



...Set For the Defence of the Gospel. (Phil 1:17)

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T H E M E :

The Holy Spirit

DEFENDER OF TRUTH

CONTENTS:

EDITORIAL

Pg 3

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Afolabi Akinyemi

Pg 3

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Opemipo Olusola

Pg 5

MIRACLES, WONDERS AND SIGNS

- Jobalo Oshikanlu

Pg 8

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Osamagbe Lesley Egharevba

Pg 10

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Oladapo Olawale

Pg 12

HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

- Kayode Adekunle

Pg 14

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EDITORIAL

This edition of Defender of Truth magazine is focused on the Holy Spirit. The following topics are discussed; the Personality of the Holy Spirit, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Miracles, Signs, and Wonders, How To Be Filled with the Holy Spirit, The Fruit of the Spirit, and Grieving the Holy Spirit. We believe our readers will be edified through these articles.

Previous editions of the magazine can now be viewed and downloaded from the website www.defenderoftruth.com.ng. The site also has articles, books, audio and video sermons which the reader will find edifying.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Afolabi A. Akinyemi

There are a lot of conflicting doctrines and beliefs about the Holy Spirit, but our God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). The Bible reveals who the Holy Spirit is, what the Holy Spirit does and what He does not do (Eph. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Many people who claim to have received the Holy Spirit teach conflicting doctrines and do things contrary to the word of God. Surely, the Holy Spirit does not direct people to teach conflicting doctrines or engage in religious practices contrary to the word of God.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is a person. By person we mean a being, He exists. The Holy Spirit is God, a divine being. Apostle Peter called the Holy Spirit God.

*"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the **Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to **God**.'" Acts 5:1-4*

The actions attributed to the Holy Spirit further illustrate the personality of the Holy Spirit. He speaks (1 Tim. 4:1), searches (1 Cor. 2: 10) forbids (Acts 16: 6) and teaches (John 14:26). Similarly, the Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:4), can be grieved (Eph. 4:30) and can be resisted (Acts 7:51). These Bible verses show clearly that the Holy Spirit is not simply a force as some claim.

The Holy Spirit is a distinct personality from the Father and Jesus Christ. Please consider the record of Mathew during the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly **a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'**" Matthew 3:16-17*

The three divine personalities are shown in action in this Bible

verse. Jesus Christ the Son was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended and the Father spoke. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a distinct personality from himself and the Father.

*"But the **Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom **the Father** will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you". John 14:26*

*"But when **the Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from **the Father, the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from **the Father**, He will testify of **Me**. John 15:26*

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ revealed the work of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26; John 15:26 and John 16:13. He said the Holy Spirit would:

1. Teach His disciples all things
2. Bring to their remembrance all things that He said to them
3. Guide them into all truth
4. Reveal things to come
5. Testify of Him

These can be categorized into two broad areas. The Holy Spirit will reveal divine truth and also testify or confirm this truth. Apostle Paul confirmed that the Holy Spirit indeed revealed the words they spoke to them.

*"However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely***



given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual". 1 Corinthians 2:6-13

*"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, **how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets"*** Ephesians 3:1-5

Apostle Peter also reiterated that they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

*"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"**.* 2 Peter 1:20-21

The divine truth that was revealed to the Apostles through the Holy Spirit is complete and no man is authorized to either add or remove from it. The Apostles have written this truth in the Holy Scripture. Apostle Paul writing to Timothy said *"All Scripture is given **by inspiration of God**..... that the man of God may **be complete**, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* 2 Tim. 3:16-17. In 1 Cor. 13:10, this divine truth is referred to as being perfect or complete.

The Holy Spirit testified or confirmed the revealed truth by miracles, signs and wonders (Heb. 2: 2-4; Acts 8:6).

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Baptism with the Holy Spirit was first mentioned by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:7-12; Mark 1:2-8; Luke 3:7-17). Many have misinterpreted this Bible passage by teaching about Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost fire or claiming to have received Holy Spirit fire. A closer examination of John's statement reveals that there is nothing called Holy Spirit fire or Holy Ghost fire in this passage or the New Testament.

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance**, and do not think to say to yourselves, we have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* Matthew 3:7-12

The emphasis of this Bible passage is on the Pharisees and Sadducees and their claim to justification because of being physical descendants of Abraham. John told them they would be punished if they did not bear fruits worthy of repentance. They would be treated like a tree which does not bear fruit that is cut down and thrown into **fire**. He stated

further that Jesus Christ who is coming is mightier than him and He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Therefore, it is clear that the two baptisms mentioned here are different from each other: baptism with the Holy Spirit and baptism of fire. The baptism of fire refers to eternal punishment (verse 11) and should not be confused with Holy Spirit baptism.

Jesus Christ made the promise of the Holy Spirit to his Apostles (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). He told them the kingdom of God will present with **power** during the lifetime of some of his listeners (Mark 9:1). He further told them that He would send the promise of the father but they should wait in the city of Jerusalem until they are endued with **power** from on high (Luke 24:49). In Acts 1:8, Jesus clarified by telling them they would receive **power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them**.

The Apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. They received power (to speak in tongues) as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4). The promise of Jesus Christ has been fulfilled in that the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. The Apostles revealed the truth (the gospel) on that day and the truth was confirmed by the Holy Spirit through miracles, signs and wonders.

CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit is one of the personalities of the Godhead. The Spirit is not the Father neither is He, Jesus Christ. He is distinct from the Father and Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit for revealing and confirming divine truth (the gospel). This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. This divine truth has been written by the Apostles for us in the New Testament so that we might inherit eternal life through obedience to the gospel. The New Testament contains all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

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THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

by Bro Opemipo Olusola

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" Gal.5:22-23 (KJV)

The book of Galatians chapter five focuses on the privileges of Christian liberty which was made possible through the victorious atonement of Christ on the cross (1 Cor.15:57). Sadly some disciples abuse this precious liberty by fulfilling the lusts (works) of the flesh. These works of the flesh are the product of corrupt and depraved nature which are condemned by the Holy scriptures (Gal.5:19-21). Since the disciples of Christ have been washed, sanctified, and justified by the obedience to the gospel of Christ (1 Cor.6:9-11), we must watch against these parasitic infections that could make our spiritual trees unfruitful.

Thus, we must mortify all these sinful passions in our lives so that we may cherish and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, Rom.6:22.

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry". Col.3:5. It is noteworthy that Jesus often mentions "fruit" in His teaching; Jhn.15:5-16, Matt.7:16-20.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead. Apostle Peter called the Holy Spirit God Acts 5:1-4. The Greek word (pneuma) has multiple meanings, including breath, spirit or wind. The word 'fruit' is also defined as the effect or consequence of an action or operation; **PRODUCT, RESULT, OUTCOME** (Merr. Webster Dict). Thus, the fruit can mean "deed, action, or result".

In an agrarian society, fruit is a good thing that results from hard work and careful tending. Today we might use the word "fruit" in a phrase such as the 'fruit of our labour' to communicate the results of our effort. Even if we don't harvest strawberries or oranges, we can have 'fruit', something to show for our work, in a paycheck, a finished project or even a baby. In a biblical context, the phrase "fruit of the spirit" means the results of the work of the Spirit in a believer's life which are in direct conflict with the acts of the human flesh.

The fruit of the spirit indicates a relationship with Christ. Ephesians.1:13-14 explains that *the Holy Spirit is an inheritance given to believers in Christ that guarantees their relationship with Christ. The evidence of the Holy Spirit in their lives is those good things like love, joy, and kindness. Etc*

The Holy Spirit works on the hearts of men through His medium of operation which is God's word (Acts.7:51-54; Jhn.15:2; Eph.5:9). When men allow the word of God to direct and control their lives, the following lovely qualities spring forth in abundance as listed in Gal.5:22-23.

THE MEANING OF EACH PART OF FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ states the following nine "parts of the fruit of the spirit" that result from true repentance, turning

away from our sinful ways towards love for God and neighbours:

- 1. Love:** In Galatians.5:22-23, love is translated from the Greek word "agape". Greek has multiple words for love, including eros, sexual love; philos, brotherly love; and storge, familial love. Agape is perfect love that only God can give. In respect of agapao as used of God, it expresses the deep and constant 'love' and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential 'love in them towards the Giver and a practical love towards those who are partakers of the same and a desire to help others to seek the Giver, according to VINE'S Expository Dictionary.

Love for God and others results from receiving God's perfect agape love. Jesus encouraged his followers; "As the Father has loved me, so have I love you, Now remain in my love....." Jhn.15:9-11.

It indicates affection benevolence or charity, and always has a self-sacrificing aspect. 1 Cor. 13:1-7; 1Jhn.4:7-8; Matt.22:34-40. Some people are harder to love than others, but the very first item in this list describes a quality others should see in our lives- that we have a real affection for people, and do our best to help others. Col. 3:14.

- 2. Joy:-** The original word here is "Chara". It indicates cheerfulness, a calm delight, and carries an abiding aspect. It is deep-seated, constant, not fleeting or ephemeral, it is the realization of God's favour and grace in one's life. Biblical joy is happiness that is not dependent on our circumstances. Believers are encouraged to always rejoice even when faced with the trials of life Phil.1:18;4:4-10; Jam.1:1-3.

Salvation from God and the hope of eternal bliss with Christ are beautiful gifts that cause us to have genuine joy (Acts.8:39; Rom.12:12). You are rejecting the operation of the Holy Spirit when you are filled with all kinds of bitterness, hatred, sorrow and malice against your neighbour or brethren. Rm.14:17-18.

- 3. Peace:-** The Greek word eirene means 'quietness', rest and (by implication) prosperity. It is similar to the Hebrew "Shalom" which is often used as a greeting to impart goodwill, peace and tranquillity. Jesus promised to give peace to His disciples (Jhn.14:27). It is a Christian experience that the sinful world will never know. Those who were enemies and strangers become reconciled to God when they become Christians. He is justified and sanctified through the atoning death of Christ Rom.5:1,10.

A life of peace is safe and secure both physically and mentally. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace



(Rom.8:6). Peace results from allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and minds. When we have peace, we are free from fear and worry about our finances, our safety, our salvation, and our eternal life. Jhn.16:33; we live peaceably with all men, Rom.12:17. Heb.12:14

4. **Longsuffering/Patience:** The Greek word "Makrothumia" is not a word that most of us commonly use. It is found in Galatians.5:22-23 and is often translated using other words such as forbearance, endurance, constancy, patience, steadfastness, perseverance and slowness in avenging wrongs. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to withstand challenging situations with perseverance and endurance. Through the Holy Spirit, we can wait longer before indulging our passions-we become "long-tempered" rather than "short-tempered", 1 Tim.1:16; Eph.4:1-2. Christians must learn the virtue of patience in dealing with others. If we can be slow to anger, it will help us avoid the temptation to backbite, grumble, and complain (Gal.5:15, Phil.2:14). Good things come to those who wait, particularly, the ultimate and final home with God. We must learn patience if we are to survive this world (Jam.5:7-11)
5. **Kindness/Gentleness:** Derived from "Chrestotes", the Greek word means moral goodness, integrity, usefulness, and benignity. The KJV translates the word "Chrestotes" as "gentleness", which links it to the meaning of a gentleman or a gentlewoman who behaves properly, with moral integrity and kindness. Roman.2:4 reminds us that God's mercy and grace should lead us to repentance, not judgment. The Holy Spirit enables us to have moral integrity with kindness and not get trapped in self-righteous judgment (Lk.18:9-14). Tabitha is an example of extraordinary kindness, who was selfless and befriended people who are sometimes forgotten like widows (Acts.9:36-39).
6. **Goodness:** Greek word (agathosune) means uprightness of heart and life, goodness, and kindness. Goodness is seen in our actions. This word relates to not only being good but also doing good things (2Thess.1:11). Through the Holy Spirit's work in Christian lives, they are upright in the heart and do good things. Christians are good people. Paul often admonished congregations to be good (Rom.15:14). God will commend those who are good and faithful (Matt.25:21,23). Christians are new creatures, recreated in Christ to do good works, Eph.2:10.
7. **Faithfulness/Faith:-** One of the richest concepts in the Bible. It is from the Greek word "Pistis" which suggests persuasion, credence, moral conviction, reliance, constancy, assurance, belief, faith or fidelity. Christians are people of faith, for without faith we cannot please God (Heb.11:6). We grow and advance into a deeper faith as we live for Christ taking in and applying the word of God (Rom.10:17). We ought to demonstrate our faith or allegiance to God above every human threat. Faithfulness should be evident in being loyal workers in the kingdom (Matt.25:21,23), honest people who keep their word (Jam.5:12) and who keep their confidence in Christ firm until the end since God is faithful (Heb.10:23). Such Christians are not influenced by worldly standards

in terms of fashion, trending passions or unnatural transformations (Rom.12:1-2).

8. **Gentleness/Meekness:** "Prautes" is the Greek word which was translated as "meekness" in the old King James Version, but because being meek seemed weak or timid, modern translations of the Bible use gentleness to mean mildness of disposition; humility. The use of the Greek word when applied to animals makes this clear, for it means "tame" when applied to wild animals. In other words, such animals have not lost their strength but have learned to control the destructive instincts that prevent them from living in harmony with others. Jesus describes Himself as gentle in Matt.11:29.

A good definition of this word is strength under control because it carries the idea of power put to constructive use. The word sounds like "weakness", but the meaning is different and a meek person cannot be weak. (e.g Moses, Num.12:3). The Holy Spirit enables a Christian to be firm or to take a strong stand for truth in a humble manner (2Tim.2:24-25, Gal.6:1)

9. **Self-control/Temperance:-** Sourced from the Greek word "egkrateia" which is translated as "Continence" or "temperance" is the ability to control one's body and its sensual appetites and desires-physically and mentally-through the power of the Holy Spirit, the written word. The word "self-control" suggests a person not governed by addictions, lusts, evil influences and the like, but one who is firmly enslaved to God alone. This is the "crowning" characteristic of the Spirit-led person-the child of God exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. Of all the virtues that the Spirit is to produce in our lives, perhaps this is the most challenging. With self-control, we will learn to avoid giving in to the works of the flesh (Gal.5:17-21), and we will learn to resist the devil while submitting to God's rule in our lives (Jam.4:7).

CONCLUSION

If you claim to be a child of God, then the fruit of the Holy Spirit ought to be evident and seen in your life. Though sometimes, these characteristics are noticed in unbelievers (Acts.10:2), that is to prove that all men have been created in God's image Gen.1:27. To reap eternal life, we must start producing fruits of the Spirit in our relationships with God, with our homes, within the church and our neighbours, Gal.6:8.

Repent of your worldly passions today and bear good fruits towards repentance or else "Every fruitless tree shall be cut off" (Matt.3:10; Jhn.15:2).

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MIRACLES, WONDERS AND SIGNS

by Jobalo Oshikanlu

Bible Gem: "...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with **signs and wonders, with various miracles**, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" (Hebrews 2:3-4).

WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

WIKIPEDIA says that a miracle is an event that is inexplicable by natural or scientific laws and accordingly gets attributed to "some supernatural or preternatural cause". WIKIPEDIA goes on to say that English speakers often use the word *miracle* to characterize, **in an informal sense**, any beneficial event that is statistically unlikely but **not** contrary to the laws of nature (such as "the miracle of childbirth", surviving a natural disaster in exceptional circumstances, etc.). We cannot agree less with WIKIPEDIA. This article focuses on "miracle" in its proper meaning, not the "informal" sense.

The Bible is a book of miracles. It records many events and incidents which are miracles or described as miracles: The creation of the world (Genesis 1); the worldwide Flood (Genesis 7); the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14); the fall of the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6); the virgin birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38); the resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1-10). Some would question the reliability of these accounts and would deny that such miracles ever happened. Others believe that these events happened just as they are recorded in the Bible. Your view of miracles will depend on your views about God and the Bible. In this e-magazine's Volume 1, No.1 (Jan - March 2021), we discussed the Bible as God's revelation to mankind, and the internal as well as external evidence of its divine authorship. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead, for example, is a fact of history that is recorded by the Bible and secular historians.

Whilst the "miracle of the birth of a child", and such like that are (informally) referenced as miracles, may impress and fill us with amazement, these are not the same as the events recorded in the Bible as miracles. The miracles of the Bible are interferences with nature by the supernatural power of God and are intended as a sign or attestation. They are possible because God sustains and controls all things because He is personal and omnipotent, and therefore able to override, suspend or counteract the principles of nature, given that He created or put them in place (Jeremiah 32:17, 27).

VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS OF MIRACLES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

The original word translated as *miracle* from the Greek New Testament ("*dunamis*") denotes "power" implying supernatural power or strength. These miracles or works of power recorded in the Bible are described in various ways. "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus the Nazaraean, a man borne witness to by God to you by **works of power** and **wonders** and **signs**, which God wrought by him in your midst,

as yourselves know" (Acts 2:22). Hence, the Bible variously describes them as "Mighty Works", "Signs" or "Wonders". These are all miracles called by different names to describe their different facets or features.

1. Why were the miracles of Jesus called "mighty works" or "works of power"? It is because Jesus, by performing His numerous miracles of healing the sick, showed His power over all diseases or maladies, whether physical or spiritual. When He calmed the storms of the seas, He showed His power over nature. When He fed 5,000 people, and then 4,000 people, with only 5 loaves and 7 loaves respectively, He showed His power to create. When He raised the dead, He showed His power over death.
2. Why were the miracles of Jesus and His Apostles called "wonders"? It is because those who witnessed such miracles were filled with wonder at what they had seen. Mark 2:12 records the effect that Jesus' healing of a paralyzed man had upon those who witnessed it – "Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were **amazed** and glorified God, saying, "**We never saw anything like this!**"
3. The miracles of Jesus were also called "signs". This indicates the significance of the event. The miracle was a sign pointing to or proving an important spiritual truth. In the gospel of John, the miracles of Jesus are often called signs. In describing Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine, John 2:11 states, "*This beginning of **signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him*".

THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

Why did God perform miracles?

1. The miracles reveal to us something about the nature, will and power of God. They demonstrate His character and teach us truths about His nature. They show us His concern and involvement with mankind. They demonstrate the power, faithfulness, wisdom, justice, mercy and love of God. The miracles show His supremacy over all the powers and rules of nature, and over all the gods invented by people and Satan.
2. The miracles performed by Jesus confirmed His identity as the Christ, the Son of God: "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**" (John 20:30-31)



3. The Apostles performed miracles which also served as signs of their approval and apostolic authority ordained by God (2 Corinthians 12:12; Philippians 3:17).
4. The miracles performed by men of God in the New Testament were for revelation and confirmation of the Word of God. The miracles authenticated the message being preached as being from God, as should be clear from our Bible gem quoted above. *"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and **confirming the word through the accompanying signs**. Amen"* (Mark 16:20). *"[Paul and Barnabas] stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was **bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands**"* (Acts 14:3). In other words, the gospel that was preached, itself miraculously revealed, was confirmed or authenticated as the true word of God by the miraculous works that God allowed the preachers to perform. Such preachers and performers of miracles were the Apostles and those upon whom the Apostles had laid hands (Acts 8:5-8, 13-20; 6:5-6; 21:8; 2 Timothy 1:6).

LIMITED PERIOD OF THE MIRACLES PERFORMED BY THE MEN OF GOD

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 29-31, the Apostle Paul discusses the miraculous gifts and concludes by announcing that there is a way that is "more excellent" than these miraculous gifts. He then proceeds in 1 Corinthians 13 to reveal that this "more excellent" way is the way of LOVE, and gives the following 3 reasons:

1. The miraculous gifts, without love, profited nothing (1 Cor 13:1-3).
2. Love would translate to the development of maturity in a child of God whereas the miraculous gifts were not designed to elicit such development in the holder of the gift (1 Cor 13:4-7).
3. The miraculous gifts would cease at a certain time, but love would continue (1 Cor 13:8-13). Other attributes or graces (in addition to love) that would continue after the miraculous gifts came to an end include FAITH and HOPE, according to verse 13. The fact that faith and hope would be continuing at a time that the miraculous gifts would have ended shows that this would be a time well before the final coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, as our faith and hope are ultimately in that final coming of our Lord (Titus 1:2; 2:11-13). Hope that is already seen is not hope (Romans 8:24-25). The passage states that the miraculous gifts would end when "that which is perfect" came. Besides, "that" which is perfect, in the original Greek is of the neuter (rather than masculine) gender – the perfect thing or perfect state, not the perfect person. The "perfect" is from the Greek "*teleios*" meaning "brought to its end, finished, not lacking completeness". The New

Testament is called the "perfect law of liberty" by the same Holy Spirit (James 1:25). At the time of the epistle to the Corinthians, God's truth or revelation was being unveiled gradually, and as it was being revealed, it was also being confirmed by the confirmatory miracles, such that when God's revelation became complete (Revelation 22:18-19), the miraculous gifts had also completed their purpose, and therefore ceased, whether for revelation or confirmation. That which was "in part" was to cease when "that which is perfect" came. The miraculous gifts were "in part", or for part-by-part revelation through the miraculous gifts exercised by those who possessed them. They gave way to "that which is perfect", the completed revelation of God's will or information to enable us to grow into maturity, so that by looking into the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25), we can see and know ourselves as God sees and knows us.

THE PERIODS WHEN MIRACLES OCCURRED IN THE SCHEME OF GOD

1. There was miraculous activity at the creation of the world when God made the universe out of nothing.
2. There were many miracles when Israel was led out of captivity in Egypt, during the time of wandering in the wilderness and the conquest of the land of Canaan.
3. Miracles occurred during the time of the prophets Elijah and Elisha when Israel faced a crisis of identity with the people turning away from God.
4. Miracles occurred during the physical ministry of Jesus culminating in His resurrection from the dead.
5. Finally, miracles accompanied the establishment of the church and the revelation of the New Testament (Acts 2:1-47; Hebrews 2:1-4).

CONCLUSION

Today, we live in a period long after the church has been established and God's truth has been fully revealed (Jude 3), confirmed and recorded for us in the New Testament. Hence, the miracles performed by God through men have served their purpose and, by God's design, they are not continuing. God still directly intervenes in the affairs of His children in answer to their prayers, nonetheless (Philippians 4:6-7).

The Bible warns that evil men and seducers will grow worse in their activities, including in their "*lying wonders*", deceiving those who do not love the truth (2 Timothy 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). We urge you to shun such deceitful activities by repenting (Psalm 1:1; 119:172; 1 John 5:17; Acts 17:30-31), confessing your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), being baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16), doing God's will (Matthew 7:21), and regularly worshipping God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

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THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Osamagbe Lesley Egharevba

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills" (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

When used in the plural (more than one gift), the gifts of the Holy Spirit refer to the miraculous gifts that the Holy Spirit gave the early Christians. In the above passage, we can identify nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that are mentioned including wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. In the New Testament, Christians were given the ability to work various wonders and do various kinds of miracles. As Paul noted, all these gifts were given by the Holy Spirit and "distributing to each one individually as He wills." In this article, we are going to discuss how early Christians received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the purpose of these gifts, and the expected duration of these gifts.

HOW THE EARLY CHRISTIANS RECEIVED THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The early Christians received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the apostles' hands! For example, it is recorded in the eighth chapter of the book of Acts "that Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them" (verse 5). Verse 12 says, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word, they sent Peter and John that they might pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. "For as yet He was **FALLEN UPON** none of them." While the people had been baptized and had their sins washed away, thus saved (cf. Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13, Acts 5:32), the Holy Spirit had not fallen upon them. Hence, we see that there is a difference between indwelling and "falling upon." Thus, verse 17 says, "then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost." In verse 18, we noticed that when **Simon saw that through laying on of the Apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given**, he offered them money that they should give him the same power so that whomever he lays his hands upon might also receive the same power. Two things are worthy of notice in this incident: first, why did Philip not lay his hands upon them to impart the Holy Spirit?

Only the apostles had this power. This belonged exclusively to the apostles. Not until Peter and John, apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, came to Samaria did any of the Christians there receive miraculous gifts, or the power to work miracles. Then laid they their hands (Peter and John) on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Second, verse 18 says, "and when Simon saw." What did he see? Did the Holy Spirit fall upon them physically? No. Simon must have seen the manifestations of the Spirit, such as speaking in a tongue or prophesying, etc. as was noticed in Acts 10:44-46 in the house of Cornelius. Hence the Christians in Samaria received the gifts of the Spirit through the laying on of the apostles' hands (cf. Acts 19:1-6)

It is important to comment here on the incident of Acts 10 that happened in the house of Cornelius where the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles, and they spoke in tongues. The purpose of

this gift of tongues was to convince Jewish Christians that "...God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life" (Acts 11:18). God wanted all men to be saved. The gospel was to be for every creature (Mark 16:15). It was "...for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Therefore, God brought the Gentiles into His great family by the same sort of miracle He had used for the Jews on the day of Pentecost, about ten years before.

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THESE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

A diligent study of the scriptures would reveal that the purpose of the spiritual gifts that were given to the early Christians included the following:

Revelation of the truth: In John 16:13, Jesus said, "However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth ..." (John 16:13). From these verses, we are shown that the Holy Spirit would: (1) Teach the apostles all things. (2) Bring to their remembrance all that Jesus had spoken to them. (3) Guide them into all truth. Man needs a revelation from his Creator "It is not in man to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23);" Therefore God gave the gifts of knowledge and wisdom. Furthermore, in John 14:26, we find Jesus said that "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26). Jesus was getting ready to return to the Father, but He realized that the apostles would need some help in remembering and teaching the gospel to the ends of the earth. So, He promised them a miraculous measure of the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. He assured them that they would be taught all things by the Holy Spirit, and he would enable them to recall all that He taught them while He was with them. Without miraculous help, they would have been unable to do this. Jesus gave them the fullest assurance that they would be divinely assisted in what they should speak. "... do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say" (Luke 12:11, 12).

Paul later spoke to the Corinthian church upon this same topic, in these words: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory" (1 Corinthians 2:7). In verse 10, he continues with this thought: "But God revealed them to us through His Spirit." This is what Jesus promised to do. The gospel was revealed unto the apostles by the Holy Spirit and they preached all that Jesus commanded. They did it without error. To the Ephesian Christians, he said that the unsearchable



riches of Christ "... as it has now been revealed by the Spirit ... that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body ..." (Ephesians 3:5, 6). Also, I Peter 1:12 teaches that the Holy Spirit revealed the truth unto the apostles, "To them, it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven ..." (I Peter 1:12)

Proclamation: Another purpose of the gifts of the Spirit was to proclaim the message of God. Man needed to proclaim the right message in the right language; therefore God gave the gifts of:

- "Prophecy" - the message.
- "Discerning of spirits" - the right message. (I John 4:1)
- "Interpretation of tongues" - the right language.

Confirmation: Early Christians did not have the Bible as we do today. They had to prove that the revelation they had received and were proclaiming was from God. How would the audience know they were speaking God's Word without miracles? (Acts 8:6) Therefore God gave the gifts of:

- Faith - I Corinthians 13:2.
- Healing - Acts 3:11.
- Miracles - Acts 13:11.
- Tongues - I Corinthians 14:22; Acts 2:1-5.

Notice in Mark 16:17-20, Jesus had promised them certain signs that would follow them to confirm the Word they would be preaching: "These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick; and they shall recover...And they went forth, and preached everywhere the Lord working with them; and **confirming** the Word with signs following." The writer of Hebrews said: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was **confirmed** unto us by them that heard him." (Hebrews 2:3). So, one of the purposes of the gifts of the Spirit was to confirm the Word of God.

HOW LONG WERE THESE MIRACULOUS SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO LAST?

These gifts were not given to everyone (I Corinthians 12:29-31) and they were foretold to end as seen in I Corinthians 13:8-10: "Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

The Bible says all these gifts will be done away "when that which is perfect has come." The things that were in part must balance with that which is complete. The things that were in part, the spiritual gifts, were used by the Lord to bring the revelation of His will to man. But when this revelation was committed to writing as it was in the first century, there

remained no further purpose to be fulfilled by these gifts. Therefore, when the completed revelation, the Bible, came the things that were in part were abolished. Notice the amplified Bible on this text: "For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect). But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away, become antiquated, void, and superceded."

Thus, "that which is perfect" refers to the complete word of God (James 1:25). Indeed, a complete revelation from God was given in the first century or during the lifetime of the apostles. In John 16:13, Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into **ALL TRUTH**. That doesn't leave any truth to be revealed. The New Testament is complete and final (II Timothy 3:16-17).

CONCLUSION

There are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit as listed in I Corinthians 12:4-11. These gifts refer to the miraculous gifts that the Holy Spirit gave the early Christians. The early Christians received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the apostles' hands and these gifts served the purpose of **revealing the truth, proclaiming the word, and confirming it**. Since these purposes have been fulfilled, we no longer need these gifts anymore and no one today truly possesses any of these gifts (I Corinthians 13:8-10).

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GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Oladapo Olawale

The fact that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead with personality traits is particularly confusing for many people. As already discussed elsewhere in this edition of *The Defender of Truth*, the Bible in several passages highlight the personality attributes of the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a person using the personal pronoun 'He' (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). The Holy Spirit being a distinct member of the Godhead is not a feeling or an emotion nor is He a mere active force. The Holy Spirit's personality traits are emphasized by some of His reactions which include: He can be grieved (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30); tested (Acts 5:9); resisted (Acts 7:51); blasphemed (Mark 3:29). Our focus here is to consider what it means to grieve the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit can be grieved.

To grieve means to experience emotional pain, sadness, or sorrow. Anyone who grieves the Holy Spirit, causes Him to be sad, sorrowful, and distressed. What then causes the Holy Spirit to be grieved?

WHAT CAUSES THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GRIEVE?

Sin is what grieves the Holy Spirit. In the immediate context of Ephesians 4:30, the Apostle Paul in the preceding verses 26–29 gave a series of admonitions enjoining the Christians to avoid lying, anger, stealing, and corrupt communication. Ultimately, they were encouraged not to grieve the Holy Spirit, our seal of redemption. In effect, Paul showed that by rejecting his admonition and engaging in the sins highlighted in verses 26–29, the Ephesian Christians can cause grief to the Holy Spirit.

God is grieved when His Children sin. In Genesis 6: 5–6 we read that God became sorrowful when He saw that *the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.* Similarly, Christ was grieved by the hardness of hearts of the Pharisees (Mark 3: 5); He was very sad at His rejection by the Jewish nation and the impending destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 19: 41–44).

As a member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is also grieved when God's people sin. Psalms 78: 40 and Psalms 95: 10–11 recounted the Jewish hardness of hearts and unbelief and the sorrow and grief caused to God (see also 1 Cor. 10: 1–14). Isaiah 63:10 illustrates that their rebellion also vexed God's Holy Spirit. In effect what pleases God and Jesus, pleases the Spirit and what grieves God and Jesus also grieves the Spirit.

If sin is what causes grief to the Holy Spirit, it follows also that all those who continue to scoff at and reject the gospel message revealed and delivered through the Holy Spirit, remain in a state of being eternally condemned and lost with no hope with God. By their continuous rejection of the gospel, they cause the Holy Spirit sadness and grief. The sorrow and sadness felt by the Holy Spirit for a sinner can however be dispelled and turned to rejoicing when a sinner repents and turns to God. It is no wonder, therefore, that there is great joy in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7,10). Being part of God's redemptive plan, the Holy Spirit Himself rejoices over a sinner who obeys the word of truth and turns from sin. Part of the fruit the Holy Spirit engenders in the life of a believer is joy (Gals 5:22). The joy of salvation is the quality of life which a believer experiences upon obedience to the gospel and continuously living by its truth. To reject the Spirit's message is to remain pitiable and sad, which causes the Holy Spirit to grieve.

WHY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GRIEVED BY SIN?

God's will for mankind was revealed through the Holy Spirit. In John 16:12 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples who will reveal all truth to them. God's will for mankind including His plan for our eternal salvation was revealed to the Apostles and Prophets through the Holy Spirit and preserved for us in the Bible (2 Peter 1:20–21). The gospel of Christ (which is the power of God unto salvation), preached by the Holy Apostles and Prophets came by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven (1 Peter 1:12). Obedience to the truth revealed by the Holy Spirit, thus, gives us access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18).

We become fellow heirs/partakers with Christ through obedience to the truth of the gospel revealed by the Spirit (Eph. 3:6; Rom. 5:2; 1 Peter 1:22). We enjoy the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit (2 cor. 13:14). If we enjoy every spiritual blessing through obedience to the law of the Spirit (the gospel) (Rom 1:16; 16:25,26; Eph. 2:18) which sets us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2), it is then unimaginable that we would desire to go back to sin! Going back to sin would simply cause the Holy Spirit grief.

Aside from playing a part in revealing God's truth to us, another central thought as to why the Holy Spirit can be grieved is that He seals us when we obey/accept the revealed word (Eph. 1:13; 4:30). A seal is a mark of ownership. In this sense, the Holy Spirit's seal is a mark or guarantee of our relationship with God. Today, the Holy Spirit's only influence in the lives of a Christian is through the written word of God. Continuous obedience to the word of God is evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit working in us and a confirmation of the fact that our lives belong to God. Ephesians 1:13–14 likened the presence of the Holy Spirit to a *guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession*. In other words, by our obedience to the written word, the Holy Spirit gives a pledge (an assurance) of the fact that we have been purchased by God and are entitled to a heavenly inheritance. However, this purchase will only be fully redeemed when we remain committed to a sinless life. When we disregard the law of the spirit and indulge in sins such as lying, anger, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, clamour, and malice, we grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephs. 4: 26–29,31) thereby losing the seal/mark which affirms us as God's possession.

CONCLUSION

When we reject God's revelation through the Holy Spirit and remain in sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit. If we do not embrace the truth delivered to us through the Holy Spirit, we not only lose God's mark of ownership upon us but there is also no way of escape (Hebs. 2: 3). This is the condition that the Holy Spirit grieves at. Perhaps giving more thoughtful consideration to this fact will help many children of God to avoid sinning as we will be more cautious of causing the Holy Spirit to be sad (Hebs. 2:1–4). Are we grieving the Holy Spirit or are we making Him happy?

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HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

by Kayode Adekunle

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" 1 Cor 3:16

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit is one of the three personalities that make up the godhead (Matthew 28:18-20; II Corinthians 13:14). John says this "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one" 1 John 5:7. Luke referred to him as "God" in Acts 5:3-4

The Holy Spirit is known by various names in the scripture. He is referred to simply as the Spirit (Romans 8:26), the Spirit of God (Matthew 3:16), the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9), the Spirit of truth (John 16:13), the eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:13-14), and the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29)

The Holy Spirit features prominently in the Bible through all the stages of God's creation work and His subsequent relationship with man.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Gen 1:1

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHRIST

The Bible in the New Testament, reveals a close relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ during his earthly life and ministry. Records in Matthew and Luke state that Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary" (Matt 1:20; Luke 1:35). Throughout his ministry, the Holy Spirit ministered adequately to Christ enabling Him to perform miracles. In Matt 3:16, the Bible says after His baptism, "the Spirit of God descended on Him like a dove". When the Pharisees accused Him of carrying out his miracles by the spirit of "Belzebub the ruler of demons" (Matt 12:24). He emphatically replied to them that He was able to "cast out demons by the Spirit of God" (Matt 12:28). No wonder the Bible reveals that He had the power of the Holy Spirit without measure.

"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give Him the Spirit by measure" John 3:34

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE APOSTLES

The Holy Spirit equally worked with the Apostles in their work of revealing the gospel of salvation to mankind. Jesus Christ promised them that the Holy Spirit will come and "guide them into all truth" (John 16:12). As Christ promised He descended on Peter and the rest of the Apostles when the gospel was preached for the first time on the day of Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4. Peter and Paul confirmed that what they wrote in the Scriptures was revealed to them by the Holy Spirit

of God (I Cor 2:10; 11 Peter 1: 20-21) and Paul stated emphatically that "all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God" (1 Tim 3:16). The New Testament is also abounded by records of how the Apostles were given the power by the Holy Spirit to carry out many miracles, signs and wonders (1 Cor 12:12; 1 Thess 1:5).

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

The role played by the Holy Spirit in the process of the establishment of the Church is also revealed in the New Testament. As earlier mentioned, He inspired Peter to preach the gospel on the day of Pentecost which eventually led to the conversion of three thousand souls (the Jews) and eventually the beginning of the Church (Acts 2:41-47). He also played a prominent role in the conversion of the first set of Gentiles in the household of Cornelius in Acts 10.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

The early Christians got their share of the impact of the power of the Holy Spirit when the Church just started. Through impartation (the laying of hands), from the Apostles, the early Christians got the power of the Holy Spirit to "prophecy and speak in tongues" (Acts 8:17; 19:6). Early Christians also received diverse spiritual gifts to carry out various tasks for the Church at its infancy (1 Cor 12:1; 14:1-3). It must be noted however that these "spiritual gifts" were given because the early Christians did not have the complete revelation of the word of God at that time. This necessitated Paul saying this: "For we know in part and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away". 1 Cor 13:9-10. Today, these spiritual gifts are no longer existing in the Church (1 Cor 13:8) because "the perfect law of liberty" has now been given by God (James 1:25) "once for all" (Jude 3) and it is all-sufficient for mankind (1 Tim- 3:16-17; 11 Pet 1:3).

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHRISTIANS TODAY

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit" Eph 5:18

The Holy Spirit is given as a "gift" to a Christian today at the point of baptism (Acts 2:38). From this point onward, He is expected to be dwelling in them and guiding their lives. Paul says this to the Corinthians "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" 1 Cor 3:16. Paul further confirms to Timothy that "the Holy Spirit dwells in us" 1 Tim 1:14

The indwelling Spirit is expected to control the life of a Christian through the word of God. In John 6:63, Jesus Christ says "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life". When the Spirit leads

the life of a Christian, He helps him to do the will of God and be upright, the Psalmist says *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness"* Psalm 140:10

reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

THE SPIRIT AUTHENTICATES OUR ADOPTION AS CHILDREN OF GOD

When one becomes a Christian they become children (sons and daughters) of God the Holy Spirit helps to confirm our sonship. Paul says *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"* Rom 8:16. This cements our relationship with God and Christ, by their adoption, Christians become brothers and sisters of Christ and have the privilege of becoming joint heirs with him. Paul says again to the Romans *"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory"* Rom 8:17

THE SPIRIT GUIDES OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

A Christian is a new person, the Scriptures say *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* 11 Cor 5:17. To enhance this newness of our nature Paul says this to the Christians in Galatia *"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish"* Gal 5:16-17.

A Christian as a child of God is expected to exhibit *"the fruit of the Spirit"* and *"live in the Spirit"* (Gal 5:22-26). This involves walking worthy of his calling (Eph 4:1), walking in love (Eph 5:1-2), walking as children of light (Eph 5:8), walking circumspectly which means, keeping oneself morally upright, being aware of spiritual dangers (those sins that could easily beset us (Heb 12:1), needs, challenges, and opportunities (Eph 5:15), walking in the light of God's word (I John 1:5-7), and walking in truth (II John 4).

THE SPIRIT HELPS US TO CONTRIBUTE OUR QUOTA TO THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

"By one Spirit we all baptised into one body" 1 Cor 12:13. For the Church to function effectively, Christ put in place the personnel to run her affairs and enhance her growth *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers"* Eph 4:11. The implication of this is that every Christian is expected to contribute their quota to the growth of the local Church they are members of. The Holy Spirit, through the word of God, enjoins Christians to *"walk worthy of the Lord and their calling"* Eph 4:1-3; Col 1:10. By walking worthy, Christians should keep themselves pure and *"abstain from all appearance of evil"* 1Thess 5:22. They should be willing to surrender their lives totally and unconditionally to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul admonishes in Romans 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your*

CONCLUSION

Being filled with the Spirit captures the totality of the life of a Christian. This is very important because it acts as the major propelling force needed for service to Christ our Lord and absolute dedication to His will, after all, the Bible says *"the just shall live by faith"* Rom 1:17.

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