

The Power of GOD For His Church



"I Will Build My Church Series"

“THE POWER OF GOD FOR HIS CHURCH”

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Now that we know what a **“Called out Body of Believers”** [the church (Ekklesia)] is, we must learn how the biblical New Testament Church was built by miraculous divine direction from God. How the church is built will reveal to us its daily purpose on this earth for the furtherance of the gospel of peace. The benefits of the church will bless the children of God until they inherit eternal life, though their faith will be tried along the way!

Do you remember how Jesus promised, ***“I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”***? The persecution that came upon Jesus continued against His faithful followers. The gates of hell come against the true church daily in many forms, of which persecution is only one of them.

Satan will literally do anything that he can to **hinder, sidetrack, and deceive** the “called out body of believers”. He hates that your righteous obedience to God is completely contrary to his plan! He desires to be worshipped and all the world worships him through disobedience to the commandments of God. Listen to Peter’s stern warning in I Peter 5:8-9,

*“Be sober [not sidetracked], be vigilant [keep alert; watch];
because your adversary [arch enemy] the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.
Whom resist stedfast IN THE FAITH,
knowing that the same afflictions [emotional hardships]
are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

Beware! Beware of **these three ways** that satan will try to stop you from obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ! He has taken over the church of this world as all come to him, that they might continue in his sinful ways! His goal is that all will soon bow down to him and worship him as if he were God! We must not be ignorant of his devices as II Corinthians 2:11 says,

*“Lest satan should get an advantage of us:
for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*

The prophets, the apostles, and Jesus warned of satan’s deception as these seducing spirits come in pretense of the Holy Spirit! But his ways are so much “fun” to the flesh according to the thinking of the world that follows him... until they reach the end and receive the wrath of God upon them. Learn of these warnings, lest you are ignorant of his devices! He will try to **hinder** your fellowship by bringing persecution to destroy the unity that you have with God and each other. Don’t let him! Unite more with God in prayer! Unite more with each other to encourage one another!

One more way that satan may try to **hinder** you is through money! The love of money is the root of all evil, and satan knows that money can cause those seeking eternal life to turn from the truth! Lack of money allowed by God as a test in your life should never **hinder** you from doing the work that can be done without it! God will provide for you, if you are doing His will! You must faithfully seek Him and not look at circumstances or seek to get money a different way! It is His work that you are doing and He will provide when, how much, where, and what He desires! You must learn to be content with His will!

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain.
For we brought nothing into this world,
and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
And having food and raiment [clothing] let us be therewith content.”*
I Timothy 6:6-8

Satan will also try to **sidetrack** you with the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of other things, and the pride of life. He desires to LURE you off the strait and narrow way that leads to eternal life. He will do it **any way** that he can. The things of this world can easily fill the heart, so it turns from the genuine love of God. This is exactly what satan wants and he has been very successful at turning many aside with it!

Pride can also enter the heart of any man, but generally an elder or pastor must be cautious of this sin. It causes the pastor to not seek God for direction according to God's will. He may listen to the flattery of satan or his false teachers. He may, like Balaam, look to the worldly church for recognition or favour that only compromise can bring. This will greatly sidetrack him from the narrow way!

Lastly, and **THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL**, satan uses deceit from false teaching and his false teachers! Jesus said, “*Ye shall know them by their fruits.*” Jude 1:4 tells us that they are **ungodly men who have turned the grace of our God into lasciviousness** [an excuse to sin]. These false doctrines cover the world and deceive the hearts of all men in it! A great majority of the Word of God is devoted to warning against false teachers. Listen to this warning in II Corinthians 11:13-15,

*“For such are false apostles, DECEITFUL WORKERS,
TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES into the apostles of Christ.
And no marvel;
for SATAN HIMSELF IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.
Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed
as the ministers of righteousness;
whose end shall be according to their works.”*

You must understand that only you can allow satan to **hinder, sidetrack, or deceive** you! As we learned in the story of Job, satan had to get permission from God in order to come against Job. The only defense that you have against satan is the armour of God that you must learn, apply, and wear daily!

*“Finally, my brethren, BE STRONG IN THE LORD,
AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. Put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...”*
Ephesians 6:10-12

God’s Miraculous Building

The LORD miraculously built His church for the glory of His name and for the benefit of His “called out body of believers”. The structure, concept, and building of His church, of which Jesus is the Head, is absolutely perfect. Not only does God describe what His church is, but He also perfectly reveals its purpose and structure. How Jesus built the church reveals to our hearts the miraculous details that God ordained from the beginning of the world for us!

God not only perfectly outlined every detail of His plan, but every detail teaches us the purpose for which the “called out body of believers” exists on this earth. There are no formal ritualistic “ordinances” of the church that must be “blindly” obeyed. Every single part of the formation of the church has a purpose that glorifies God. The building of the church is not of the flesh, nor does it possess any flesh!

*“Now this I say, brethren,
that flesh and blood **CANNOT** inherit the Kingdom of God;
neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”*
1 Corinthians 15:50

Built upon the Apostles and Prophets, the church’s foundation is the gospel of Jesus Christ that HE spoke and the sacrificial death that He made. It is ALL ABOUT HIM! Paul explains this in I Corinthians 3:11,

*“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which **is Jesus Christ.**”*

A QUICK REVIEW:

Jesus is the Prophet that God promised in His righteous law Who would come to speak His Words. He is the “Word of God” [John 1:1] sent from the Father, Who came to fulfil or finish the law. This tells us the absolute importance of studying, knowing, and living the gospel of Jesus Christ and the entire Bible. His words are “**Spirit and Life**”, and obedience to His words grant us eternal life by faith or faithfulness in keeping them. The gospel of Jesus is the end that finishes the giving of the law that we might receive of His Spirit!

*“For Christ is the end {purpose; fulfilment} of the law for {producing}
righteousness to {in} every one that believeth.”* Romans 10:4

When God gave the law to Moses, the people at Sinai did not have a “sacrifice” sufficient to please God. The sacrifice that God commanded at that time only “covered”, not cleansed them from sin. Their faithful obedience to God’s Levitical laws showed their faith that the Prophet would come to teach them the “end of the law”. They could not completely fulfil God’s law until Christ died for their sins. By faith they waited for that sacrifice that God promised, which was the coming of Jesus Christ as the Prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18-19,

*“I will raise them up a Prophet {Jesus Christ} from among their brethren,
like unto thee {Moses}, and I will put My words in His mouth;
and He shall speak unto them ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM.
And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto
MY WORDS WHICH HE SHALL SPEAK IN MY NAME,
LWILL REQUIRE IT of him.”*

Jesus came in the Spirit to **finish** the law and fulfil its purpose; that is, **that God would dwelt with man and that man would walk with God eternally!** To fulfil this promise, Jesus taught man how to live by His gospel; which fulfils all the feasts, sacrifices, and ordinances of the Old Testament Levitical law. Now that man has been cleansed by His ultimate sacrifice at Calvary, God can give to him the gift of the Holy Spirit, if he will continue to deny himself, take up his cross by crucifixion of the flesh daily, and follow Jesus in His Steps to the end. As Jesus ascended up to His Father; He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is His Divine Nature. God gave man His Divine Nature to dwell within the church!

THE STRENGTH THAT UNIFIES THE CHURCH

Without the Holy Spirit dwelling in the lives of the “Called out Body of Christ”, there can be NO “church” on this earth. As we will see, the Holy Spirit is the first blessing given by the grace of God to those who are “called out” of the world. Without the Holy Spirit in the “called out body”, the church becomes a business or social club that edifies man, not God! It turns into just another “religion” that was formed in the garden of Eden when Adam followed the lies of the serpent!

As Jesus ascended into Heaven after His resurrection in Luke 24:49, He commanded His followers to wait in Jerusalem to be “*endued with power from on high.*” This is the power of God that He promised upon the church! Now that the sacrifice was made that washed man from their sins, the Holy Spirit could come!

*“And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you:
but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem,
until ye be **ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH.**”*

The Coming of the Power

We will very quickly outline the giving of the Holy Spirit, which fulfils these promises. We will see how the power of God by way of the Holy Spirit, not only unified the believers around the truth; but also, built the church of Jesus, Who promised, *“I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.”*

God is glorified in the building of His church as He is also glorified when His church continues in the pattern, by which He built it. You will see that there can be no flesh or works of the flesh in the church of God that is truly blessed of Him!

When asked what the future would hold for them, Jesus promised to give His disciples the Holy Ghost in Acts 1:7-8,

*“And He {Jesus} said unto them,
It is not for you to know the times or the seasons,
which the Father hath put in His own power [privilege].
But ye shall receive power [miraculous power],
after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

God’s Power or Privilege

It’s God’s privilege [power] to know the future, and He desires for all the “called out” to submit to His will. In the English, “power” is used twice making us think that it means the same; yet in the Greek these are two different words with two completely different meanings. God’s privilege is to do His pleasure, but the miraculous power that He will give to His “called out body of Christ” is to change lives from walking in darkness to light. God’s power is the privilege to do as He pleases. Isaiah 14:27 teaches us this,

*“For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul [cancel] it?
And His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?”*

Can you imagine the foolishness of man thinking that He can cancel what God has outlined? Not-for-profit businesses called churches believe that they can cancel the nature of God. They reject whole portions of Scripture by saying that they do not apply to this time. They reject His command to be holy and add their own “standards and convictions” that dilute the holiness of God.

These false teachers deny the LORD both in words and actions as II Peter 2:1 teaches,

*“But there were false prophets also among the people,
EVEN AS THERE SHALL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU,
who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,
EVEN **DENYING THE LORD THAT BOUGHT THEM,**
and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”*

God makes all that He desires of man clear in His word to those who will “search for Me with all your heart.” He has done this very plainly in the church that Jesus promised to build by way of the Holy Spirit! We know that nothing can stand before God and that no man is strong enough to cancel what He has said, no matter how much false doctrine man believes.

Once God puts forth His hand to do something, it shall be done as He designs. Praise His name! He has built His church, and He will have the preeminence [first place] among those who seek Him with all their heart! How foolish for man to think that he can please God while disobeying Him. It is God’s privilege to do His will.

The Miraculous Power or Ability

The second word that is translated “power” in Acts 1:7-8 is the **power** that is promised to the “called out body of believers”! This word “power” means “**miraculous ability**” that will be given to every “saint” in which the Holy Spirit dwells. This was prophesied in Daniel 11:32 for “*the people that do know their God*”.

*“And such as do wickedly against the covenant [commandments of God]
shall **he corrupt by flatteries**:
but the people that do know their God shall be strong [be established],
and do exploits [deeds].”*

We know the wicked, because they do wickedly against the commandments of God, which shows who they are and who they serve! By flattery, these shall try to defile those who do know their God. Speaking kindly and praising the righteous, they think that they can cause the righteous to fall. But by the Spirit of God, the wicked shall be found out; for greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world as I John 4:4 teaches,

*“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because **greater is He that is in you**, than he that is in the world.”*

This miraculous power will not be used to “puff” us up in pride, nor will it be used to bring us fame and fortune in this world. **That kind of “power”** comes from the enemy of God who flatters you to destroy you. This miraculous power will lead you into all truth as John 14:26 teaches us,

*“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.”*

This leading is so very important. You **must make sure** that sin does not hinder the work of the Holy Spirit within you! Sin will take the power of the Holy Spirit from the church that practices it. We are to be holy as the Holy Spirit within us is holy!

THE HOLY SPIRIT FALLS UPON THE CHURCH

Almost 50 days had passed since the Passover and the sacrifice of our Saviour. The disciples of Christ obeyed Him and tarried [waited] in Jerusalem as He said. At the feast of Pentecost [which means 50 days from Passover], the disciples of Christ were *“all with one accord in one place.”*

They were already learning the purpose of the church, even though the Holy Ghost had not fallen upon them. They had learned daily fellowship through the life of Jesus. They could now understand all the times that He foretold of His death and resurrection. Please read this passage in Acts 2:1-13, so that you know the story.

Suddenly, the Holy Ghost fell upon those who with one accord were together. The Holy Spirit filled the house where they were sitting. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began speaking in **human** languages preaching the gospel. This of course shocked the crowd of feast participants who had gathered from all over the world for Pentecost.

Peter preached a beautiful outline of the dealings of God with His people. The Holy Spirit had been given to Peter and the Apostles, so that they could preach the gospel to those of different languages. At the end of His message, those who heard this outline of God’s design for their salvation were “pricked to the heart” or convicted by the Holy Spirit.

After being “confused” of hearing their own languages spoken by these men, they now understood God’s outline and purpose perfectly. They realized that they had crucified the “Prophet” of Deuteronomy 18:15-19 and had rejected God’s perfect plan for their spiritual benefit. Read their reaction in Acts 2:37,

***“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart,
and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,
Men and brethren, WHAT SHALL WE DO?”***

Peter’s answer to them was not his own opinion or a “new” way of salvation, for He had been commanded by Jesus to go into all the world and preach the gospel. He taught them the gospel of repentance, which were the first words of both John the Baptist and Jesus.

“Repentance” or a change of thinking that leads to a change of life is required for the remission of sins. Baptism is the outward sign of the commitment that is being made. We will explain baptism later. It is important to note that though this is a short answer that is given by Peter, we see that this is not all that was spoken in verse 40,

***“And with MANY OTHER WORDS did he testify and exhort, saying,
Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”***

I'm sure that the ***“many other words”*** was the gospel of Jesus, for Peter knew firsthand that Jesus is the “Chief Cornerstone” of the church! There could be no other “philosophy” taught by Peter. He and the other Apostles were eyewitnesses of all that Jesus taught and did. Peter explains this in II Peter 1:16,

*“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables,
when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”*

You would say that the disciples and Apostles of Jesus that witnessed all His miracles, teaching, and daily actions were blessed to walk with Him. We can also walk with Him through the Holy Spirit. If we will only yield or obey all that the Spirit of God within us commands, we too will witness such miracles!

We are promised in Daniel that in the last days [which we are in], God's people will do “exploits” or “notable heroic deeds”. Does the gospel agree with Daniel's prophecy? Yes, Jesus told us about the same thing in John 14:12,

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me,
the works that I do shall he do also;
and **GREATER WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO;**
because I go unto My Father.”*

The Holy Spirit of God was present with them, for we see that they were pricked to the heart! In the next lesson we will learn of the change that comes upon them, but for this lesson we want to learn of the Holy Spirit and His convicting power over the hearts of men as He dwells within His children.

THE HISTORY OF THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

We will outline the Holy Spirit from the time of Creation until His coming to fill God's “called out people”. The Holy Spirit is not a New Testament “invention” of God, for the Spirit of God created the world in Genesis 1:2,

*“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.”*

God created the world by the power of His Holy Spirit moving upon the earth and doing His will. The Holy Spirit always does the will of God, for the Holy Spirit is God manifest or revealed to us in His Spirit. The Holy Spirit has always been one of the forms, in which God deals with man.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam walked with the Spirit of God as we read in Genesis 3:8,

*“And they heard the voice of the **LORD God** walking
in the garden in the cool of the day...”*

Adam fellowshiped with God by “walking in the Spirit” while in the garden. God dwelt with man, for man was perfect and without sin until the fall when man rejected God's perfection and chose his own way.

God's Holy Spirit was busy at work within the hearts of men from Creation to the flood convicting them of their sins. Cain rejected the conviction of the Holy Spirit, yet Abel submitted joyfully. Man continues to refuse to submit to God in obedience. God makes this very clear in Genesis 6:3,

“And the LORD said, My SPIRIT shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”

Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit of God would “fill” or endue His children temporarily with wisdom, strength, or courage according to the will of God. The Spirit of God could be seen in Joseph by Pharaoh in Genesis 41:38,

*“And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in **whom the SPIRIT OF GOD is?**”*

This verse shows us the righteous influence that the Spirit of God within Joseph had upon this man, even though the Holy Spirit did not continue to indwell. Man had not yet been cleansed by the sacrifice of Jesus; therefore, the Holy Spirit could not dwell within him continually. We can also see the Spirit of God in Bezaleel, the craftsman that God sent to help Moses in Exodus 31:3,

“And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.”

God led His children by His Spirit in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, which went before His people to lead them. He did this to show them His presence with them. In this case the Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a pillar as explained in Exodus 13:21-22,

*“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to **lead them** the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to **give them light**; to go by day and night:
He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day,
nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”*

The Holy Spirit guided them as they obeyed God's call out of Egypt to go to the promised land. In this guidance is also the hand of God's protection for His people as is illustrated in this story from Exodus chapter 14,

*“And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel:
and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.”*

God's people were now rejoicing to be free from the enslavement of Egypt. They thought that they would never see the Egyptian army coming after them. You can see that God used Pharaoh's greed to bring them against His people, that He might show them and the world, His power! It gets exciting!

*“And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid:
and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.”*

Unfortunately, not being used to being led by God, they looked at “circumstances” and began to panic! They began to blame Moses for the situation they were in, because they quickly took their eyes off of God!

“And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?”

You do not have to question these people to find out if they have any faith in God or His will. At this point, they are showing you that their eyes are on the situation. They blamed Moses, because he led them out by the command of God.

The leader will always be blamed by those who take their eyes off of God and begin to put them upon man. Keep your eyes on Jesus and follow His Spirit! Remember what God has commanded, and you must keep doing it!

*“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, **stand still**, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”*

Moses sounds very calm, but he falls on his knees to God!

*“And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto Me? Speak unto the children of Israel, **THAT THEY GO FORWARD**. But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.”*

You can see the clear direction that God gave to Moses. When satan appears to be coming against us, it is man’s tendency to shrivel up and back down. No, brethren, **GO FORWARD** with whatever it is that God has led you to do by His Holy Spirit. When God gives direction, He is not double-minded as men are, who change with the wind of conflict.

*“And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and **I** will get **Me honour** upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.”*

All will experience a time in their walk with God that resembles this story! Yet; through all of this, God is still in complete control of all things. You must not look at the circumstances, but do as Moses did and fall to your knees. Don’t try to figure it out yourself. Fall to your knees and submit yourself over to the will of Almighty God, Who is leading you.

*“And the Angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and **went behind them**; and the **PILLAR OF THE CLOUD** went from **before their face**, and **stood behind them**.”*

God had given Moses instructions on what he was to do. While Moses was doing as God directed, the pillar of cloud that led them went behind them for their protection. We see that the Holy Spirit leads us and protects us according to our faith or faithfulness to God!

*“And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel;
and it was a cloud and darkness to them [Egypt],
but it gave light by night to these [Israel]:
so that **the one came not near the other all the night.**”*

The same pillar that gave light to God’s people blinded His enemies! Can you see the Holy Spirit of God at work for the good of those who trust in His leading? This same power to live for God is available to all the “called out”!

Moses showed that he trusted God by his obedient actions. We will see that God blessed Moses’ faith in Him. Though he may have been fearful, Moses knew the will of God! **He went forward!**

*“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea;
and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night,
and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.”*

Brethren! We serve the same GREAT AND MIGHTY GOD! We have access to Him and His throne, if only we will submit ourselves to His Holy Spirit leading. We must be in complete obedience to Him. He has commanded us to be holy as He is holy throughout the Scriptures. Jesus commanded us, **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”**

What sin is worth not having the power of God upon your lives? What deceit or false teaching is worth not doing the will of God? What worldly government or army or nation can do anything to God’s children that He does not allow? When problems come, **“GO FORWARD”** with the work of God!

“And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.”

No record here of any complaints! They knew now that it was not Moses that was delivering them! They were witnessing firsthand the power of God's leadership through the trials! Not only did God deliver them, but He did it to show His power in a miraculous way. What about Pharaoh?

*“And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.
And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said,
Let us flee from the face of Israel:
for the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.
And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them;
there remained not so much as one of them.”*

Now you can compare the end of those who persecuted God's people to the end of those who trusted in the LORD! In what condition were the people that obeyed their God? God gives us the comparison in verse 30,

*“Thus the LORD **saved Israel** that day out of the hand of the Egyptians;
and Israel **saw** the Egyptians **dead** upon the sea shore.”*

This is not a story that someone made up! This is not a fairy tale or movie. This is the truth from the mouth of God, so that we might see His power and also follow His Spirit for every decision that we have each and every day! God dwells within His children, if we will walk with Him in obedience to His voice!

This is given to us as an example of how God desires to deal in our lives as we wait for the leading of the Holy Spirit daily. There can be no guessing about following God, for God leads His children. It is our responsibility to follow the Spirit of God's leading. It is our responsibility to humble ourselves and seek the leading, just as the Israelites followed the pillar of cloud and fire!

During and after the time Israel was in conquest for the promised land, God raised up judges to lead His disobedient people out of the grasp of their enemies. God had allowed such punishment to come, because His people no longer followed His leading. Such a judge was Othniel in Judges 3:10,

*“And **the Spirit of the LORD came upon him** and he judged Israel,
and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim
king of Mesopotamia into his hand;
and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.”*

Perhaps you thought you had a long name! The Spirit of the LORD came upon Othniel giving him the ability to defeat this long-named enemy! We will see that he was not alone, for God did not forsake His people when they turned to Him in repentance. We see also that God's Spirit came upon Gideon in Judges 6:34,

*"But the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him."*

When the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, others around him took courage. Gideon drew courage from the LORD and was able to deliver his people through the power of God. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading and you will be able to lead others to trust His Holy Spirit also.

We see that the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon **Jephthah** {Judges 11:29}; and **Samson** {Judges 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14, 19} also many times to bring them deliverance. The **Spirit of the LORD** also came upon Saul as a sign from God that Samuel's anointing was of Him in I Samuel 10. It was such a surprise that people even talked about it in I Samuel 10:11,

*"And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another,
What is this **that is come upon the son of Kish?**
Is Saul also among the prophets?"*

What a life changing event happens when you are endowed with power from on high as in the case of Saul. God's Holy Spirit empowers you not to scream, yell, and flap on the ground uncontrollably; but to bring victory in your life over the sin that keeps you from God! A lowly shepherd boy just being faithful to his father and feeding his sheep is anointed the next king of Israel by God. When this happens, David is filled with the **Spirit of the LORD** as it would come upon him from that day forward.

*"Then Samuel took the horn of oil,
and anointed him {David} in the midst of his brethren:
and the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon David **from that day forward...**"*

Just as the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon these people, the evil spirit from the LORD also came upon those who became His enemies. Do not underestimate the demonic powers of this world! Saul found out that you cannot disobey God and continue to have His Spirit in I Samuel 16:14,

*"But the Spirit of the LORD **DEPARTED FROM SAUL,**
and an evil spirit **FROM THE LORD** troubled him."*

It was obvious, even to those around Saul, that God's Spirit had departed. The wonderful change that was brought when God's Spirit entered had left when the Spirit of the LORD departed! Listen to what Saul's servants say to him in verse 15,

*"And Saul's servant said unto him, Behold now,
AN EVIL SPIRIT FROM GOD TROUBLETH THEE."*

They must have seen this before or Saul's attitude must have been so horrible that they knew there could be no other reason for his change! This world is full of evil spirits within people... they may appear to be common everyday people like mothers, fathers, pastors, or neighbors. All are open to being possessed by satan that do not "possess" the Holy Spirit of God!

Do you ever wonder how David could write such beautiful Psalms? All the Psalms were songs that we actually sing to glorify the LORD. David was full of the Holy Spirit when he wrote them as he says in II Samuel 23:2,

*"The Spirit of the LORD spake by me,
and His word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said..."*

David admits that the songs that he authored were the work of the Spirit of the LORD upon him! They speak to our hearts, because they are the Word of God from the Holy Spirit of God for our benefit. What a blessing to enjoy the Psalms. My favorite is Psalm 107!

*"Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness,
and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"*

What a blessing to read of the power of God and His great deliverance that He gives to His people, which is recorded in His Word and revealed by His Holy Spirit! Praise ye the LORD! Praise Him all ye people! Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD, for He hath given us of His Spirit!

Those of you that look at "circumstances" to determine what the will of God is, please listen to this very important story that God left us about His Spirit in II Chronicles 18. Jehoshaphat, a godly king of Judah, was in wrong fellowship with Ahab, who was a very wicked king of Israel.

*"But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here **a prophet of the LORD** besides,
that we might enquire of him?"*

All of Ahab's false prophets were prophesying "good" and "success" to all the questions that were asked them about the joint venture. Ahab loved to hear their lies, so he did not include any of the prophets of God with them. Listen to Ahab's answer in II Chronicles 18:7,

*"And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat,
There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD:
but **I HATE HIM**; for he **NEVER PROPHESED GOOD UNTO ME**,
but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla."*

Ahab's false prophets followed the spirit of divination from their father the devil, but the **Spirit of the LORD** was upon Micaiah who boldly stood up against their false prophecies. You have a daily choice to which spirit you will yield. It is so much easier to go along with the large churches full of hypocrites that preach prosperity, eternal security, and the pleasures of this world! Listen to Micaiah's bold stand for the LORD in verse 16,

*"Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains,
as sheep that have no shepherd;
and the LORD said, These have no master;
let them return therefore every man to his house in peace."*

Notice there was only "one man" that would stand for the truth in his kingdom. All the rest were preachers of the flesh, living in the flesh, and following the seducing spirits of their father, the devil. It would take the boldness that only **the Spirit of the LORD** could give you to stand in front of the king and tell him that he was going to die in battle! Of course, you can hear what Ahab exclaims to this prophecy in verse 17,

*"And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat,
Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?"*

But Micaiah did not stop, for he was given a prophecy from God through the Spirit of the LORD that must be delivered as we see in verse 18. The rest of the story is so very important for us to understand how making decisions based upon popular opinion or circumstances can destroy you and your walk with God.

*"Again he said, Therefore **hear the word of the LORD**;
I saw the LORD sitting upon His throne,
and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and on His left.
And the LORD said, **Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel,
that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?**...
then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said,
I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? [how] And he said,
I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.
And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail:
go out, and do even so. Now therefore, behold,
the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets,
and **the LORD hath spoken** evil against thee."*

Be very careful how much you want to do something, because you can always find the crowd that is listening to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils that will tell you by circumstances that the questionable thing that you desire is the "will of God"! The next little teaching is very important, if you desire to walk in the Spirit and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

You will always know the will of God, for it usually is not the will of your flesh. Typically, if you really want to do something, but there seems to be some hesitation in the decision process of your heart, you might want to really seek the LORD and yield to His Word. Read Romans 14:23,

*“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith:
for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”*

The Holy Spirit will always lead you into truth; so if you have to lie, believe a lie, or participate in something that is not honest, then it is never the will of God. If you must disobey God, the Sabbath, the example of Jesus Christ, or the commandments of God in order to do it, you know it is not the will of God.

*“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth,
but because ye know it, and that NO LIE IS OF THE TRUTH.”*

1 John 2:21

If it goes against what God has called you to do, such as your duties as a husband, father, or pastor and causes you not to fulfil the role or position that God has given you; then it is not of God. God is not double-minded, and He will never ask you to leave one responsibility undone to do something else!

*“And say to Archippus,
Take heed to the ministry which thou HAST RECEIVED IN THE LORD,
that **thou fulfil it.**”*

Colossians 4:17

There are always “other places” that supposedly need you, but you must make sure that you fulfil God’s plan, His will, and His calling. So many pastors and even laymen desire “**great things for God**”, but they do not fulfil what God has already given them. This is a sin against Him, for God will never give you something that takes you away from fulfilling what He has already given you!

*“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy,
according to the prophecies which went before on thee,
that thou by them mightest WAR A GOOD WARFARE;
HOLDING FAITH, AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE;
which some having put away concerning faith have made **shipwreck.**”*

1 Timothy 1:18-19

Married men must really be careful, because they have made a vow before God to love and care for their wives. The wife is the protection of the man of God against his falling into sin! My wife has always gone everywhere with me! If I must counsel a woman, my wife is right next to me!

*“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and **make not provision for the flesh**, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*

Romans 13:14

The Holy Spirit will lead those who want to be led. The Holy Spirit will not lead those who have already made up their minds to do what looks good! Pride and self-will crowd out the power of the Holy Spirit, just as it did in the heart of Ahab, the king of Israel. Ahab died because he did not listen to the Spirit of the LORD, but he loved the advice of the evil spirit that God allowed to persuade him to be destroyed! These spirits are everywhere, especially in the churches!

All of the prophets of God that wrote the books of the Old Testament were full of the Spirit of the LORD, Who commanded them to write only the Word of God. This is the way that we know for sure that we have the Word of God and not the word of a bunch of men. It is faith in God that He preserved His Word as He promised us in II Peter 1:21,

*“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man:
but HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED
BY THE HOLY GHOST.”*

All the prophets heard from God and prophesied whatever the Spirit of the LORD gave them. God knows the future, and He perfectly revealed to these prophets the coming of the LORD Jesus Christ. He gave to the prophets over 350 different prophecies that were fulfilled in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Saviour. It is impossible to understand how these prophecies could have been foretold thousands of years earlier. How miraculous to read of Jesus in Isaiah 53:3-5,

*“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows,
and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God,
and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him;
and with His stripes we are healed.”*

How could Isaiah have known any of this information so perfectly, since he lived over 700 years before the birth of Jesus? The **Holy Spirit** revealed this information to Isaiah and the prophets. They prophesied of the coming of the Prophet that would finish the law and deliver us from our sins.

One main prophet spoke much about the influence of the Spirit of the LORD in his writing. This prophet was Ezekiel who records some amazing visions that God gave to him about the future. His visions are unbelievably holy as they describe “beasts” that could only inhabit the heavens. He explains the **Spirit of the LORD** giving him direction in Ezekiel 11:5,

*“And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak;
THUS SAITH THE LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel:
for I know the things that come into your mind, EVERY ONE OF THEM.”*

One of the most known of His prophecies is the valley of dry bones of Ezekiel 37:1,

*“The hand of the LORD was upon me,
and carried me out in the Spirit of the LORD,
and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones...
And He {the Spirit of the LORD} said unto me, Son of man,
can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, Thou knowest.”*

Not only did the Holy Spirit guide Ezekiel, but He asked him questions and then gave him the answers. This is the power of God that we can possess also, if we will only submit to Him according to His will. As Jesus told us, “...*nothing shall be impossible unto you.*” We have access to the same God, and we have the same power of the Holy Spirit that we might fulfil the will of God in our lives!

The prophet Micah through the power of the Holy Spirit challenged the people by asking them if God’s Spirit was hindered like the false prophets were teaching them. The false prophets were drunkards and vile that did not hear from God. Micah questions them in the Spirit of God in Micah 2:7,

“O thou that art named the house of Jacob, is the spirit of the LORD straitened? are these His doings? do not My words do good to him that walketh uprightly?”

The false teachers were ashamed and had no vision from the LORD, because they did not have the Spirit of the LORD within them. But Micah shows the power of the Spirit of the LORD upon him in Micah 3:7-8,

*“Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded:
yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.
But truly **I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD**, and of judgment,
and of might, to declare unto Jacob **his transgression**, and to Israel **his sin**.”*

Micah knew what the Spirit of the LORD had put within him to say and he would say it faithfully, even though others did not have that power! Notice, again that he is ALONE in standing for the truth of holiness among the wicked!

Prophecies of the Coming of the Holy Spirit

Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet, because his heart was broken that Judah and Israel had turned from the LORD. God had revealed the coming destruction of the land to him, and he was responsible to warn the people of the coming judgment. He was mocked, threatened, and imprisoned for speaking the truth.

In the middle of God's prophecy of the coming destruction, God pauses to reveal the future after the fall of the city of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. It speaks of a "New Covenant" that God will make with the house of Israel. Little did Jeremiah know that this "New Covenant" would take the sacrifice of the Son of God, which would open that "New Covenant in Christ's Blood" to every nation!

*"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,
that I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel,
and with the house of Judah:
Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day
that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt;
which **MY COVENANT THEY BRAKE**,
although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD."
Jeremiah 31:31-32*

It is amazing to see that the Spirit of the LORD revealed this to Jeremiah. What is most important about this revelation is the actual covenant itself, which outlines the coming of the Holy Spirit of God to indwell His people. God had promised from the beginning of time to dwell with us! He explains this in verses 33-34 of the same chapter.

*"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;
After those days, saith the LORD,
I will **PUT MY LAW IN THEIR INWARD PARTS,**
AND WRITE IT IN THEIR HEARTS;
and will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

God shall give to us His Holy Spirit, which is "HIS LAW" within us to guide us into all truth! It is amazing that God will put His law within us by way of the Holy Spirit, yet the popular churches of today say that the law does not apply in the New Covenant! Sounds like satan talking again! Not only did Jesus not come to destroy the law, but He came to finish or fulfil it within us by way of His Holy Spirit dwelling within us! Read on to verse 34,

*"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour,
and every man his brother, saying, **Know the LORD:**
for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them,
saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity,
and I will remember their sin no more."*

All the brethren that have denied themselves, taken up their cross, and followed Jesus out of the world, will possess the Holy Spirit of God that will guide them into all truth. They shall know the truth or be instructed in the truth, and the truth shall make them free from their sins. The Holy Spirit will confirm all truth within them. This is the blessing of the power of the Holy Spirit for the church!

*“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries,
whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath;
and I will bring them again unto this place,
and I will cause them to dwell safely:*

And they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”

Jeremiah 32:37-38

We see the gathering of God’s people throughout the world that is taking place as each one individually accepts the “New Covenant in Christ’s Blood” for the remission of their sins. He is gathering us to come to be with Him in the New Jerusalem, which Jesus has been preparing for us {John 14:1-3}. He outlines the unity in the “called out body of believers” in verses 39-40,

*“And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear Me for
ever; **for the good of them**, and of their children after them:
And I will make an EVERLASTING COVENANT with them,
that I will not turn away from them, to do them good;
but I will put My fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me.”*

This promise does not apply to the heathen country of Israel, for they have forsaken God and He has forsaken them. This promise applies to every person. No matter what nationality, they are “adopted sons of Abraham” through Christ. He has put upon them His Holy Spirit to seal the EVERLASTING COVENANT that He has made with us! Paul explains in Galatians 3:13-14,

*“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for
us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;
that we might receive the promise of the SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH.”*

JESUS TEACHES OF THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When Jesus came to earth, He did not come just to die on the cross to wash away the sins of the world. He had been sent by His Father as the Prophet to finish giving to us the law of God, which we know as the gospel. He also came to teach man how to walk with God in righteousness and true holiness. His life is the perfect example in all things of a life that we must also live.

*“For I have given you an example,
that ye should do as I have done to you.”*

John 13:15

His life did not just unfold for no reason or purpose, because He knew before the foundation of the earth exactly what His purpose on earth would be. He told us in John 17:4, before His death, that He had completed everything that His Father had sent Him to do, faithfully.

*“I have glorified Thee on the earth:
I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.”*

Jesus had at that point already outlined for His disciples the coming of the “Comforter” or Holy Spirit. So, we see that part of the purpose for which Jesus came was not only to be the Prophet to finish or fulfil the law by giving the gospel and not only to be the perfect Passover Lamb as a sacrifice that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, but also to prepare us to receive of His Spirit!

*“If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father,
and He shall give you another **Comforter**,
that **He MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER.**”*

John 14:15-16

The name “Comforter” brings peace to our minds, such as in restful sleep. Truly the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Peace that we now have with God as we continue on the Strait and Narrow Way to inherit eternal life. This Comforter is to dwell with all who endure unto the end eternally. Jesus explains Who this Comforter is within us in verse 17,

*“Even the Spirit of Truth;
Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him:
But ye know Him; for **He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**”*

We see that the prophets that prophesied that God would dwell in us and be our God were correct through the leading of the Holy Spirit within them. This Spirit is the Spirit of Truth telling us that He is God; for Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. God’s Spirit can be trusted, because He only speaks to you the Truth. If you hear a voice within you that is tempting you to compromise with sin, you know that it is your flesh and not the Spirit of Truth!

*“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me:
because I live, ye shall live also.
At that day ye shall know that **I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you.**”*

Even in His early ministry, Jesus spoke of the coming of the Holy Spirit using the parable of “rivers of living water” in John 7:37-39,

*“...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.)”*

Since Jesus promised to not leave His disciples comfortless, He knew that He would not be there long, because He would be put to death. In His resurrection, His children shall live in His New Life having paid the penalty for our sins that we might go and sin no more! Now having been purged from our sins, we can be pure enough to allow the Holy Spirit of God to dwell with us forever!

The giving of the Holy Spirit is such a blessing, but there are requirements for those who desire to continue in the Spirit in verse 21,

“He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, He it is that loveth Me: and He that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM.”

Very important to pay attention to this verse! We show our love for Jesus by keeping His commandments. Those who keep His commandments will be loved by Jesus and His Father. Jesus will “manifest” or reveal Himself to that obedient person by giving Him the Holy Spirit, God’s Divine Nature! Obedience to the commandments of God is a requirement to possess the Holy Spirit as Jesus continues to explain in verse 23,

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will KEEP MY WORDS: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM.”

Jesus abides with us by way of His Holy Spirit. If we abide in Him, He will continue to abide in us. We can do NOTHING of any eternal value without the power of the Holy Spirit of God empowering us. Anything else is all flesh! Jesus explains this in John 15:4,

*“Abide in Me, and I IN YOU.
As the branch **cannot bear fruit of itself, except it ABIDE in the vine;**
no more can ye, **except ye ABIDE in Me.**”*

So, you see that the Holy Spirit continues to be holy when He dwells within us; BECAUSE He will leave, if we do not continue to abide in Christ. This is taught clearly in Hebrews 10:26,

*“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth NO more sacrifice for sins,
But a **CERTAIN** fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”*

Those who are full of the Spirit of God cannot receive the judgment of God as His enemies. Therefore, we know that these have had the Spirit of God removed from them for not abiding in Christ faithfully!

We see that the Holy Spirit seals those who abide in Christ as their protection from anything that is not God’s will. Jesus explains this in John 15:6,

“If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

This person definitely does not possess the Holy Spirit, because God would not curse a man to hell unless he does not abide in Christ any longer! In John 14:26, Jesus tells us the job of the Holy Spirit within us.

*“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.**”*

The Holy Spirit will come in Jesus' name to teach us ALL things necessary for us to abide in Christ. He will also bring back to our remembrance ALL that Jesus taught. He does this, so that God's children are guided into ALL truth. Jesus prophesied of the false spirits and false teachers that would come in His name! They say that they are “anointed of God”, but the Holy Spirit will remind us, “By their fruits, ye shall know them.”

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 14:27

Every country in the world is desiring “Peace on Earth”, yet there is no peace for them. After telling us that He did not come to bring peace to the earth in Matthew 10:34-36, Jesus now tells us that He has given His peace to us that the world cannot give! This peace from within comes by way of His Spirit that is the Comforter of our soul. Knowing that we are in the will of God brings peace to our hearts that money cannot buy!

*“Think **NOT** that I am come to send **peace on earth**:
I came not to send peace, **but a sword**.
For I am come to set a man at variance against his father,
and the daughter against her mother,
and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.
And **a man's foes shall be they of his own household.**”*

This division in the home comes when one is abiding in Christ and full of the Holy Spirit of God; but others, though related by blood, do not abide in Christ! The division is caused because they serve two different worlds! They do not understand the commitment necessary to walk in the Spirit of God; therefore, they begin to hate the Light that has caused you to become so different from them! This division is caused by your desire to keep the commandments of God!

In John 16:7, Jesus tells His disciples first about His death and resurrection, which will take Him from them. But He promises to send them the Holy Spirit to dwell within them.

*“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away:
for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart,
I will send Him unto you.”*

Jesus lists for us what the Holy Spirit will do in our lives and through us to affect others. He lists this in verses 8-11,

“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, because I go to My Father; and ye see Me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

The Holy Spirit will convict the hearts of the world when they hear the truth. This reproving of the world is done when we speak the truth from the Word of God that lands within the heart of all who hear it. They are convicted of their sins, which is the reason that God’s Word must be preached faithfully!

*“When they heard these things, they were CUT TO THE HEART,
and they gnashed on him with their teeth.”*

Acts 7:54

The Holy Spirit will show the righteousness of God’s law to them. Seeing this righteousness will cause them to fear the judgment or the wrath of God that is coming from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. Do not think that God’s Word spoken is not powerful; for it is not your thinking that will convict them, but the Word of God as John 16:8 says!

*“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin,
and of righteousness, and of judgment.”*

Though Jesus knew that the disciples would not understand all that He taught, He knew that the Holy Spirit would bring it all back to them of what He had taught them. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth on this earth. Jesus explains this in John 16:12-13,

*“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, **the Spirit of Truth**, is come, **He will guide you into all truth:** for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and **He will shew you things to come.**”*

Notice that the Holy Spirit is concerned with the truth and with glorifying it in our lives! He will guide those looking for the truth to the truth, so that they are not deceived with every wind of doctrine. Unlike the fleshly worldly church built upon emotions and show, the Holy Spirit is for order and peace to cause the heart to receive the truth from the mouth of God! Jesus explains more in verse 14,

*“He shall glorify Me {Jesus}: for **He shall receive of Mine,**
and shall shew **it unto you.**”*

Jesus wraps up His teaching on the Holy Spirit by bringing comfort to our hearts in verse 33,

*“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.”*

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

We must understand the final intended dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Paul explains this in I Corinthians 6:19-20,

*“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.**
FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE:
therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

The bodies of God’s children are the dwelling place of God when we are “called out” of the world. God dwells within us as long as we continue yielding to His Holy Spirit’s direction to walk with Him. We stop walking with God when we turn to do as we please or continue in sin. We glorify God as the “light of the world” or the “salt of the earth” when we do not allow sin to reign in our bodies!

*“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt hath lost his savour [TRUTH], wherewith shall it be salted? it is henceforth **good for nothing**, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”*
Matthew 5:13

This is such a miracle and a blessing that God dwells within us in the form of His Holy Spirit! Since God dwells within, we are no longer our own or able to run our own lives. Everything that we do is dictated by the Holy Spirit of God when we follow His leading. We must no longer seek to glorify ourselves. We now seek to glorify God, which is the result of continuing to walk in His Spirit.

This thinking or lifestyle explains the term “walk in the Spirit”. When we “walk in the Spirit” or obey the conviction of the Holy Spirit within us, we do not fulfil our own lusts and pleasures as Galatians 5:16 teaches,

*“This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**,
and ye shall **NOT FULFIL** the lust of the flesh.”*

Knowing this, we can tell by the “fruit” or actions of others, who has the Spirit of God. Is this “judging”? No, in no way for the Spirit which is within us “bears witness” with our Spirit that we are the children of God.

Jesus taught us that we can tell who a “good tree” is and who is a “corrupt tree” by their outward actions in Matthew 7:16, “...ye shall know them by their fruits.” He goes on to explain in verses 17-18&20,

*“Even so every **good tree** bringeth forth **good fruit**;
but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
A good tree **CANNOT** BRING FORTH **EVIL FRUIT**,
neither can a corrupt tree BRING FORTH **GOOD FRUIT**..
Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”*

If a good tree produces evil fruit, it is no longer a good tree but has become a corrupt tree. No matter what the tree claims to be, you can tell a tree by the fruit that it bears. [Do they keep the commandments of God?] In the same way, a corrupt or evil tree cannot bear good fruit.

Those who “walk in the Spirit” walk with God and inherit eternal life. They bear the fruit of righteousness unto **perfection**. They seek to be “*conformed to the image of His Son*”. In Jesus’s parable about the “Sower of the Seed”, He tells us that those who are “choked” with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life do not bring forth good fruit or fruit to perfection.

“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to PERFECTION.”

Luke 8:14

What good is a beautiful tomato plant that does not bear tomatoes? What good is an apple tree that does not bear apples? What good is a person that claims to be a “Christian”, yet teaches and lives in false doctrine that excuses his sinful life? All of the above are worthless in God’s eyes and to be cast into the fire!

In order to completely understand the Holy Spirit that dwells within those who daily deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Jesus by walking in His steps as He walked on this earth; we must understand the battle that begins when the Holy Spirit enters our lives. He does not justify sinful behaviour, so He will quickly begin convicting the heart to “purge out the old leaven” in your life! This is explained very well by Paul in Galatians 5:17-18,

*“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are CONTRARY [opposite; conflicting] the one to the other: so that ye **CANNOT DO** the things that ye would. But **if ye be led of the Spirit** [obey the Spirit], ye are not under the law [condemned by the law; a law breaker].”*

The Spirit convicts your heart by giving you no peace about doing something that is not right or not the will of God. It is in constant conflict with your flesh that usually wants the “easy way” or the “way of least resistance”! The flesh likes to compromise with sin and justify those who are sinning, but the Spirit will NEVER justify the wicked or condemn the holy!

Notice in verse 18, that those who allow themselves to be “led” by the Holy Spirit’s guidance into ALL TRUTH are not condemned by the law, because the Holy Spirit is teaching them to obey the law! The Holy Spirit will never tell you to do something that the law of God condemns! NEVER! Not one time!

If you continue to read in Galatians 5:19-21, you will see a list of the actions that are the exact opposite of walking in the Spirit. These are the “works of the flesh” and they are practiced by the greatest majority of churches today! You will see the end of those who practice these sins, who Paul in Romans 1:18 says, “...who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

*“Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these;*

***Adultery** [Lusting over a woman; Matt. 5:28], **fornication** [pornography],
uncleanness [impurity or rejecting pure holiness],*

***lasciviousness** [not having control of your actions; no self-control],*

***Idolatry** [putting anything or anyone before God],*

***witchcraft** [medication; drugs], **hatred** [hostility toward others],*

***variance** [quarreling, contention, debates], **emulations** [jealousy; envy],*

***wrath** [fierceness; outbursts of anger], **strife** [causing a faction or division],*

***seditions** [disunity; division; separating godliness],*

***heresies** [a choice or stand for wrong against right],*

***Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings** [partying; riotous lifestyle],
and **such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past,
that they which do such things shall NOT inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Look at this list... are you practicing any of these sins? Do you justify those who practice these sins? If you have purposed in your heart to walk on the Strait and Narrow Way; then deny yourself of these sins, take up your cross by daily putting to death your flesh, and follow Jesus in His steps as He walked. Look at the wonderful list of the actions of those who are filled by the Holy Spirit of God in Galatians 5:22-23,

*“But the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**,*

*is **love** [charity; doing what is best for others], **joy** [rejoicing in our salvation],*

***peace** [the “My peace I give unto you”], **long-suffering** [joyful patience];*

***gentleness** [usefulness to God; surrendered]; **goodness** [godliness; honesty];*

***faith** [faithfulness; constant in profession]; **meekness** [not self-willed; humility];*

***temperance** [self-control; self-denial];*

against such there is NO law.”

There is NO law against being righteous! There can be no condemnation to those who are striving to bear the fruit of the Spirit in their lives by yielding to the “still small voice” that God promised inside of His children. This was prophesied about us in Isaiah 30:21,

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying,

THIS IS THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT,

when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

This is the voice of God or of His Holy Spirit. You will know that it is the Holy Spirit and not a seducing spirit, because it will always command you to do what is right! ALWAYS! "...ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!" FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN! FREE FROM THE WRATH OF GOD! There can be no condemnation for you... if you walk in the Spirit!

*"There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them
which are in Christ Jesus, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH,
BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT."*

Romans 8:1

Is the law of God made void? No, in no way! If you stop walking in the Spirit, you will be condemned by the law, just as every man in this world will be judged as they stand before God... and will be condemned. There is only NO Condemnation to those who are in Christ and walk in His Spirit. The purpose of walking in the Spirit is to reveal the law perfectly obeyed in our lives, for this glorifies God and is explained in verse 4,

*"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us,
who walk NOT after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

Those who walk in the flesh cannot please God, because they are at enmity or are the enemies of God shown by their obedience to the deeds of satan, their father! In Romans 8:12-14, Paul warns not to return to the flesh.

"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 [put to death]
the deeds [sinful actions] of the body, ye shall live [eternally].*

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Many times we do not know what to pray, but God desires that we pour out our hearts to Him. Remember, He already knows your fears, jealousies, or anger. Pour out your heart to your loving Heavenly Father and tell Him how you truly feel inside. Then yield to the peace that He gives you when you know that you can trust Him to do what is best for you ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE!

*"Likewise [in the same way; we are to be patient]
the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities [feebleness of our flesh]:*

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!"*

So, cry out to God and “...cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall NEVER suffer the righteous to be moved.” Faith is shown by obedience to His commandments as you come to Him “poor in spirit”, but seeking Him to become RICH IN FAITH!

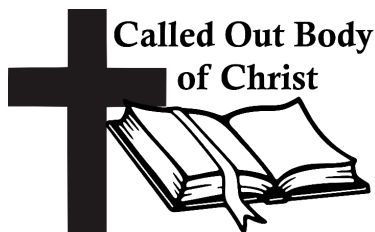
*“Trust in the LORD with **ALL THINE HEART**;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

In ALL thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”
Proverbs 3:5-6

This booklet only scratches the surface of the vast blessing of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit or Divine Nature of our loving Heavenly Father. The Spirit in our everyday lives causes us to cry out to our Heavenly Father, and He will hear us faithfully! Please prayerfully read Romans 8:15,

*“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.**”*

What a precious blessing it is to serve our loving Creator with all our hearts, and to be blessed by Him to not only inherit eternal life, but to have His presence in our daily lives walking in the Spirit of Almighty God!



**Called Out Body
of Christ**

1 (219) 883-5475

truth@calledoutbodyofchrist.com

www.calledoutbodyofchrist.com