

### 3. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the LIFE OF CHRISTIANS

**Note:** The Holy Spirit's greatest works in the life of men are accomplished in the life of believers.

#### a. In Regard to Salvation – The Greatest Miracle is making a dead man, ALIVE!

##### 1) He Regenerates

*Titus 3:5* “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;”

- **Washing** here means “bathed all over.” When a sinner trusts Jesus as Saviour, they are CLEANSED from all of their sins by the blood of Christ, and they are made NEW by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Regeneration** = this means to be revived, restored, or recreated. (Rebirth)

- **Note:** The word “Regeneration” is used one other time in the N/T.

*Matthew 19:28* “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

- Jesus is speaking of "the times of restoration of all things", which was predicted by the prophets, and refers to the earthly kingdom which the Lord will establish. Revelation 20:1-15.

*Revelation 21:5* “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

**Renewing** = and to have a spiritual renovation, to make new.

*CH Spurgeon said*, “A supernatural work of the Holy Ghost must be wrought in every one of us, if we would see the face of God with acceptance.”

**Note:** Regeneration is also known as the second birth or the spiritual birth.

- Jesus explains to a very religious man that he MUST be born again to enter into Heaven.
- The new birth is the renewing of the whole soul of a person in righteousness and true holiness.

*A man of God said*, “You do not manufacture Christians any more than you manufacture babies! The only way to enter God's family is through the new birth.”

## 2) He Indwells

**Note:** The difference between the O/T saints and the N/T saints is that the Holy Spirit lives permanently in the life of Christians. This began at the day of Pentecost when the Christians were waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit. In the O/T we see that the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, but did not permanently indwell the believers.

Notice what Jesus said:

**John 14:17** *“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.”*

- When King David was anointed with oil to be the next king, the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and left King Saul.

**1 Samuel 16:13-14** *“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (14) But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”*

- When King David sinned, he cried out in **Psalm 51:1**, *“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”*
- The Holy Spirit displays the presence of God in a special way in a person’s life.

**Romans 8:8-9** *“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) 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.”*

**Indwells** = to reside, to inhabit, to dwell in (To take residence)

- It is the place where the Holy Spirit abides and lives and makes His home.

**2 Corinthians 6:16** *“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

- The Holy Spirit is the rightful homeowner. He takes full ownership of the property of the believer’s body/life. The Holy Spirit does not make Himself at home, IT IS His home.

**1 Corinthians 6:19** *“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?”*

- The Scriptures make it clear that Christians are bought with a price. It is like having a big sign on the doorpost of every believer’s heart saying, “SOLD BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB”.

**Galatians 4:6** “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

- **Note:** In the inner temple of the Old Testament tabernacle was the Holy of Holies, where you will find the presence of God. **In the O/T, God had a temple for His people, but in the N/T, God has a people for His temple.**
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### 3) He Seals

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is the one that seals and secures our Salvation.

**Ephesians 1:13** “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

- The Holy Spirit seals the Christian after they believe the gospel and not before.
- We are sealed after we are saved.

*Heard the Truth > Believed > Sealed*

**Sealed** = to stamp and seal up



#### ➤ THE SEAL OF POSSESSION

- God puts His seal on the believer because he has purchased them. They belong to God.

**2 Timothy 2:19** “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

- The Seal of the Holy Spirit speaks of a “Complete Transaction” that has been made.
  - We legally belong to God because we have been justified by the blood of Christ, and the seal of the Holy Spirit stamps the approval that we have been bought by God.
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➤ THE SEAL OF PROTECTION

- The seal of the Holy Spirit secures, protects, and preserves the believer. It gives full security that no one can pluck us out of the Hand of God.

❖ The sealing of the tomb of Jesus holds the meaning of the word “protection”.

***Matthew 27:62-66** “Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, (63) Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. (64) Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. (65) Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. (66) So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.”*

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➤ THE SEAL OF PLEDGE

- The seal of the Holy Spirit guarantees our redemption until we are “completely redeemed” by God through the resurrection.

***Ephesians 1:14** “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”*

***Earnest** = pledge, or down payment, a deposit.*

- A deposit secures our place until the return of Christ.

***1 Peter 1:3-5** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

- The Holy Spirit is our down payment who secures the inheritance of our Salvation, which Jesus Christ has purchased for us on the cross.

Purchased (*By the Blood of Christ*) SAVED

Protected (*By the Spirit of God*) SEALED

Praise (*Of the Glory of the Father*) SECURED

- *Note:* No one can ever break the seal of God.

**Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

*The Sealing = The Promise is Secured*

*The Day of Redemption = The Promise is Fulfilled*

#### 4) **He Testifies**

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is the one that bears witness with our spirit that we are part of the family of God. The Holy Spirit not only regenerates us but reassures us.

**Romans 8:15-16** “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. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**Bear witness** = to give evidence, to testify

- The Spirit of God testifies to us that we are a child of God. This is the greatest witness we can ever have.

**1 John 4:13** “Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”

- A Christian knows that they are in Christ because the presence of the Holy Spirit dwells in them.
- The word “**adoption**” in the New Testament means “being placed as a son.”
- Adoption was common among the Hebrews and Romans; by which a person was taken out of one family and placed into another family.

**A man of God said**, “Roman adoption—which could take place at any age—cancelled all previous debts and relationships, defining the new son wholly in terms of his new relationship to his father, whose heir he thus became.

- As a legal act, Roman adoption had to be attested by witnesses; and so the Spirit is here the attesting witness that God adopts believers in Jesus as His own children.
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## b. In Regard to Sanctification

### 1) He Illuminates

**Note:** The Holy Spirit gives light to understanding the Scriptures.

- The Holy Spirit **REVEALS** the heart/mind/wisdom of God to His disciples.

*1 Corinthians 2:10* “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

**Revealed** = to take off the cover, to disclose, to manifest, to bring out.

- The Holy Spirit worked in the Apostles to bring out and make known the truths of Word of God. They were moved by the Holy Ghost to manifest the ministry of the Word of God.

*Ephesians 3:2-5* “If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: (3) How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (5) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”

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- The Holy Spirit **TEACHES** the Spiritual things of God.

**Note:** Without the Spirit of God we cannot know the truth of God’s Wisdom.

*1 Corinthians 2:12-14* “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. Vs 13 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. Vs 14 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.”

- The Apostles were moved by the Holy Spirit to minister the Word of God.
- As the Bible student continues to study the Word of God, the Holy Spirit aids and helps them to understand the Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual discernment through the Word of God.

*1 John 2:27* “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”

**Note:** The Holy Spirit is the **FINAL** authority as your teacher.

- The Apostle John is not undermining Bible teachers. God himself has appointed teachers within the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11.
- However, the student of God's Word MUST always rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit, and not depend on human wisdom or the opinions of men for the truth.
- Always allow the Holy Spirit to SIFT your human teachers.

*Titus 2:1 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"*

- **Note:** Sound doctrine has Holy Spirit Power!

*1 Corinthians 2:4-5 "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: (5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."*

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## 2) **He Intercedes**

**Note:** The Holy Spirit helps us to seek God effectively when we are weakened by trials and testings.

- The Holy Spirit intervenes to help us Pray.

*Romans 8:26 "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."*

**Maketh intercession** = to mediate on one's behalf.

- Often times Christians are faced with tough and hard trials that leave them confused and perplexed; and they do not know what to do or how to pray, this is when the Spirit of God takes over.

❖ Illustration: \_\_\_\_\_

- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray according to the will of God

*Romans 8:27 "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."*

- ❖ The Apostle Paul prayed three times asking the Lord to help him remove his thorn in the flesh. Paul receives the answer of God... *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*
- And Paul's response was remarkable, *"...Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

**Note:** The Holy Spirit helps us to accept the will of God for our life by leading to the heart of God through prayer.

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### 3) He Fills

**Note:** Every Christian is indwelt by the Spirit of God, but not every Christian is filled by the Spirit of God.

***Ephesians 5:18*** “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*”

- To be filled with the Spirit means to be under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit.
    - To be under the influence of alcohol means to lose control. When a person is drunk they are under the influence of the Alcohol. To be under the influence of the Holy Spirit means the flesh loses control and the Spirit takes control.
    - The flesh leads you out of control, the Spirit leads you in self-control.
    - One leads you out of the will of God, and the other leads you into the will of God.
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- The result of a Spirit-filled Life.
  - The Purpose is to be Conformed into Christlikeness

**Note:** The Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer to produce fruit that makes and conforms them into the image of Christ.

- The goal for every Christian is to grow to be like their Saviour.

***Galatians 5:22-23*** “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*”

**Note:** The word “Fruit” is used in the singular.

- When a person is filled with the Spirit, they will be filled with nine characteristics of Jesus Christ.

Filled with Love  
Filled with Joy  
Filled with Peace  
Filled with Longsuffering  
Filled with Gentleness  
Filled with Goodness  
Filled with Faith  
Filled with Meekness

Filled with Temperance

➤ There are two main things that will hinder the Spirit's work in the Christian's life.

i. The Holy Spirit can be **GRIEVED** – Ephesians 4:30

*Ephesians 4:30* “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

- **To grieve** = to sadden, to bring sorrow
  - How can the Holy Spirit be grieved?
  - Sin, un-forgiveness, pride, corrupt communication, gossip, tale-bearing etc.
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ii. The Holy Spirit can be **QUENCHED** – 1 Thessalonians 5:19

*1 Thessalonians 5:19* “Quench not the Spirit.”

- **To quench** = to put out, or extinguish
- How can the Holy Spirit be quenched?
- When we do not obey the Spirit's still-small voice.
- When we do not live by faith.
- The fire of God's Holy Spirit is not to be drenched with disobedience and unbelief.

❖ The Church of Laodicea quenched the Spirit of God, and instead of being on fire for God, they became lukewarm.

### c. In regard to Service

- **Note:** God through the power of the Holy Spirit calls and commissions the disciples to fulfil their ministry.

1) When was the Holy Spirit given to the disciples?

- The Answer is in Acts 2 the day of Pentecost.

➤ The Promise of the Holy Spirit is given to the disciples after the ascension of Jesus.

*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. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (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.)”

**John 16:7** “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.”

2) By the Holy Spirit, God gives the disciples the **ABILITY**.

**Acts 1:8** “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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

**Power** = Ability, strength (This is given after Jesus’ ascension)

- God gives the disciples “Power” to be a witness and preach the Gospel with boldness.
- **Turn to: Acts 4:23-31**

**2 Timothy 1:6-8** “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. (7) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (8) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;”

**Stir up the gift of God** = to keep the fire alive (Do not quench the Spirit)

3) By the Holy Spirit, God gives the disciples **AUTHORITY**.

**Matthew 28:18-19** “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) **Go** ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

**Power** = Authority, the right (This is given before Jesus’ ascension)

- In John 20:22 we see Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples to give them authority to preach the Gospel of peace, verse 23 would indicate this.

**John 20:20-23** “And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. (21) Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **(22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** (23) Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”

**Acts 1:2** “Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he **through the Holy Ghost had given commandments** unto the apostles whom he had chosen:”

**Note:** The Disciples did not have the authority to forgive sin, but rather they had the authority to preach the forgiveness of sin.

*Acts 13:38* “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:”

**Note:** William McDonald make the following comments on John 20:22

*“This is one of the most difficult verses in the entire Gospel. We read that Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The difficulty is that the Holy Spirit was not given until later, on the day of Pentecost. Yet how could the Lord speak these words without the event taking place immediately?*

*Several explanations have been offered: (1) Some suggest that the Lord was simply making a promise of what they would receive on the day of Pentecost. This is hardly an adequate explanation. (2) Some point out that what the Savior actually said was, “Receive Holy Spirit,” rather than, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” They conclude from this that the disciples did not receive the Holy Spirit in all His fullness at this time, but only some ministry of the Spirit, such as a greater knowledge of the truth, or power and guidance for their mission. They say that the disciples received a guarantee or a foretaste of the Holy Spirit. (3) Others state that there was a full outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples at this time. This seems unlikely.’*

- Next week’s session will address: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Baptising of the Holy Spirit.

*Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22-23*