripture found in Luke 12: 11-12. This is when Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Ghost would give them the words to say in their defense when they were brought before the magistrates, powers, etc. This incident proves that prophecy to be true. Of course, this is not the only

time that the Holy Ghost gave a man the right words to say in a similar situation, but it certainly qualifies as a good example.

Continuing on through this chapter, we find that Peter and John were threatened by these men against preaching the Gospel of Jesus and then were set free. When Peter and John went back and told their own company of the events that took place, they began to praise God and prayed that His servants would receive boldness to speak the Word of God with signs and wonders to follow by the name of Jesus. Acts 4:31 tells us,

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

There is a chorus that I like to sing that starts out, “When the praises go up, the glory comes down.” This particular event is a good example of that simple truth. When Peter and John and their company began to praise and to pray, the place they were in was shaken and the power of the Holy Ghost fell upon all those assembled. “*They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*” This is something to remember when seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We seek this baptism through prayer, asking our Father for this gift that He is more than willing to give to His children. In most cases, though, you will find that it is during praise, a heart-felt, all-surrendering praise that the baptism of the Holy Ghost will be manifested. That term ‘all-surrendering’ may seem an awkward description of a type of praise, but it is necessary to surrender completely to the will and the ‘control’ of God in order for the manifestation of the baptism to be realized, in most cases. Remember that God wants us to worship Him and Him alone. This is the first commandment. When we give ourselves completely to Him, we will find that our God will be more than happy to fill us with the Holy Ghost. Peter said in Acts 5:32,

And we are witnesses of these things: and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

As we move on to the sixth chapter of Acts, we find that there arose a dispute concerning the care of widows between the Grecians and the Hebrews. The twelve apostles called together the multitude of disciples and told them to choose men to appoint over the business of the daily ministration so that the men of God who were called to preach the Gospel could continue in their work. Notice, in verse 3, the requirements for these men who were to be appointed.

*Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, **FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST** and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. (emphasis mine)*

These were the requirements given in this verse:

- of honest report – these men had to have the reputation of being honest and

- just.
- full of the Holy Ghost – the apostles saw the need to have spirit-filled men in positions of ministry to the body of believers.
 - full of wisdom – these men had to have the wisdom to settle any disputes that arose.

Probably the most important of these three requirements, though, would be the second one listed here – “full of the Holy Ghost.” With the leading of the Holy Ghost, we can be sure that these ministrations can be carried out in the most effective way, so that the needs of all of God’s people are met.

As you read this chapter, you will notice that Stephen was one of the men that was chosen. Stephen was described in Acts 6:5 as being

“a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost.”

Verse 8 tells us that

“Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”

Notice, though, that when certain men of the synagogue began to dispute Stephen, in verse 10 we read,

“And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake.”

When we speak words that are Spirit-filled, the world cannot stand against it. We have seen this previously in the account of Peter and John and now in the case of Stephen. Now, Stephen was falsely accused of blasphemy. When asked if the accusations were true, Stephen began to declare the sins of the religious leaders in that they had killed the prophets and had betrayed and murdered Jesus. These words can be found in Acts Chapter 7. Later in that chapter, though, we find an amazing passage.

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God and said, Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

(Acts 7:54-56)

It was then that Stephen was taken out and stoned to death. What I would like for you to see in this passage, though is that the Holy Ghost opened Stephen’s eyes so that he was able to see into the spirit realm. This is not the first time in the Bible that a man’s eyes were opened to the spiritual realm, but it is noteworthy.

As we progress to the eighth chapter of Acts, we find that the church at Jerusalem was suffering great persecution. The young man named Saul, who had witnessed the stoning of Stephen, was going from house to house to find believers and to bring them to prison. All except the apostles were “*scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria*” (Acts 8:1). In verse 4 we read,

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

Phillip, then, came to Samaria preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of the signs and wonders that followed Phillip, the people gave heed to his message. Through Phillip, the sick were healed, the lame walked, and those bound with demons were delivered. When they believed, they were baptized in the name of Jesus. Notice, though, that they had not yet received the Holy Ghost. Look with me at verses 14 through 17.

*Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (**for as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (emphasis mine)*

Here is where we find that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a separate experience from salvation. There are many people, ministers, churches, etc. who deny the power of the Holy Ghost as well as the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These people will tell you that you receive the Holy Spirit when you are “saved.” That is true, but that is not the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These people will tell you that the two are the same. The scripture that we just covered, though, makes it clear that they are separate. These people had believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus. It wasn’t until later, though, that they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Before we continue our study of Acts, let’s look at one more example of the separate experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

*And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said to them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? **And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19:1-6 emphasis mine)*

Once again, we find believers, in this case disciples, who were saved and baptized, but who did not even know that there was a Holy Ghost. After hearing Paul's teaching, they were baptized in Jesus' name and Paul laid his hands on them. They received the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.

Notice here, also, the signs of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. They spoke with tongues and prophesied. As we continue our study, watch for these signs – the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Let us now return to the eighth chapter of Acts for an interesting example of the power of the Holy Ghost.

Beginning in verse 26, we find that an angel came to Phillip and instructed him to go down toward Gaza. On the way, he met an Ethiopian eunuch and taught him about Jesus. The eunuch believed and was baptized. Then, an amazing thing happened.

*And when they were come up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord caught away Phillip, that the eunuch saw him no more:** and he went on his way rejoicing. But Phillip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Cesarea.*
(Acts 8:39-40 emphasis mine)

Yes, you read it right. Phillip was translated by the Holy Ghost. This is one of those miracles that is difficult for even today's Christians to understand or accept. However, God has not changed. The Old Testament is full of miracles. There should be no surprise that God still performs these types of miracles through the power of the Holy Ghost. Keep in mind, though, that this was a time when the Christians of the day were working directly with the Holy Ghost. In the nearly 2000 years since the time of the early church, Christian leaders have left the Holy Ghost out of most of the decisions and actions of the church. Only now, in the last days, has a small number of Christians and Christian leaders begun to work directly with the Holy Ghost again. Because of these few Christians, we can expect to see more of these types of miracles today.

As we move on to the ninth chapter of Acts, we find the account of Saul as he was met by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul was struck blind and told to go into the city. While he was there, Jesus spoke to a disciple named Ananias and told him to go to Saul and restore his sight.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

(Acts 9:17-19)

Saul was given back his sight and was baptized or filled with the Holy Ghost. You may ask why Saul was blinded in the first place. Although the Bible doesn't actually give a reason, consider that Saul was an enemy of Jesus and this blindness had the effects of getting Saul's attention and placing him into a state of vulnerability. Notice, also, that this was a lesson that Saul learned well. By the power of the Holy Ghost, Saul (by that time called Paul) later speaks blindness upon a sorcerer. More about that later. After having received his sight, though, Saul was filled with the Holy Ghost and stayed with the local disciples for a time. Again, the Bible doesn't say what Saul was doing during this time, but I do know that if I had been there in his place, I would have had many questions. The point of this passage, though, is that through the power of the Holy Ghost, Saul's sight was restored and he was baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Continuing toward the end of this same chapter, we find that the Holy Ghost comforted the church.

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

(Acts 9:31)

Just as a caring parent might do after a threat has been eliminated, the Holy Ghost comforted the church as it grew. Please consider that in order to be of comfort, one typically must be close. With few exceptions, a stranger is unable to provide comfort. If we are to be comforted, it usually has to come from someone close to us. The same is true of the Holy Ghost. As long as God is seen as someone way out there who is unknowable in this life, He will be of little comfort. Only when we have a close relationship will we know not only comfort, but also guidance, power and even protection. As we continue, you will begin to see that the Holy Ghost worked hand in hand with the church in the book of Acts. If you pay attention, you will see why the church was very successful in that time and why people have reason to complain that they do not see that kind of spiritual manifestation today.

As we move into the tenth chapter of Acts, we see an example of the relationship that Peter has with the Holy Ghost. An angel told Cornelius of Caesarea in a vision to send for Peter. As the men that Cornelius sent came near to the city where Peter was, Peter went onto the housetop to pray. While he was there, Peter was given a vision of a sheet with animals and birds – seemingly those that were considered unclean under the law. Three times, Peter refused to eat and was told not to call common or unclean that which God has cleansed (referring to the Gentiles who were coming for him). As the men were at the door, asking if Peter was there and Peter was pondering the meaning of his vision, the Spirit spoke to him.

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

(Acts 10:19,20)

Most people today will ask for guidance from the Spirit in the form of a sign – like Gideon’s fleece. While the Spirit will usually honor these requests, this is not the way we see Him dealing with Peter in this passage. The Spirit spoke a very concise message. Three men are looking for you. Go with them and don’t worry about it. I sent them. There is nothing vague about that. But why, you may ask, doesn’t the Holy Ghost interact with us today as He did then. Let me just say, the Holy Ghost has not changed. If a Christian doesn’t have that kind of relationship with the Holy Ghost, it’s not the Spirit’s fault. As we continue through this section, there will be more examples of the Holy Ghost working closely with believers. As we cover these scriptures, remember that what He did for those believers, He will do for you, if you let Him.

Now, let’s get back to Peter and Cornelius. After Peter arrived at the home of Cornelius, he began to preach Jesus to the house of Cornelius. Shortly after he began to speak, he said these words.

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

(Acts 10:36-38)

Anyone who has any knowledge of Jesus knows the divine power that He manifested during His earthly ministry. Notice here, though, what Peter is saying. “*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power.*” That same Holy Ghost is still at work today.

As Peter continued to testify about Jesus, an amazing thing happened.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

(Acts 10:44-48)

Yes, you read that right. While Peter was still speaking, the people of the house of Cornelius received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Now, the Bible describes Cornelius as “*a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.*” There is no indication, though, that Cornelius had

even heard of Jesus before Peter testified of Him. Yet, the Holy Ghost fell upon them all. There is no mention of ‘praying through’, ‘sanctification’ or ‘seeking’ the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The last words that Peter had spoken, according to scripture, were, “*to him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*” It would seem that Cornelius and his house believed. The Jews who came with Peter knew that these Gentiles had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost because they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. We will deal more with this evidence in a later section. Notice, though, that even though these people were baptized with the Holy Ghost, Peter still baptized them in water. But notice, also, that neither baptism was dependent on the other. They received the baptism of the Holy Ghost before having received water baptism. What was important was that they received both baptisms.

In the eleventh chapter of Acts, we see another manifestation of the power of the Holy Ghost.

And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be a great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

(Acts 11:27,28)

This is an example of prophecy by the Holy Ghost. In our discussion of the Holy Ghost in the Old Testament, you will remember that in many cases, the Holy Ghost came upon men and they prophesied. God does not change. Prophecy is still a primary function of the Holy Ghost. More on that later. In this instance, though, that prophesy came forth so that the disciples would know to send relief to those who dwelt in Judaea (Acts 11:29,30).

Moving on to the thirteenth chapter,

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

(Acts 13:2)

Notice once again how the Holy Ghost was right there with them, working with them. All He had to do was speak and the disciples were ready to respond. The Holy Ghost told them to separate Barnabas and Saul to the work that the Spirit had already called them to. It is a wonderful thing to work that closely with the Holy Ghost.

The next example of the manifestation of the Holy Ghost is a bit different. Consider this passage of scripture.

And when they had gone through the isle of Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called

for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

(Acts 13:6-11)

When the Holy Ghost is on the move, there are consequences for getting in His way. Sergius Paulus was ready to hear the gospel and the Holy Ghost was there with Paul and Barnabas to deliver that gospel. When Elymas got in the way, though, he suffered the consequences. By the power of the Holy Ghost, Paul spoke blindness on Elymas and he immediately became blind.

Before we continue, please allow me to jump ahead a bit and give an example of the consequences of attempting to operate in the supernatural without the Holy Ghost.

Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

(Acts 19:13-16)

In the previous passage, the Holy Ghost worked directly with Paul to strike Elymas blind. Even though it seems that what the sons of Sceva did was a good thing, they were attempting to use authority that they didn't have. It is important to know who you are in Christ.

As we move to the end of this chapter, we find an incident where Paul and Barnabas had been ministering in the city of Antioch. The Jews stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and caused them to be expelled from the city.

But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

(Acts 13:51,52)

When Jesus sent the twelve out two by two, one of the instructions that He gave them was that if there were those who would not receive them or hear them, that when they

departed, they were to shake the dust from their feet as a testimony against them. Paul and Barnabas obeyed that instruction and were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost. Remember that you will be rewarded for even the smallest acts of obedience – not only in eternity, but here in this life.

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

(Acts 14:3)

This is where it gets exciting – when the Lord, through the Spirit, grants signs and wonders by the hands of believers. Keep in mind that what the Spirit did for Paul and Barnabas, He'll do for you, if you will let Him.

And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

(Acts 14:8-10)

What incredible healing power!! How wonderfully the Spirit will work through us. Three things happened here. Paul knew that the man had faith to be healed. We know that Paul did not have that power in himself – it was the Spirit who revealed this to him. Then, when Paul spoke, the man leaped and walked. Two things had to have happened. The condition that caused the man to be lame was healed and the atrophy of the muscles in the legs and hips was reversed instantaneously. There was no recovery period in which the healed body parts had to be built up and retrained. Paul did not ask the Spirit to guide the physicians. He spoke healing and the man leaped and walked!

The next two examples of the manifestation of the Holy Ghost involve direction and guidance.

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go to Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

(Acts 16:6-7)

For the purpose of our discussion, the geographic regions mentioned here are not our focus. The thing to look at in these verses is the fact that the Spirit was actively involved in where Paul and Silas did or did not go to preach. There is another example of this kind in chapter twenty, but, first, let's look at another topic for just a moment. In chapter nineteen, we find this passage.

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth , Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.

(Acts 19:1-7)

Although there are occasions in the New Covenant where people received the Holy Ghost when first they believed, that does not mean that one automatically receives the baptism of the Holy Ghost along with their confession of faith. Paul came to Ephesus and encountered disciples (believers) who had not yet heard about the Holy Ghost. When they heard and believed Paul's words, they still did not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, they did not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In this case, it wasn't until Paul laid hands on these disciples that they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is an experience that is separate from belief, salvation, or any other spiritual experience – though the baptism may occur simultaneously with any of these other experiences. Keep in mind that the Holy Ghost is God, just as the Father is God and Jesus is God. God is sovereign. The timing of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is not dependent on rituals or experiences.

Well, I owe you another example of the Holy Ghost providing direction and guidance.

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

(Acts 20:22-23)

Paul, through the Spirit, knew that he was to go to Jerusalem and that bonds and affliction were being prophesied concerning him. Then, while Paul was in the house of Philip in Caesarea, Agabus came to prophesy concerning Paul's upcoming imprisonment.

And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

(Acts 21:10,11)

This brings us back once again to one amazing function of the Holy Ghost – prophecy. If we will allow the Holy Ghost to work hand in hand with us as he did with the early church, we as Christians will be able, through the Spirit’s wonderful blessing of prophecy, to avoid many of the pitfalls that so many Christians find themselves subject to.

Chapter III More About the Holy Ghost

In this chapter we will be covering subjects related to the Holy Ghost. It is my hope that the preceding examples have given you a good perspective on the operation of the Holy Ghost throughout various periods of history (past, present and future). With that knowledge, we can now continue to get a deeper understanding of who the Holy Ghost is and how He operates.

Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

(Acts 2:1-4)

This was the introduction of the baptism of the Holy Ghost to the believers that were assembled together in that upper room. As soon as they were filled with (baptized in) the Holy Ghost, they began to speak with other tongues. As you will soon see, this is a recurring theme throughout the book of Acts – the sole biblical chronicle of the early church.

To give you an example of this evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, let's look in the tenth chapter of Acts. There was a centurion in Caesarea called Cornelius. Cornelius was a man who feared God, so an angel was sent to him to tell him to send for Peter. As Peter was speaking to the household of Cornelius about Jesus, a wonderful thing happened.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

(Acts 10:44-48)

The Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. The Jews who had come with Peter were amazed that Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Ghost. But, how did they know that these uncircumcised Gentiles had been baptized in the Holy Ghost? *“For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.”*

In another incident, Paul went to Ephesus and spoke with disciples there about the Holy Ghost.

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

(Acts 19:1-6)

These were believers who knew nothing about the Holy Ghost and certainly had not received the baptism in the Holy Ghost. Some say that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is automatic to all who receive salvation. In this account, that was not the case. The baptism of the Holy Ghost did not come when they believed. They did not receive that gift when they were baptized in the name of Jesus. It was only after Paul laid hands on them that they received the baptism in the Holy Ghost. What, though, was the outward evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost? *“they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”*

All believers can be baptized in the Holy Ghost. All those who receive this baptism are given tongues as evidence of this baptism. Some will argue that only those with the gift of tongues will speak in other tongues. As we will see in the section dealing with the spiritual gifts, the gift of tongues is given to be used along with its companion gift of interpretation in the church service to edify all. Here, though, we see all those who receive the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues, not to give a message, but as evidence of that baptism.

Fruit, Gifts and Ministries

As we progress through this portion of our study, you will notice that for some gifts, there is a corresponding ministry. For at least one attribute of fruit, there is a corresponding gift. This has proven to be a point of confusion for some. Let's see if we can clear it up.

Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul gave examples of the works of the flesh and then contrasts that list with the passage shown above – the fruit of the Spirit. This is where our relationship with the Spirit gets personal. A close association with the Spirit, whether or not in the form of baptism in the Holy Ghost, has the effect of changing us in ways that become easily apparent. That is to say, love shows.

As Christians, particularly in this end-time harvest, it is very important that the world is able to recognize a Christian. You may have noticed that those who are lost rarely walk into a church as in the past. One reason is that, for many years, a majority of professed Christians sought to show others that they were Christians by condemning those who had not received Jesus or those who practiced sin. The natural reaction of those who were condemned was to look for even a single fault in those professed Christians, so that they would have a reason to strike back. As you well know, they didn't have to look far. As soon as they found fault with a Christian, all Christians became hypocrites. So, as you can see, that was not the most effective approach.

Take the example of Jesus, though. With the exception of the religious leaders, who should have known better, Jesus did not condemn anyone. He simply showed the fruit of the Spirit, listed in the passage above, and taught others to do the same. If we simply live the fruit of the Spirit and teach the world of the wondrous love of Jesus and what he did for us because of that love, we are better witnesses to a world who desperately needs us. If we will just love people into the kingdom, the Holy Ghost will clean them up.

Gifts of the Spirit

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

The spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit so that we can minister to one another and to those who are lost. Also, the manifestation of these gifts, along with the fruit of the Spirit that we discussed earlier, helps unbelievers to see Christ in us. When we deliver a word of Godly wisdom or when we tell someone something we couldn't possibly have knowledge of, people see God the Father in us. When we show unshakable faith no matter what the circumstances and see that faith come to fruition, people see God the Son in us. When we heal and perform miracles, people see God the Holy Ghost in us. And

by the gifts of prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation, we minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ and others who have come to us for help. When we couple these divine gifts with the fruit of the Spirit, we manifest Christ to the world and to our Christian family.

Before we move on to ministries, let us take a look at two of the gifts of the spirit. If you look back at the fruit of the Spirit, you will find faith listed there.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

(Hebrews 11:1-6)

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Every Christian is given the measure (not a measure, but the measure) of faith.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

(Romans 12:3)

So, every Christian must have faith and that faith can move mountains, but there is more. Those with the gift of faith are the ones who can literally speak their world into existence. They have a fanatic belief that what they speak in faith will come to pass – and it will. When I use the word ‘fanatic’, it is meant in a positive way. Those with the gift of faith cannot be shaken. As you can see, there is a difference.

Also, when we discussed evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, we discussed tongues. Every Spirit-filled believer can and should speak in tongues. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:4 that when we speak in an unknown tongue, we edify ourselves. The gift of tongues, though, is given for the edification of the church, as long as there is someone

to interpret. These two types of tongues have two completely different functions. Then, as you will see in the next section, there is the ministry of diversities of tongues. Again, we are presented with degrees of spiritual attributes. It is one thing to have the gift of tongues whereby the Spirit speaks through us, but it is another to be involved in this gift as a ministry. While it is difficult to explain this ministry, I can give you one other example that may be helpful.

In the book of Mark, chapter 16, we are told that those who believe will lay hands on the sick and they will recover. Every Christian has the power and obligation to heal. Those with the gift of healing, though, are more effective as healers. The ministry of healing, though, takes on a new dimension. We not only heal, but we teach healing. We use the scripture to show those who need healing why they can and should be healed and to help them build their faith.

List of Ministries

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

(1 Corinthians 12:27-28)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

(Ephesians 4:11-15)

Taken together, we find these ministries alluded to by Paul:

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Teacher
- Evangelist
- Pastor
- Miracles
- Gifts Of Healings
- Helps
- Governments
- Diversities Of Tongues

According to Paul, these ministries are given “*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*” We are a body made up of many parts. No one ministry (or minister) can do it all. Over time, some of these ministries have been forced out of the church, to the detriment of the body. Only now are we beginning to see apostles again, but they do not typically identify themselves as apostles. They will identify themselves as evangelists, pastors, etc. so that they can do the work that God has called them to do without being unduly persecuted by church traditionalists who have rejected that office.

The same is true of prophets. Only now are we seeing prophets allowed to minister in the church and that is rare. For the prophet, the problem is slightly different. Two things hinder the ministry of the prophet. First, many people have the idea that since God talks to them, they don’t need or want to hear what a prophet has to say. Second, since some who claim to be prophets spoke things that did not happen, they were rejected as prophets and rightly so.

When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

(Deuteronomy 18:22)

The problem is, people tend to throw the baby out with the bath water. Just because one or two self-proclaimed prophets are false, the entire prophet ministry is rejected. It’s the same thing the unsaved do when they encounter one or two false Christians.

The ministry of teaching has been relegated to the Sunday School room in most churches. Fortunately, those apostles, evangelists, prophets and pastors who have also been ordained by God to teach are finding more and more acceptance among those ministries that are proving themselves effective in this end-time world.

Many think that evangelists are widely accepted throughout the church. The truth is, though, that the majority of preachers holding revivals and special meetings are pastors. Many pastors claim that an evangelist comes in and causes trouble and it is up to the pastor to clean it up. Others are afraid that an evangelist will try to take over their church. For whatever reason, most pastors have rejected the evangelist ministry and invite other pastors to be their guest speakers – many times advertising the visiting pastor as an evangelist. Yet another ministry is rejected.

Until recently, the pastor was the last remaining acceptable ministry. Many pastors taught their congregations that all ministries were manifested in the pastor. Since these ministers are in constant contact with their congregation, these notions became widely believed among Christians and the preceding ministries were done away with. The remainder of the ministries listed above were to be manifested by the pastor and select members of his/her congregation.

The problem with this situation is that all of these ministries were ordained by God. The most effective ministries in existence today are those in which all of the ministries are allowed to operate. If you are sitting in your pew wondering why you are not seeing miracles and the move of God, look around and see if all of the ministries are accepted in your church. If not, you may very well have your answer. That doesn't mean that you should pick up and leave. That means that you should pray earnestly that hearts are changed so that your church can reap the benefits of ministries that God gave for your perfecting and edification.

One Body, Many Parts

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body?

But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

This is why we cannot reject or condemn any other member of the body of Christ, since we only hurt ourselves in the long run. Some may worship differently than we do. As long as that worship is in spirit and in truth, we have no cause to condemn. Just because the way that someone ministers is not appealing to us, we have no cause to reject or condemn. That minister or ministry may very well be for another part of the body of Christ. Keep in mind that there is unity in the Spirit.

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

(Ephesians 4:1-6 emphasis mine)

If there are those who minister differently, it is not our job to tear them down. We must help them, even if only through prayer, to reach those that we cannot, so that all people have a chance at salvation.

Diversity of Gifts – Greater Gifts

Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

(1 Corinthians 29-31)

When we all work together, using the gifts we are given and in the ministries to which we are called, we become a force for the kingdom of God in this world. With the help of the Holy Ghost, we can be effective witnesses and ministers to this end-time world. There can be no jealousy or resentment, hatred or condemnation, unforgiveness or spite among believers. To work together, we must obey Christ's command to love one another, since love does not allow us to be contrary to one another.

All Must Be Done In Love

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

The word 'charity' in this passage means love - but not just any love. The word translated 'charity' in the King James version is the Greek Agape, meaning brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence. Agape love has been described as Godly love – unconditional love. No matter what gifts we may have, what ministries we are involved in or what works we do, all is for nothing without love – agape love.

Gifts in the Church Service

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

(1 Corinthians 14:1-25)

Paul compares and contrasts the gift of tongues and the gift of prophesy in the church service. Even though tongues help us in prayer and in praise, the only possible way that tongues can edify others in the church service is by having them interpreted. Prophesy, however, can edify all who hear. That is why Paul often encourages believers to seek the greater gifts.

Please don't think that Paul is saying that tongues are not to be desired. At one point, he even says that he thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than them all. Keep in mind that all of the gifts of the Spirit had been manifested through special dispensation throughout history, except tongues. What's new is cool and that is what everyone desires. Paul simply exhorted the believers not to stop there, but to consider which gifts would help them to further the kingdom of God and to edify others. Tongues? Absolutely – but don't stop there.

Although Paul did not cover the rest of the gifts and their use in the church service, it is important to note that, as long as all is done in order, the rest of the gifts of the Spirit are certainly to be used. If there are those present who need healing, those with the gift of healing should by all means heal them. If one has a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge for a believer or for the congregation, it should be given. The most important thing is that everything is done in order.

Orderly Worship

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

(1 Corinthians 14:26-40)

As you read through this passage, I'm sure that you noticed that there was room in the service for more than one person to participate, so long as all was done in order – not man's order, but God's order. You see, it's not about any one believer showing off what he/she knows or can do. It's not about an individual's gifts or talents. All of those things are given by the Spirit, anyway. What is done in the service is to be done by the leading of the Spirit so that the body of Christ may be edified.

Functions of the Holy Ghost

In this section, we will explore some of the functions of the Holy Ghost. This is not a comprehensive list, since the Spirit constantly reveals more and more of Himself and His power. We are in the period of prophetic history when the Spirit is being poured out on all flesh – when the Spirit is being manifested more than ever before. As we continue, keep in mind that the Spirit is bigger and more powerful than words can express, but we will get some idea of the scope of His functions from these scriptures.

The Spirit Testifies of Jesus

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

(1 John 5:6-7)

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

(1 Corinthians 12:3)

In these two scriptures, we see that the Spirit, who is truth, testifies of Jesus Christ - the Spirit bearing record along with the Father and the Word. Also, notice that in 1 Corinthians, Paul tells us that it is only by the Holy Ghost that we are able to testify of Jesus. Without Him, we are unable to declare that Jesus is Lord. With Him, we cannot do otherwise.

The Spirit makes us Holy (Chosen)

But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

(Romans 2:29)

Much of the Old Testament deals with the law. An outward sign of those living under the law was circumcision. The law dealt with the flesh, but the New Covenant deals with the spirit. Since Jesus fulfilled the law, it is no longer a physical circumcision that is necessary, but a spiritual one. It is the Spirit who helps us to achieve this circumcision of the heart – a spiritual circumcision. Although the children of Israel are God's chosen people, the children of the circumcision, we in the church age have been made holy or chosen by the Spirit and have become the children of the spiritual circumcision.

The Spirit Sets Us Free

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

(Romans 8:1-2)

Keeping in mind that the law of the Old Covenant was a physical law, it becomes easily apparent, as we study the scripture, that it was not possible for man to keep the whole law. This is why Paul referred to the law as the law of sin and death and that those who lived under that law were walking after the flesh. Through Jesus Christ and the

workings of the Spirit, we have been set free from that law and the condemnation and ultimate death that came with it.

But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

(Romans 7:6)

The Spirit Directs Us

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

(Romans 8:4-11)

As Christians, we must look beyond this physical existence that we find ourselves in. Most Christians will acknowledge a Spirit-realm existence after this life is over, but have a hard time accepting a Spirit-realm existence while we are still in this body. Paul tells us that if the Spirit dwells in us, we are no longer of the flesh, but of the Spirit. If we concern ourselves with the physical (carnal), we do not come into subjection to the law of God (spiritual law) and we cannot please God. If we concern ourselves with the Spirit realm (spiritually minded), though, we have life and peace. Also, in this scripture, you will notice that the Spirit is the one that raised Christ from the dead. If we have that same Spirit in us, He will give life to our mortal bodies. This is the benefit that we can expect to receive by walking in the Spirit.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

(Galatians 5:16-18)

The Spirit will guide you if you let Him. If you do, you will find that Spirit-realm existence is not so difficult after all. You will be set free from the flesh that keeps you bound to sin and death. You will not be under the law.

The Spirit Puts To Death The Deeds Of The Flesh

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

(Romans 8:10-14)

We have a choice. We can die or we, through the Spirit, can put to death the deeds of the flesh. This goes back to being led or directed by the Spirit. If we walk after the flesh, that is, concern ourselves with the physical realm, we find ourselves fulfilling the sinful desires of the flesh which lead to death. However, if we walk after the Spirit, or allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, we escape the death that is sin's ultimate end and become sons of God.

The Spirit Testifies That We Are Sons Of God

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

(Romans 8:15-17)

This is one of my favorite passages of Scripture. We have been given the Spirit of adoption. God is now Abba, Father. We are children of God – joint-heirs with Christ. We know that we are the sons of God because the Spirit bears witness of that fact. Through the Spirit, we truly know that we know that we know that we are God's children.

The Spirit Helps Us Pray And Intercedes

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

(Romans 8:26-27)

The word ‘infirmities’ in this passage is more correctly translated ‘weaknesses.’ The weakness that Paul is talking about in this passage is our lack of knowledge of what to pray for. There are many times that we know that we need to pray. We may know who we need to pray for – we may even know the circumstance. What we don’t know, though is what to pray for in that situation. Many Christians just pray for what they think is right, even though it may be the exact opposite course than what God wants to do. Without allowing the Spirit to guide them, they just gum up the works and then wonder why it is taking so long to get results. If you don’t understand what to pray for, don’t pray with the understanding – pray in the Spirit.

The Spirit is God, just as Jesus is God and the Father is God. He knows what needs to be done and exactly how to do it. When we pray in the Spirit, especially in intercession, we pray according to the will of God and in the most effective way possible.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

(Jude 1:20-21)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

(Ephesians 6:18)

We are instructed to pray in the Spirit for our edification, to build up our faith, to keep ourselves in the love of God and to make supplication. The Spirit is a powerful prayer partner. We as believers do well to pray in the Spirit as much as possible.

The Spirit Gives Us Power To Perform Miracles

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

(Romans 15:19)

Paul performed miracles nearly everywhere he went. As a minister of the Gospel, miracles are necessary. When people see the miracles, they believe. They believe that the one who sent us, Jesus the Christ, is truly the Son of God. It is the Spirit who gives us that miracle-working power. It is up to us to use that power to help us bring in the end-time harvest.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

Paul makes it clear that it is not the words that you speak that get results. It is the power of the Spirit that people see that lets them know that it is not in men that we are to place our faith, but in God.

The Spirit Helps Us To Love

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

(Romans 5:5)

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

(Romans 15:30)

It is important, both in our relationship with each other and our witness to the world that we show love. Jesus told us that love fulfills all the law and the prophets. With the love of the Spirit (remember the fruit of the Spirit?), we are able to love God and each other. We are able to have compassion on those who are lost and with that compassion, we have the power to minister to those who need us.

The Spirit Gives Joy

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

(Romans 14:17)

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

(1 Thessalonians 1:6)

No matter what the enemy may try to throw at us, we never have to lose our joy. If we walk in the Spirit, the world and the cares of the flesh will not get us down. Through the joy of the Spirit, we can praise the Lord in all things. We can be a light to the world. We can show the world the face of a true Christian. People will see Christ in us.

The Spirit Gives Hope

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

(Romans 15:13)

We live in the hope of the coming again of Christ. Without the power of the Spirit, we would not have that hope. With Him, though, we have comfort in the hope of Christ's coming. We have a joy and peace in that hope.

The Spirit Sanctifies And Justifies Us

That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

(Romans 15:16)

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

(2 Thessalonians 2:13)

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

(1 Corinthians 6:11)

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

(1 Peter 1:2)

For many years, I heard well-meaning ministers preaching that after salvation, we must be sanctified before we could receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. According to that teaching, it was up to us to get rid of our nasty habits, to dress correctly and to purge all sin from our lives so that we would be clean enough for the Spirit to live in us.

If you look at the scriptures listed above, you will find a much different story. It is the Spirit who sanctifies us. We are made acceptable, chosen to salvation, justified and made the elect by the sanctification of the Holy Ghost. If we love people into the kingdom and pray God's will in their lives, the Spirit will take care of the rest.

The Spirit Teaches Us Spiritual Truths

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

(1 Corinthians 2:10-14)

In order to operate in the Spirit realm, we have to know spiritual things. These things are freely given to us by God, but without the Spirit, we would have no knowledge of them. To hear or read about supernatural or spiritual things is not enough. I have known many people who can quote volumes of scripture and dozens of biblical promises, yet still remain in bondage to the ravages of the flesh because of a lack of understanding and lack of faith. We must yield to the Spirit and allow Him to teach us the spiritual laws and principles so that we can be effective, supernatural Christians the way that Jesus instructed us to be.

The Spirit Brings The Gospel

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

(1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

(1 Peter 1:12)

Without the Holy Ghost, we would have a hard time spreading the Gospel, if we were able to do it at all. The true, effective ministers allow the Holy Ghost to do the preaching. That way, the message is exactly what that particular person or congregation needs. Also, the Gospel is accompanied by signs and wonders that make it clear that this Jesus Christ is who we say that He is.

The Spirit Guards Our Teaching

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

(2 Timothy 1:13-14)

Jesus gave a parable that explained how seeds were sown on various types of soil. The seed that fell by the way side was immediately devoured by the birds. Jesus explained that these were those who did not understand the word of the kingdom and the wicked one came and caught away that which was sown in their hearts. The Holy Ghost will guard against the enemy who would come to steal that word from us.

The Spirit Renews Us

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

(Titus 3:5-6)

When we yield to the Holy Ghost, we can expect a change in our lives. When you surrender your heart and mind to Him, He will change you in ways that you could barely imagine. He will wash away not only our sin, but also our pain. He will help us to gain that victory that Jesus has already won for us. The Spirit has been poured out abundantly on us, especially in this end-time world.

The Spirit Abides In Us

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(1 Corinthians 3:16)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

(1 Corinthians 6:19)

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:22)

As you can see from these scriptures, we are, both individually and collectively, the temple of God. Since we are the temple and the Spirit dwells in us, we are not to be defiled by false teaching as Paul discusses in 1 Corinthians 3 or by sexual immorality as in 1 Corinthians 6. Also, the passage in Ephesians tells us that as a member of the collective body, we are joined together in unity with all other believers through the Spirit.

The Spirit Serves As A Deposit (Given In Earnest)

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

(2 Corinthians 1:22)

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 5:5)

This world is just a preview of things to come. The power and attributes that the Spirit has brought into our lives are just a foretaste of the eternal life that we will live after we shed these mortal bodies and the limitations of the flesh. God gave us the baptism of the Holy Ghost as a deposit. I, for one, look forward to the final payoff.

The Spirit Gives Life To The Dead

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

(1 Peter 3:18)

And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

(Revelation 11:11)

This is one of the most exciting functions that the Holy Ghost performs. It was the Holy Ghost who raised Jesus from the dead. During the Tribulation, that same Holy Ghost will bring the two witnesses back to life after they have been dead for 3½ days. Where it gets really exciting, though, is when that same Holy Ghost raises the dead in Christ. Won't that be a wonderful day.

The Spirit Will Teach Us And Bring The Word To Remembrance

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

(John 14:26)

Probably one of the most helpful functions of the Holy Ghost is the help He gives us, not only to learn the things of God, but to remember those things when we need them. The Holy Ghost is our ally in the war against Satan. We need all the help we can get and He is all the help we need.

What Must I Do?

We have discussed many of the biblical accounts of the workings of the Holy Ghost in both the Old and New Covenants. We have seen His power and gifts given as special dispensation and as a gift to all believers. We have discussed the Fruit of the Spirit, the Gifts of the Spirit and the ministries that God has ordained through His Spirit. We have seen many examples of the functions that the Holy Ghost performs in the lives of God's people and in the world. We have seen that the Holy Ghost is the source of love, power, joy, peace and comfort. The question that you now have to ask yourself is, "What will I do with the Holy Ghost?"

If you are not a Christian, your first step is to be born again. Realize that since we are born into sin, we have no hope of salvation apart from Jesus. Understand that Jesus shed His blood and died as a sacrifice to atone for our sin. Accept Jesus as your Savior and invite Him into your heart, which He will be glad to do. As soon as possible, be baptized in water. This is symbolic of death and resurrection – the death of the old man and the resurrection of the new man.

Once you are born again, you simply need to ask God for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This baptism is a gift, freely given to all who believe. Just completely surrender to Him and let Him lead you and guide you. Keep in mind that the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is speaking in other tongues, as the Spirit gives utterance. Speaking in tongues will be a blessing to you, especially if you will sing and pray in tongues, but don't stop there. Keep in mind that we have work to do and that the gifts of the Spirit help us in that work. Use what gift or gifts that the Spirit gives you and don't hesitate to ask for other gifts as well. Just make sure that you use the gifts that you are given.

If you are a Christian who has been taught against the Spirit or the gifts, I pray that this book has helped you to see that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a separate event from salvation and that the baptism and the gifts are not only a blessing, but a great help to us in the work that we have to do while we are here on Earth. Even if you disagree with some of what you have read here, please study it for yourself, in context and without preconceived conclusions. Remember that the Bible is to be taken literally except where the text indicates otherwise. Let the word make itself known to you and I'm sure that you will find that the Holy Ghost is for you.

If you have the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I hope that something that you have read in this book will help you to be a more effective, supernatural, end-time Christian. The fields are white with harvest and the Spirit-filled believers are in the best position to labor in the fields. Help everyone that you can. Your brothers and sisters in Christ can benefit from your ministry just as the lost can benefit from your witness. Let the Spirit lead you and watch the miracle-working power of God manifest in your life and in the lives of your fellow Christians.

Epilogue

If I could have anything that I wanted, I would like to see everyone come to know Jesus as savior and for everyone to experience the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. As the Bible tells us, though, most people will reject Jesus. Still, we have to reach as many people as we can. God gave us a wonderful gift when He sent His son to die for us. Then, He gave us another wonderful gift when He gave us the Holy Ghost. Along with these gifts, though, comes responsibility. You see, while it is true that the Holy Ghost works in us to sanctify us, edify us, comfort and teach us, we must also use the gifts and the power we have been given to minister to others and to work in the end-time harvest. When we work miracles and heal the sick, when we impart wisdom or tell someone what they need to hear, these acts serve as a witness to the presence of Jesus Christ in us. The disciples never really seemed to be able to put it all together until the day of Pentecost. From that day, though, they went out and boldly ministered and taught about the kingdom of God. It is my hope that you, too will accept this wonderful gift and that you will boldly minister and spread the Gospel. Just trust in the Lord and go in the power of the Holy Ghost.