

Christian Fundamentals



The Holy Spirit.

This 'fundamental' is to try and give a broad overview of the work of the Holy Spirit and so the beginning will lay a good foundation for all that needs to be understood.

After Jesus death we are told He descended in hell, Hades, the place of the departed, so He could preach to the saints in prison in order that they might hear the gospel and receive everlasting life. Jesus always reigning and with all authority. He was seen, as we have observed in the teaching on His resurrection, https://www.revivaluk.org.uk/index_html_files/Jesus%20Resurrection.pdf for 40 days among those who were His disciples and then He was seen to ascend on a cloud into heaven.

We have therefore Jesus Christ alive and in heaven. Peter tells us that God the Father made Jesus 'Lord and Christ', 'The Anointed One' on the throne of heaven with all power and authority. *"But unto the Son he says, Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom"*. (Hebrews chapter 1 verse 8)

We read of the Lord Jesus, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"* in chapter 61 of the prophecy of Isaiah. There is a 'list', and a description of what Jesus would do. The early verses up to 'the day of vengeance of God' were fulfilled by Jesus on the earth. In the account of Jesus reading the passage in the synagogue at the beginning of His ministry He stops at 'to preach the acceptable year of the Lord'. That was the declaration of Jesus' work on the earth as the apostle to Israel. 'The day of vengeance of our God', the next in the 'list', was Jesus' death on the cross when He died for the sins of the whole world. The apostle John tells us that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world and therefore bore the punishment for those sins on the cross. The judgement and vengeance of Almighty God which should have been upon us was placed on Him. All that follows in Isaiah's prophecy; 'Jesus making trees of righteousness', 'comforting all who mourn', and the 'oil of joy for mourning' and that 'the people of God should be named the priests of the Lord' was and is fulfilled from heaven. The prophecy of Isaiah wonderfully foreseeing both the ministry of Our Lord Jesus on earth and then when returned to and seated in heaven and God laying out for all to read and see the whole ministry of His Son: His anointed one. Jesus was, of course, anointed on the earth and fulfilled His apostleship to Israel but then having dealt with sin in His death and being raised from the dead He is anointed with the 'oil of gladness above His fellows' Then as the anointed one in heaven, Lord and Christ, He is able to fulfil the promise of providing the 'oil of joy for mourning' by pouring out the Holy Spirit. We read in the apostle John's vision of the 'Lamb on the throne' and that the Lamb, Our Lord Jesus, has seven horns and seven eyes. We are told the seven eyes are the Holy Spirit who is 'poured out into all the earth' and that Jesus, as we will look at in more detail later, having received the promise of the Father, now pours out on His Spirit upon His people.

Oil is the great 'picture' of the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost in the Authorised version) and Jesus, as we have said, having returned to heaven pours out the Holy Spirit, first on the 120 in the upper room and from then until now and until He returns upon all who will repent of their sins and be baptised in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. Peter in his preaching on the day of Pentecost, recorded for us in Acts chapter, 2 quotes the prophet Joel saying that God would 'pour out His Spirit on all flesh' and tells us Jesus *"Being by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost has shed forth this (i.e., the Holy Spirit) which you now see and hear."* The Holy Spirit had been outpoured from heaven, it was 'NOW' and was immediately manifest in the lives of those who had received the Spirit of God. (There will always be a manifestation, a shining forth, in the life and anyone who receives the Holy Spirit). By the coming of

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the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and subsequently through the centuries on all who have received the Lord Jesus the will and purpose of God fulfilled in that human beings could be and have been filled with His Spirit. He has taken up residence in their hearts, they have become a 'little dwelling place' *"In my Father's House are many little dwelling places"* (John 14 chapter 2).

The promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit which was made to Abraham was the fulfilment first for the Jews (only Jews were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost) and now for the Gentiles (all other non-Jewish nations) that they might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. *"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith..... In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"*. God had planned such a wonderful blessing and outcome back in eternity and had, in sending the Lord Jesus, always been working with the purpose that He would reconcile human beings to Himself in order to give them of His own Spirit. The spiritual nature of those receiving the Holy Spirit is changed, turning them from sin to righteousness, bringing them from death to life and from darkness to light and making them sons of the living God.

The coming of the Holy Spirit now provides the real possibility and the reality for human beings of being 'born again'. Jesus told Nicodemus 'New birth' was essential if he, and indeed any person, was to enter into and see the kingdom of God. As we receive the Lord Jesus, we are given the authority, the right, to be called the sons of God, not born of man, neither by the will of man, or of the flesh, but born of God. God at work bringing many sons into new birth and to bringing them to glory. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of 'adoption' (the rightful position of sons), which we receive and by which we cry 'Abba Father' and enter into a Father/son relationship with Almighty God. The Holy Spirit witnesses within our hearts that we are the sons of God. *"Now are we the sons of God"*, says the apostle John applying the truth to all who have received the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the trinity which make up Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equally divine and equally holy, pure, righteous, powerful, patient, and loving and eternal. Often in the thinking of human beings and many Christians the Holy Spirit is reduced to a less powerful and less significant position. The expectation of what the Holy Spirit can do is reduced and therefore the potential of His work in Christian lives is diminished. The Holy Spirit is a person and is ALMIGHTY God.

Jesus speaking to His disciples about the coming of the Spirit of God, says *"When He comes, He will lead you into all truth"*. Jesus also said *"It is necessary for me to go away because if I don't go away, He cannot come"* and. *"I will send you another comforter"*, where the word for 'another' means 'one exactly the same'. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, is exactly like the Lord Jesus in nature and therefore exactly like Father in nature, but Father Son and Holy Spirit have different functions within the Godhead and when He, the Holy Spirit comes, He will lead the people of God into all truth. He is the great teacher who, of course, was responsible for the Bible we have, moving in those who wrote for us.

We first find the Holy Spirit in our Bibles in Genesis chapter 1 when *'the Spirit of God moves on the waters'*. This is in verse 2 and in verse 1 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"*. The Hebrew for 'God' in Genesis chapter 1 verse 1 is plural, as it is often in the first chapters of Genesis, indicating the trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, working together in the beginning in all creation. In Genesis chapter 2 we find *'let us make man in our own image'* indicating the cooperation and

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purpose of all three members of the Godhead in the creation of human beings. The Holy Spirit was involved in creation from the very beginning. In Genesis chapter 1 verse 2 the Spirit of God moves on the waters being the 'doer' on behalf of the trinity and working out their declared creative purposes.

In the Bible and indeed in real life we will find the Holy Spirit as the 'quiet worker' and yet bringing the full power and ability and operation of God into all situations. We read *"You will receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you"* declaring this precious Holy Spirit as the one who, in His working, brings the power of God into human beings.

King David was aware of the Spirit of God in his life *"Take not your Holy Spirit from me"* and we find Him working in the lives of the men and women in the Old Testament, in particular, the prophets *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"*.

Please read the teaching on the '**Jesus' birth**' to see the details of the Holy Spirit's involvement in the conception and birth of our Lord Jesus.

https://www.revivaluk.org.uk/index_html_files/Jesus%20Birth.pdf

We can see the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus as a man. The prophet Isaiah in chapter 11 says *'The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord and shall make him of quick (living) understanding in the fear of the Lord.'* This shows us how the Holy Spirit was teaching and training our Lord Jesus all through His life on earth, preparing Him and enabling Him for his ministry. Jesus, although the Son of God, was also a human being and had to learn as a human being and know what it was like to be human and to have learn from God. The Holy Spirit taught Him so that the Son could, and did, glorify the Father. Luke tells us when Jesus was just 13 years of age. *"And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers"*. This shows us how teachable our Lord Jesus was being subject to all the instruction of the Spirit of God and how quickly He learned. Much of the learning came out in the words of wisdom which He spoke during His ministry such that all were 'astonished at His doctrine'. The teaching of such wisdom and understanding allowed Him to deal with the Pharisees and all who tried to find fault with Him and 'trip Him up' in His time on the earth.

We have already commented on the 'Spirit of the Lord is upon me' enabling Our Lord Jesus to fulfill His apostolic ministry on the earth. In the gospels we read of Jesus's water baptism and of the dove, representing the Holy Spirit, descending on Him coming and 'anointing' Him for this apostolic work. (An apostle is one 'who is sent'. Simply that and Jesus was sent from the Father. [You can find much about Jesus being sent in the first letter of the apostle John]). The Holy Spirit coming on the Lord Jesus was in the form of a dove, the symbol of peace. There was no need for the fire which was seen on the day of Pentecost. Jesus was always at peace with His Father and there was no sin in Him which needed to be burned up.

The hope is that so far, a foundation has been laid looking at the Holy Spirit and His work in creation, in the Old Testament and in the life of Our Lord Jesus. Much more could be said, however the purpose of this 'teaching' is to look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a 'believer' and the 'church'.

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We have already mentioned 'You must be born again'. This is the need, for regeneration, for a re-naturing, a re-making spiritually by being 'born again' of the Spirit of God. Humans need to become 'spiritual' and no longer carnal or fleshly. Jesus said, *"That which is of the flesh is flesh and that which is of the Spirit is spirit, marvel not that I say to you: You must be born again"*. Nicodemus had really come wanting to know the secret of Jesus life, what made Him so different, what made Him so patient and kind and why He could work the miracles He did?

The secret of Jesus' life was that He was a 'life-giving spirit'. That was what He was trying to tell Nicodemus. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was the first of a new generation of human beings: He was not conceived in sin; He had life and not sin and death in His spirit/heart. From Jesus' conception the Holy Spirit was at work in His life. We have already looked at the work of the Spirit of God as set out in the words of Isaiah teaching and training the Lord Jesus. We see the Spirit descending on Him for His work on earth. Jesus was 'filled with the Spirit and after 40 days of temptation in the wilderness came forth in the 'power of the Spirit' and at the end of His life, as the perfect sacrifice to God for our redemption, He offered Himself through the 'eternal Spirit' to God. The Holy Spirit was operational in every part of Jesus' life, His conception, His birth, His young life, His ministry, and His death. Jesus being a 'life-giving Spirit' was the key to His wonderful life and when we as Christians receive the Holy Spirit, we too have within us the 'life-giving Spirit'. which should and **must** be the key to our lives, the way we live and indeed our whole living. We read *"He that has the Son has life"* and *"If you live in the Spirit walk in the Spirit"*.

It is the Holy Spirit who in His work who convinces/convicts, of sin, righteousness, and judgement. He is very much involved in showing each person why they need to come to the Lord Jesus. He shows them they have not believed and then must believe on the one God has sent. He shows each person that because Jesus had gone to be with His Father there is God's righteousness available for them. He shows them that the prince of this world, satan, is cast out and has now power any longer in their lives. Knowing such truth from the Spirit of God enables faith in the Lord Jesus at the point of need into believing on the Lord Jesus for salvation.

John the Baptist, 'the messenger before the face of Jesus, says two things about the work of the Lord Jesus. *"Behold the lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world and He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and fire"*. (Luke only mentions Jesus baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire and perhaps indicates how important this aspect of Jesus eternal ministry really is). Having our sins taken away and receiving the Holy Spirit are the two essential things for a human life if they are to know eternal life and why the messenger before the face of Jesus, John the Baptist, makes his declaration. The first work is on the earth when Jesus as the Lamb of God lays down His life as a sacrifice for sin and by the shedding of His blood provides for the remission of our sins. The second work is in and from heaven where having received of the Father the promised gift of the Holy Spirit Jesus pours out that Spirit onto human lives. He baptises with Holy Ghost and fire to burn up all the dross (rubbish) in our lives and to put a burning love for God and our fellow men in our hearts. (The word baptise means to immerse into but in such a way that into which something is immersed penetrates into every part). On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was out poured for the first time, cloven tongues of fire are upon the head of all 120 in the upper room as the sound of the rushing mighty

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wind goes through the room and **all** are filled with the Holy Spirit. *“Wait at Jerusalem and you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes”.*

So, power has come, the power of God. The Greek word is ‘**dunamis**’ and means ability. Paul says, *“We have this treasure in an earthen vessel so that the **excellency of the power** is of God and not of us”.* It is God's ability: that is the miracle, The coming of the Holy Spirit is the way in which God is able to apply His power, might, strength, grace, and love IN US, THROUGH US and IN OUR LIVES. Paul says God ‘worked in him mightily’. Note the power is **excellent**, it is very, very good and very much exceeds what we could ask or think. The power/ability is life transforming, it is, after all, the ability of Almighty God now revealed in human lives. It is important to recognise that the power works not only in individual lives but also, through the members, in the life of the church; in the called-out people of God, both worldwide and in each individual local church. *“Now unto him that is able to do **exceedingly abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in **us**, unto him be glory **in the church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end”.* This is Paul the apostle's statement as he finishes his great prayer for the Ephesian Church and his faith and expectation from his own experience of what God could do. With God nothing shall be impossible. Christians should and **must** be baptised in the Holy Spirit, (the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not water baptism. They can happen at the same time, but they should not be confused as being the same. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Spiritual Baptism and is the ‘one baptism’ which Paul mentions in Ephesians Chapter 4.) Christians must be filled with the Spirit and continue to be filled with the Spirit so that the power in their lives continues to be of God and not of them; it is not I but Christ. (If someone has not the ‘Spirit of Christ’ they are none of His’ in other words are not God's people or person and are not Christians). Jesus words remain the same, *“You must be ‘born again’”* and when people are ‘born again’ their lives will be very different, they will be changed and start to live a life honouring to their Saviour.

As we have stated, the power and ability in each Christian's life will be much greater than their own natural ability and, in each member, together in the life of the church. The outcome will be a holy life!! The Holy Spirit is holy, so if He is the source of our living then our lives will be holy, that is in our actions and our words and in our thoughts. How else can it be? We read in Galatians 5 of the fruit of the Spirit. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control)”.* Those fruits would be the expected in a ‘normal Christian life’. ‘By their fruits you shall know them’. There can and must be no lowering of the standard for any life, no accommodation of sin. Why should a Christian have less than the best, why should they have to continue to live with sin? Why should each Christian not be given the highest expectations for their lives? ‘There is not peace no joy no thrill like walking in His will, for me to live is Christ, to die is gain’, is the line of a well-known hymn.

Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes you shall be ‘witnesses unto me’. This who receive the Holy Spirit are witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as they know Him and know that He is alive from the dead and that they are looking for Jesus' return and getting ready for that day when they will for ever be with the Lord.

When looking at the work of the Holy Spirit within the Christian church there is a lot of controversy about first blessings and second blessings. Some denominations believe the ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second blessing’, while others oppose such a doctrine. Second blessings have come as

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those who receive a second blessing, a 'baptism in or a filling with the Spirit', do so because they do not see the power of God in their lives and seek God for more. It is almost the history of revival, but it is clear on the day of Pentecost all there, in the upper room, were filled with the power of the Spirit from that very moment. Whatever, the imperative is that every Christian lives in the power of the Holy Spirit and is able through that blessed spirit to put to death the deeds of the flesh and live and live unto God. It is much more than whether someone speaks in tongues or not, or whether they feel or think they feel a great anointing, it is having a life which glorifies God and is not lived to self-will and will overcome in all, even the most difficult of circumstances. The reality is that the Holy Spirit is taking us on into all truth and in that process, He provides one blessing after another and all Christians whatever their doctrine should be open and prepared for the Holy Spirit to do new things in their lives and never oppose the genuine work of God in any life. To be filled, means to be filled, no places in a life where the Spirit of God is not allowed to go. Only when 'filled' will a life be a testimony to Our Lord Jesus and know the real power of God, 'Not I but Christ'.

We have mentioned the fruits of the Spirit above. They are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. Love will be the fulfilling of all the requirements of God on that life. *"Love is the fulfilling of all the commandments"*. The joy will be heavenly joy. Peter says, 'so great is our salvation that 'we rejoice with joy beyond words and full of glory even in difficult times'. The Holy Spirit can produce such strength in Christian lives He enables us to rejoice in all our difficulties. The peace of God will pass all our understanding and the self-control keep us under severe pressure. Let us expect the best. Paul tells us *"If we walk in the Spirit, we will **not** fulfill (outwork) the lusts (desires) of the flesh"*. (In the New Testament 'walking' is used to illustrate normal living, the manner of life). There is a list of the lusts of the flesh in Galatians chapter 5 but possibly they all come down to selfishness, doing my will not God's will.

In Ephesians Paul describes those in the world as fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind. That will apply to any Christian who does not walk in the Spirit. A Christian who does not walk in the Spirit WILL walk in the flesh. There is no middle ground, there are only two options. "Lord Jesus teach me to walk in the Spirit".

Do you walk in the Spirit and see the fruits of the Spirit in your life? Do you see the kindness, the gentleness, the long suffering, and the self-control as well as the love, joy, and the peace? If you don't then you need to be filled with the Spirit of God. He will baptise (immerse) you into the death of Jesus Christ and raise you up to walk in newness of life and in that walk, you will find the kindness, the gentleness, the longsuffering, the self-control and the love, joy, and peace outworked. It will be your normal manner of living and of the life which you experience.

Jesus spent time at the end of His life teaching His disciples about the Holy Spirit. Read John chapters 14, 15 and 16. Jesus says *"I will send you another comforter"* and *"You know Him because He is with you and will be in you"* The word 'another' means 'one exactly the same'. So, the Holy Spirit in nature is just like Jesus and if He is in us, in Christians, then we should, as we have said, live like Jesus did and walk like He walked, He is IN us. In John's gospel chapter 15, we are told to abide in Christ. He says, *"Abide in me and I in you"* John in his first letter says, *"He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked"*. (It is that word 'walk' again which we continue to find about the way to live).

In the walk we bring forth fruit unto God. Jesus said *"If you abide in me and I in you, you will bring forth much fruit. Herein is my Father glorified that you bring forth much fruit"* The Holy Spirit has

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come to glorify the Lord Jesus and as we glorify Him, so we glorify the Father. This is normal, Holy Spirit enabled, Christian living; the outworking of the life of God in each person who has received the Lord Jesus and belongs to Him. That is why the Holy Spirit came; *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."*

Jesus also talked of the ministry of the Holy Spirit when He, the other comforter, comes. He is to lead us into all truth, to take the things of Our Lord Jesus and show them to us and work them in us. That is not just in the doctrinal sense where we learn all the right words and know all the Bibles verses. Yes, the Spirit of God has come to give us an understanding of the scriptures and all that they mean and cause us to love them, but in such a way that our spiritual understanding helps our whole being be taken up in the will of God. *"This is from Colossians chapter 1 "You might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and **spiritual understanding**; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness".*

With such an understanding a Christian will find himself/herself united in mind and spirit, no internal confusion between our hearts and our minds. In the New Covenant God promises to write His laws in our hearts and our minds and it is the Holy Spirit who 'does the writing'. Paul in 2 Corinthians chapter 3 writes *"written not with ink, but with the **Spirit of the living God**: not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart"*. We will be led into all truth and see the wonderful purpose of God worked out in our lives and see the reason Jesus had to 'go away' that he might send us 'another Comforter'. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth and cannot lie to us, show us anything untrue and will impart that which is true deep into our hearts.

The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Jesus Christ, the way the truth and the life, He does that before us, so that we can worship Jesus, but also by His testimony in our lives. Jesus said that *"Those who worship **must** worship in **Spirit and truth**"* and that can only be as the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus before us and shows Him to us our hearts. He shows us what Jesus is really like in His glory and when we know Him as He is, praise and worship will rise from the love in our hearts. We are called to offer 'spiritual sacrifices unto God'. Being born again of the Spirit of God we are 'spirit', in the Spirit with the Spirit of Christ in us and no longer 'flesh'. Therefore, the natural outpourings of our hearts are spiritual and unto God, we worship in Spirit and truth: in wonder, love, and praise and offer spiritual sacrifices unto God.

Paul in His great prayers in the book of Ephesians requested the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the members of the church and really for all the members of the body of Christ. Paul saw the work of the Spirit of God totally essential.

Prayer one: *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the **spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him**: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that **you may know** what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power"*

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The request is that the Holy Spirit, leading us into all truth may give us the **Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation** in the knowledge of Him so that the eyes of our understanding are opened. **We then know.** Not just believing but ‘knowing’ so that our lives are on such a firm foundation and then we can go on to believe God in all things. The Lord knows them that are His.

Prayer two: *“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his **Spirit** in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fulness of God”*

So, principally the prayer is for strengthening. Modern society likes to use the phrase ‘empowering’ but what is empowered for the Christian is ‘not I **but** Christ’, it is Christ in you the hope of glory. This strengthening is so that we have the strength to enable the outworking of the exceeding greatness of His power in our lives. That power was established when God raised Jesus from the dead, brought Him to life and so brings us to life so we can ‘walk (that word again) in newness of life’. This is all accomplished by the Holy Spirit who is described is the ‘one and self-same Spirit’ who indwells every Christian and works in them to the glory of Almighty God. When we are taught by and listen to the ‘Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Him’ are hearts and minds receive the understanding to allow that strengthening to work out in us. Our whole lives, mind, will, emotions are then aligned to the truth of all that Jesus has done for us, this enables God to work in us. The Holy Spirit only works in us with our permission, He never forces Himself, but when we have the understanding of the exceeding greatness of His power towards us, we should become more than willing to give that wholehearted permission and to say, ‘Not my will but your will be done’. God is then able to work in us **both to will** and to **do** of His good pleasure.

Having mentioned the ‘one and self-same Spirit’ we move on to the gifts of the Spirit. There are 2 lists one in Romans chapter 12 but the more detailed one in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. In 1 Corinthians 12 we also find more detail of the operation of the gifts. This fundamental teaching is already rather long, such is the detail we need to provide to give enough information to provide at least a reasonable understanding of the work of Spirit of God. Please read 1 Corinthians chapter 12, 13 and 14 about the gifts and for more information look on the YouTube channel for a whole series on the gifts of the Spirit. Just follow the link. [Channel content - YouTube Studio](#)). What must be said is that these gifts are for today, for the church of Jesus Christ; *“So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”*, Paul writes to the Corinthian church. It would seem the time when the gifts will cease is when Jesus comes again; *“When that which is perfect is come”*. It is fairly impossible for a church to fully function without the operation of the gifts of the Spirit within its life and meetings. Why else would God give them?

The gifts are the manifestation of ‘Spirit, the Holy Spirit’ in Christian lives. There **must** be a manifestation of Spirit (Greek word: Phaneros: a shining forth). The Holy Spirit if present in a person will shine forth and yes in fruit but also in gifts. On the day of Pentecost, the manifestation of Spirit was in the speaking in other languages, so that all could hear. It was miraculous and beyond the natural powers of the apostles. Such events still happen today and with **all** and **every** gift there is the manifestation of the miraculous, the miracle working power of God. It is supernatural and yet spiritually natural for God to move in ways beyond the powers of human beings. The gifts range

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from healings and miracles to words of wisdom and knowledge and prophecy when the all-seeing, all-knowing eternal nature of Almighty God is manifest. We don't know about whether the Lord Jesus spoke in other languages, but all the other gifts were manifest in His life and are clearly recorded for us to read in the four gospels. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"*, Jesus said and so there was the manifestation, a 'shining forth' of all the gifts in His life as He ministered to the needs of others. The sick were healed, the bound were delivered, the hungry were fed and the storm ceased, and the wisdom and knowledge was provided. The church is the body of Christ and just as when Jesus' natural body was on the earth and all these manifestations came, so all the same manifestations should come forth from His spiritual body, from His church. Jesus said, *"Greater works than these will you do because I go to my Father"* This is all to meet the needs of many in and at times outside the church. It will do so when the people of God are filled with the Holy Spirit and not so occupied with the things of this world which causes them to lose the power which is to be manifest through them. *"And be not entangled again"*.

In the Old Testament when Isaac digged wells to provide water, his enemies came and filled them in with earth. Humans are made from the dust of the ground, from earth. What we read of the filling in of the well indicates that which is from the natural man, of the flesh, is used to stop the flow of the Holy Spirit. It is just as the wells were stopped; it is the return to 'flesh', to the natural man which stops God moving in lives. Our enemy knows that and will do all he can to get us back in the flesh. It can happen subtly; over a period of time. The Bible speaks of leaking vessels (Hebrews chapter 1, in the margin). Christians need to continue to be being filled with the Spirit of God, with no leaks and as the gifts operate as a 'shining forth', this manifestation of the Spirit assists the maintenance of such fullness.

Some say the gifts have gone, they are not for today. How can they? Has God changed? The gifts, the manifestation of the Spirit of God, are needed almost more than ever in this world where the ability of human beings through science and medicine and so on is so great. The gifts show that God is greater. He can manifest Himself and shine forth in every Christian life and gives several of the gifts to each member of His church. We are witnesses to Him and how great is that witness when the sick are healed, the captives delivered, and God move miraculously in many ways showing His power and glory.

The Holy Spirit was and still must be much involved in the whole administration of the church, especially at a local level. He filled the apostles when they were being interrogated before the rulers. He was involved, *"It seemed good to the Holy Ghost and us"*, in the appointment of men to roles/ministries within the church and directing the church in the many of the challenges which arose. (Note ministries were placed on individuals, "He appointed some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers and so on" This does not provide a reason for anyone to set up their own ministry).

Those early Christians were so aware of the presence of the Spirit of God in their meetings both for worship and administration. Some of the presence was demonstrated by the gifts, of the word of wisdom and knowledge and prophecy. There is not much detail given to us in the Acts of the Apostles, but Paul says *"How is it then, brethren? when you come together, every one of you has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying"*. The Church in Corinth was a church in a pagan city, with many needs, all the members would have been saved from pagan, many quite evil, practices, and Paul encourages them so that

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when they come together, they have the gifts to use. How much more is the need, in these days, for churches in every part of the world to see the 'manifestation of the Spirit of God'. The manifestation must come through every member as each person; in the unity of the Spirit, contributes to the building up of the church in love through their use of their gifts and graces and so provides its strength to be a witness unto the Lord Jesus in the local area. *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me"*. All must be done decently and in order and there must be no abuse or misuse of the gifts which has and will bring them into disrepute. Those who do misuse the gifts God has given do Him a disservice.

The Holy Spirit was operational in the early churches and we see that plainly in the book of Revelation. In chapters 2 and 3 we read when the word came to the 'angel,' the messenger for each church, the final sentence for each letter is *"He that has ears to hear let him hear what **the Spirit** says to the churches"*. The words sent to each church were the words of the risen Lord Jesus, the book of Revelation is a book of prophecy. 'The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy'. It is the Holy Spirit in total unity with the Lord Jesus who brings the word of God to the seven churches. *"He that has ears to hear let him hear let Him hear what **the Spirit** says to the churches"*.

The word from the Lord Jesus to the church at Sardis is from Him who holds the 'seven spirits of God in His hand'. The 'seven Spirits' as we have mentioned, is a way of identifying, the Holy Spirit. The church at Sardis is described *"as having a reputation that it is alive but is dead"*. Jesus by saying He has the seven Spirits of God in His hand is offering again the Holy Spirit to this church to bring it back to life again. The church had probably gone back to the flesh, to the natural, and lost its spiritual life.

The members had perhaps become closed to the work to the Spirit. Jesus was showing the church the way forward, back to life, was through the power of the Holy Spirit. How many churches have gone backwards in these modern times and though they have the reputation that they are alive are in fact spiritually dead? O wonderful Spirit of God move again in the church of Jesus Christ to His glory, preparing your people for Jesus' return.

The Holy Spirit is very involved to bring the church of Jesus to ultimate glory ready for when Jesus returns. He works in each life, to take that life from 'glory to glory', daily to become more like the Lord Jesus in the quality of our living. *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* The Spirit of God is also working in the life of the church and each local church to build all the brothers and sisters up in the love of God ready for Jesus' coming *"The Spirit and the bride say come"*. The Holy Spirit working towards and desiring, with the church of Jesus Christ, the return of Our Lord and Saviour. How wonderful the Holy Spirit is, we have much to learn of His work. We need to know how much He is all of God and all one with the Father and the Son and yet working to serve us all unto the day of Jesus Christ when God will be glorified and be seen to be the one eternal and glorious God, Father Son, and Holy Spirit: Holy Spirit teach us more. Amen