

PNEUMATOLOGY

Lesson One. The Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity.

Lesson Two. Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Three. Titles of Deity given to the Holy Spirit

Lesson Four. Holy Spirit imparts life to the church.

Lesson Five. Terms that define the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson One

THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY

The Holy Spirit is the Personal Spirit of God. He is God the invisible, spirit being, without a physical body, the third person of the Triune God.

He is likened to the "Ruach" (wind in the Old Testament), and called the "PNEUMA", also meaning wind or air in the Greek. He is the Spirit who has intellect. He understands and thinks, e.g. He teaches. John 14:26. As a person He also has emotion and a will. We will see that He performs personal acts, that He has personal feelings and that only personal pronouns are used when referring to Him in scripture.

He is also one with our personal God. You will be excited about this lesson of knowing the Holy Spirit personally.

The fact that He is a person means that you can meet Him, you can talk to Him and have Him talk to you. He desires to enter your dead spirit and make you spiritually alive and He has the power to do so. As He is a person, He will communicate with you person to person and He will teach you how God the Father and God the Son, work together with Him in your life to fulfil God's will in you.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON WHO PERFORMS PERSONAL ACTS

The Holy Spirit is not a mere influence or force flowing from God. The Holy Spirit is a Person with His own personality. He is a real and divine person, called God the Spirit. As much as the Father and Son are persons of the same essence, so this third person of the Triune God is the same essence of God.

He has a mind – “And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit” Rom. 8:27, 1 Cor. 2:10, “But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

He has a will. “But all these worketh that one and the self same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.” 1 Cor. 12:11. He guides and leads, Acts 16:6-10. He speaks. He spoke to Philip Acts. 8:29 and to Peter, Acts 10:19, to the seven churches Rev. 2:7.

The Holy Spirit loves. “...for the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayer to God for me.” Rom. 15:30.

He prays, He intercedes on our behalf. Rom. 8:26

He works. 1 Cor. 12:11

He testifies. John 15:26

He teaches. John 14:26

He reproves. John 16:8-11

He guides into all truth. John 16:13

He glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. John 16:14

He brings about regeneration. John 3:6

He sanctifies believers 11 Thess. 2:13

He strives with men. Gen. 3-6

He convicts men. John 16:8

He calls men into ministry. Acts 13:2, 20:28

He imparts spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 12:7-11

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON WITH PERSONAL FEELINGS

He can be grieved. Eph. 4:30

By rejecting Christ the Holy Spirit can be insulted. Heb. 10:29

Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit. Acts 5:3

He can be blasphemed. Matt. 12:31-32

“You always resist the Spirit of God”. He can be resisted. Acts 7:51

“Quench not the Holy Spirit”. He can be quenched. 1 Thess. 5:19

PERSONAL PRONOUNS ARE USED WHEN REFERRING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

In John’s Gospel they are used more than ten times when referring to the Holy Spirit, such as, He, Him and Himself. See 14:15, 16, 26, 16:7-14, 15:26-27

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ONE WITH GOD

The Holy Spirit is called God. Acts 5:3, 4

He is omnipotent. Psalm 139:7 (ever present)

He is omniscient. 1 Cor. 2:10, 11 (knows all)

The Holy Spirit is omnipotent. Gen. 1-2 (all powerful)

He is the eternal God. Heb. 9:14

He creates life. Gen. 2:7 (breathed into man)

The Holy Spirit operates as the person of God. Gen. 1-2. (He mediated the revelation of the Person of Christ through the Prophets.) 1 Peter 10-12

His work in relation to Abel, Abraham, Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament was God at work. He did what only God could do, e.g. the direct strivings of the Spirit with the conscience of man, the giving of the Law, said to have been written by “the finger of God”, a term interchangeable with “the Spirit of God” (Matt. 12:28, Luke 11:10). “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 1 Peter 1:21

The Holy Spirit is the “Servant Spirit”. When we call the Holy Spirit the Servant Spirit, we are not for one moment suggesting that the Spirit was inferior in any way to the Father or the Son but that He was performing the role agreed upon by all three persons in the Triune God. Just as it was all three that agreed that God the Son would be enfleshed and become Jesus, the God-Man, and be God’s Suffering Servant as prophesied in Isaiah, so the Holy Spirit operated as the “Servant Spirit” as agreed by all three.

In Deut. 6:4-5, Israel confessed that “the Lord our God (plural) is one Lord”. That is why Jesus gave His commission to baptize “in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matt. 28:19. New Testament writers understand God in a three fold sense, in terms of trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

While He is three persons, He is one God, one essence. Every time God acts, it is all three persons acting in complete consensus and harmony.

We speak of God the Father and God the Son, and by so doing we can identify certain relations we can have with each of them. Knowing God as personal Father, of His children, all believers have this privilege. The relationship with Jesus that God's children have with Him not only as their saviour but as a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He is the Son of God to Christians in a very intimate relationship, He is always with those who follow Him. He is human just as they are and meets them on that level.

However, when it comes to God the Holy Spirit, He is more vague, elusive and intangible. His name does not suggest nearness as does Father, Man, even though He is personal. There is the danger of hurting Him by thinking of Him merely as some force or influence from God the Father and God the Son and thinking of the Spirit as "Servant" may help in bringing Him closer. "Servant" is a valid description because as agreed upon by the Trinity, He uniquely serves the Father and the Son, who have sent Him. "He will not speak of His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak." John 16:13.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have decided to operate this way and He speaks what the Father and Son ask Him to speak. God has chosen in this Post-Resurrection time (after the resurrection of Jesus) to work through the Spirit as Servant in these last days, what some now call the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. This in no way means that only the Spirit as Servant is present. No, the Trinity together are always present and have decided together how and when each person takes the lead. Just as they were present in the Creation and the Old Testament, the Father took the lead, paving the way for the day when God the Son would speak, and He did. So, when the Lord Jesus Christ, the Glorified God-Man ascended to sit on the right hand of God, He sent the Holy Spirit to lead us in the last days, before the physical return of Jesus to earth.

We have seen how He, the Holy Spirit, has had the energizing role within the Godhead and this has left an impression of power and not so much of the "person" being present in the life of the church. The Church came into being by His incoming power and believers are empowered through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8. In this role it would seem that there is some justification in saying that the Holy Spirit has assumed all the divine redemptive responsibilities during these last days.

In the New Testament He is pictured as the Inspirer and Interpreter of the Scriptures, the Intercessor for man, the Administrator of Salvation and the Life Giver of the Church.

Regarding the inspiration of scripture it is the Holy Spirit who inspired men to write the Word. "First of all you must understand this, that no prophesy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation because no prophesy ever came by the impulse

of man but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” 11 Peter 1:20, 21. It follows that if the Holy Spirit inspired the writings of scripture, He would be closely involved in their interpretation. Jesus Himself said that “the Spirit would teach you all things” John 14:26, and “guide you into all truth”. 16:13.

We have also said that the Spirit, now the Servant Spirit, is also the Administrator of Salvation. Hebrews 10:29 that we beware that we do not “.outrage the Spirit of grace”. This term “Spirit of grace” spells out clearly that His primary mission to us is that of ministering God’s salvation. He enables us to be saved by grace, to keep being saved by grace and to be ultimately saved by grace. Redeemed men are Spirit endowed men and He continues to work in and through them.

In the life of the Church it is the Holy Spirit who brings all believers into the fellowship (koinonia), “It is the communion of the Holy Spirit.”, 2 Cor.13:14. Phil 2:1 “.the fellowship of the Spirit.” Using the cement of God’s love, He sticks the living stones together to form the new fellowship where God lives by His Spirit. Eph. 2:22. 1 Cor. 3:16-17. True worship is Spirit-prompted. He produces His Fruit within the Fellowship and imparts spiritual gifts to the Body of Christ 1 Cor. 12:8-10. According to Eph 4:11-16 it is the Spirit Servant who gives the gifts of the five-fold ministry to the Church. 1 Thess. 5:19 is so important “Do not quench the Spirit” in His serving operation is tantamount to destroying the Church and its ministry.

Some theologians speak about the “kenosis of the Spirit”, meaning that the Holy Spirit has also, in a measure, humbled Himself to be a servant to all those who are disciples of Christ. The presence of the Spirit is indeed the presence of Christ. The church is an extension of the Incarnation of Christ and, therefore, continues the Servant Role until she will be glorified at the second coming of her Lord. The Spirit Servant carries God’s love and grace to all Christians.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the first day of the last days and the last day will be the day that Jesus returns. God’s Spirit is being poured out in these last days. Heb. 6:4. The baptized, who have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, have already “tasted ... the powers of the age to come.” In Romans 8:9-11 the Spirit of Jesus and the Spirit of God are used interchangeably. 1 Peter 1:10-12. This means that all three members of the Trinity are involved in the work of redemption and that they agree on the role of the Spirit Servant. Through the Spirit the work of Christ is made continuous and universal.

Seeking to live a Spirit filled life is not an attempt to try and go back to Pentecost to receive the power of the Holy Spirit by using their method of waiting and praying. No, since that day the Holy Spirit has been poured on all flesh continuously. He is always present longing to fill a hungry and thirsty soul with His presence, purity and power. He is available to anyone and everyone who hungers for His Presence in their lives and asks Him to come in. He always does because that is why He

came, He came to do what was the united plan of the triune God, that is what He did and what He is still doing. In Acts 2:39 Peter made it plain that this promise of the Spirit coming upon all believers was for all who would believe and by faith accept Him into their lives. "For this promise is to you and to your children and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call".

Lesson Two

SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Symbols are visible representations of a religious truth or reality. As we discuss the symbols of the Holy Spirit you will gain a clear understanding of the nature and character of this third person of the Trinity.

These symbols are; Water, Fire, Wind or Breath, Dew, Oil, the Dove, the Seal and the First Fruits, the Finger of God, the number Seven, Tongues.

Water. "For I will pour water on him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed and my blessing upon thine offspring." Isa. 44:3. "In that last day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:39. The water is symbolical of the Holy Spirit being poured into and through the life of the believer.

Ezekiel 36:25-27. "Then will I sprinkle clean water on you and you shall be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put *my Spirit* within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and you will keep my judgements and do them." Here it is clearly shown that the Holy Spirit comes into the spirit of the sinful man and gives him a new spirit, cleansing his spirit from all sin. Receiving a new spirit now connected to God's Spirit, expels all the darkness of the sinful state and fills him with the Light of God and changes him into the human being God created him to be. He is now washed clean and his desires are to live a holy life.

Fire was one of the emblems of Pentecost. John in Matt. 3:11 had prophesied that Jesus would "baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire". All believers need more than just to be baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit as taught by some theologies. They need to be cleansed from the carnal nature still within them. There were "believers" in the upper room who received the symbol of God's fire upon them. God, through and by the infilling of His Holy Spirit, was purifying them from all sin. When the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentile church, the Jews were amazed that they could also be filled with the Holy Spirit. Testifying at the Council in Jerusalem in Acts 15:8-9, Peter said, "So God who knows the heart acknowledges

them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them purifying their hearts by faith.” Two things are evident here; not when and how you are baptized with the Spirit but what happens when you are filled with the Spirit. It is an experience received by faith and when He fills and baptizes with the Holy Spirit, the heart is purified from the sin nature and one continues being filled with the Holy Spirit. Just as the pillar of cloud and fire in the Old Testament symbolized the continued presence and power of Jehovah with them day and night, so the fire is upon each holy servant of God (see Isa. 6:1-8 for the fire of God cleansing Isaiah).

Wind or Breath, and Atmosphere. In Genesis 2:7 “God breathed life into man and man became a living soul. (Ruach in the Hebrew means “wind or life giving breath.” In John 20:22, before Pentecost, Jesus breathed upon His disciples and they received the giver of life. Now at Pentecost the wind of God was going to fill them with the “atmosphere” of His powerful life, blowing out all the sin from them and giving them the “necessary pressure” with which to withstand the outside pressures of the world. Science teaches that the atmosphere exerts a pressure of 15 pounds to the square inch, or about 32,000 pounds upon the ordinary man. So the Spirit is said to have fallen upon the disciples. Acts 10:44, seems to indicate “pressure.” (See the word ‘pressed’ in Mark 3:10). We know that the pressure within the body can withstand the pressure from without, so it is with the pressure given to believers by the Holy Spirit filling them with Himself and His power.. Without inward pressure the pressures of the world without would invade the believers life.

The message here is that the Holy Spirit within believers was not given to counteract and control the sinful nature within but to expel the sinful nature from their spirits; and to create a new pure spirit within them and to fill them with His “pressure” to counteract the world of sin outside of them. He alone is able to create this balance within the believers life. (Also see Eph. 3:16 – strengthen the inner man).

Dew and Rain

As dew is soft and refreshing and rain is revitalising and nourishing, so is the Holy Spirit. We all need this refreshing every day – Deut. 32:2 as raindrops on the tender herbs ...” Psalm 72:6 “He shall come down as rain upon the grass ... like showers that water the earth.” This speaks of His constant abiding and refreshing presence in the life of the believer.

Oil is the symbol of the Spirit’s official anointing for service. Priests and kings were inducted into office by a ceremony of anointing with oil. The formula of the anointing oil is given in Exodus 30:23-33, and is summarized as follows :1.The myrrh of the Spirit’s excellence; 2. The sweet cinnamon of the Spirit’s grace; 3. The sweet calamus of the Spirit’s worth; 4. The cassia of the Spirit’s righteousness, and 5. The olive oil of the Spirit’s presence.The oil could never be placed upon the flesh

except upon those whose flesh had previously been touched with the blood of the sacrifice. Only once sinners have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus will the Holy Spirit anoint them with His presence and power.

The Dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit both in the Old and the New Testaments. In Genesis 1:2, it is the Holy Spirit who broods over the face of the waters. The picture is that of a hen sitting on the eggs waiting to bring forth life. The Dove symbolizes peace, purity and modesty. The Dove came upon Jesus at His baptism John 1:32. He settled upon the Prince of Peace as was prophesied by Isaiah 9:6. C “having made peace through the blood of His Cross.” The Holy Spirit brings believers into a relationship of Peace with God and as a result they experience the Peace of God in their lives.

The seal. When a merchant bought goods and left them in the warehouse to be collected later, he would put his seal upon the goods, That is who the Holy Spirit is, He is God’s seal or stamp upon the lives of those who belong to Him. Ephesians 1:13-14 “... you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession to the praise of His Glory.” Sometimes these merchants would make a down payment on their stored goods to show good faith that they would return to collect their property. God, however, goes a step further, ‘I am making a down payment of my Spirit into your life as a pledge of your inheritance in the new world’. Remember we are co-heirs with Christ. This is God’s down payment on all whom Jesus died to save; and He died for the world, not a chosen or elected few. This means that when the sealed and saved appear at the gates of heaven, they will be ushered in to possess their full inheritance in Christ. Some add here that the ‘first fruits’, the finest fruits, are a promise of the full harvest to come.

The “Finger of God, is a figurative expression for the power of God. The finger is viewed as an instrument of work, for it represents the hands. Thus it was the “finger of God” which brought forth the plagues in Egypt and confounded the Pharaoh and his magicians. Exod. 8:19, “then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “this is the finger of God.” Exod. 31:19, Deut. 9-10, The Law was written on tables of stone by the finger of God. Psalm 8:3 “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers”. Luke 11:20 when Jesus said, “But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” Isaiah 59:1 says that we must not think that God’s hand has been shortened. No sinner can hide or escape from God. He can do anything, anytime and any way, for He is all powerful. The Holy Spirit is the power of God, see Acts 1:8, “You shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

The Number Seven. “Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven Spirits who are before His Throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born from the dead and the ruler over the kings of the earth.” Rev 1:4. This verse does not mean that there are seven Holy

Spirits before the throne of God in heaven. This is an indication of the Spirit's perfectness, for as the third person of the Trinity, He has all the attributes of God, plus all His moral qualities. He is God, so perfect, just as the number seven implies.

Tongues was one of the symbols given by the Holy Spirit as a sign that He had baptized all believers into the Body of Jesus Christ, and that sign, had tremendous meaning for they spoke in 'other' tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (It does not say, 'unknown'). The big question is, what were these other tongues? They definitely were not "tongues" that needed special interpretation, for in Acts 2:8 "And how is it that we hear each in his own language in which we were born" and from vs. 9 onwards we have a list of these languages which were uttered. Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocea, Pontus, Asia, Phrigia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs, and "we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." At least sixteen locations are named, and who knows how many different languages or "tongues" there really were. These languages were not given as a sign of the infilling of the Holy Spirit but they were a symbol of what the Spirit was doing. He was showing them Truth that would change their ideas of the Messiah and His Kingdom forever. Up until this time, the Jewish Christians believed that the servant of Jehovah, (the Messiah), was also the servant of Israel and saw themselves as that Israel who now followed the Son of God, the mighty conqueror who was supposed to overthrow all their enemies and set up His Kingdom and rule from Jerusalem. This rule would be eternal and they would be the number one nation in the world. Look at what happened next. All of a sudden these disciples of the Messiah were speaking in the languages of the unclean peoples of their world, the Gentiles. It went even further for some time later the Holy Spirit fills the Gentiles and purifies their hearts by faith. (Acts 15:8-9). There are no unclean people before God; there are just people and some of them are sinners and some are believers. The Jews had allowed themselves to believe that because they were from Abraham's seed that made them special and superior to all other peoples. But now God shows them that all peoples are acceptable to Him. Anybody and everybody can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. This new people who have been filled with God's Spirit, are the true Israel. The church is the new Community of God. It would be incorrect then to use these verses to prove that you are filled with the Spirit; the sign being the speaking in tongues. The true sign is that there is only one new people in Christ and all are members of His Body, the Church. See Eph. 3:10, this is the mystery that was revealed in Christ through the church..

Lesson Three

TITLES OF DEITY GIVEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Spirit – John 3: 6-8 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit.” The word, Spirit of God, is always written in capital letters showing that He is not just another spirit but that He is one with God the Father and God the Son. Here Jesus explains that it is only when the Holy Spirit enters the spirit of man will he be given new life and be born again or born from above. Jesus uses the illustration of the physical birth to show that just as there is only one way to become a human being, through the miracle of birth, so it is with being born into the spiritual kingdom, through spiritual birth. The Holy Spirit, who is God, can perform this miracle. He meets us Spirit to spirit.

The Holy Spirit - by adding the term Holy, it shows that the Spirit is of the same essence as the Father and the Son. God is Holy and commands that we be holy. 1 Peter 1:13. In Luke 11:13, Jesus calls Him the Holy Spirit. The life that the Spirit imparts is holy, therefore He expels all sin and keeps the life pure for His dwelling place.

The Spirit of God. 1 Cor. 3:16, as already noted, the Holy Spirit, takes up His abode in the new temple, which is the body of the believer. This is why a believer must allow the Holy Spirit to make him holy, as God will not share His abode with any form of sin. When the Spirit of God is invited by believers to make His home in their spirits, they must realise that He is God and not an influence coming to live in their spirits. A temple was set aside as a place where God, whose presence indwelt the temple, could be worshipped. This is really what these believers are doing as they allow the Holy Spirit of God to dwell in them. This is the heart of true worship; people with the Holy Spirit are those who worship in spirit and in truth. Jesus said, “that God is Spirit and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth” John 4:22.

The Spirit of the Lord. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel ...”. Christ Himself taught that it was the role of the Holy Spirit of the Lord, the powerful One, to empower Him to perform His ministry. He is the Spirit of the Lord of the Kingdom of God and the one who is Lord of their lives. Where Jesus is present, there He is. This is a lesson to us, we cannot do Jesus quality things to our world if we are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of the Living God. That means that His life is eternal, like the Father and the Son, and His sustaining power is available to all of the children of God. He does not simply create them into new children of God, He imparts to them life to live in God’s family. He makes Jesus and His Will alive within them. 11 Cor. 5:3. “You

show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tables of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

The Spirit of the Father. Matt. 10:19-20. “But when they arrest you, do not worry about what you will say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, but it will not be you speaking but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” When the Holy Spirit reveals the Truth of God the Father to God’s children, and they speak of what we have seen and heard, it is really the Spirit of the Father, who knows all, speaking through them. This verse does not mean that He will just use these Christians like puppets or do something without their awareness. Rather, because they will speak beyond their human reasoning, and know it is the Spirit of God the Father speaking.

The Spirit of Jesus. Acts 16:6-7. Here we read of the Holy Spirit being the Spirit of Jesus and they concluded that God had called them to preach the gospel, What a beautiful picture of the Trinity and the God/Man, Jesus, and His Spirit. As noted before, there is always such a beautiful cooperation between all three Persons of the Godhead. Some scholars speak of the Holy Spirit as “the other self of Jesus.” There are three names of God used interchangeably. It is the Holy Spirit who gives guidance and hinders Paul from preaching in Asia and He calls Him the Spirit of Jesus. To them, obeying the Spirit meant obeying Jesus and obeying God, the three in ONE.

He is also called the Spirit of Christ. This term, Christ, speaks of the Son of God in His pre-existent state, before He was enfleshed and became the God-Man, Jesus. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, but the Holy Spirit performed certain functions like coming upon Mary so she would conceive the God-Man Jesus. His work can be traced back to the time before creation when the three persons of the Triune God stood face to face with each other. John 1:2 translates, “He was face to face with God.” He, the Son, and the Spirit could look God the Father in His face as equals.

The Spirit of His Son. Galatians 4:6 “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba Father ...” This is family talk, just as Jesus looks to the Father, implying that all believers are of the same family. It is the Spirit of His Son in believers that enables them to be family and call God their Father.

The Spirit who is of God. 1 Cor. 2:12-15. As He is the Spirit who is of God, He cuts right across this world’s value system. He opens the Christians minds to understand God’s spiritual values. He writes God’s laws upon the fleshly tables of men’s hearts.

TITLES OF HIS ATTRIBUTES AND MINISTRY.

He is the Spirit of Wisdom. Eph. 1-17. He opens the eyes of all believers hearts so that they may know God the Father better, love God the Son more and experience more power of the Spirit in their lives.

The Spirit of Knowledge. Isaiah 11:2. “The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord” and Eph. 1:17 “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.” It is the Spirit who helps believers to grow. He illumines what they read and study and they experience truth, and He continues giving them the truth they need from God’s Word to keep growing.

The Spirit of Counsel and Might. Isa. 11:2. “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The Spirit of Counsel and Power.” It is the Holy Spirit who teaches the disciples of Christ the correct spiritual warfare and then empowers them to yield to Him first and then to resist the devil. This is a winning formula. James 4:7.

The Spirit of Grace and Supplications. Zech. 12:10. “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me the one they have pierced and they will mourn ...”The Holy Spirit has come to point all to the crucified but risen Christ and when they see Him, they will repent and find grace, forgiveness and blessing. Only the Holy Spirit can produce this awakening and conviction.

The Spirit of Judgment and the Spirit of Fire. Isa. 4:4. “...He will cleanse the blood stain of Jerusalem by a Spirit of judgment and fire (burning).” Both the judgment and fire come through the Holy Spirit. Jesus was judged for our sin and the Cross stands both as a symbol of God’s judgment and His love. The fire as announced by John the Baptist came on the day of Pentecost and purified God’s people.

The Breath of the Almighty. Job 32:6. “...It is the breath of the Almighty that gives him (man) understanding. The breath (wind, ruach) of God was there on the day of creation and with the present day church. He is the only one who brings life to man enabling him to have eternal life and to understand eternal truth. Man by himself can never know Saving Truth without the Holy Spirit in his life..

The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead. Rom. 8:11. “...And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies, through His Spirit who lives in you.” All believers who have the Spirit of Christ in them, and are being filled with His presence and power every day, have a growing witness and assurance that one of these days they too are going to be glorified.

The Power of the Highest. Luke 1:35. “The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” As in Gen. 1:2 when the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters, so creation came about, so it was with the Virgin Mary when He overshadowed her, she conceived. So it is as the Spirit of Power overshadows all believers, nothing can harm them. He produces Christlikeness within them as they experience His protection and power in their lives..

The Eternal Spirit. Heb. 9-14. “How much more then shall the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit, offered Himself ...”Note the way that the Bible speaks of “the blood of Christ” who offered Himself through the Spirit. This shows us the oneness of the God/Man and the Holy Spirit. This was the plan of the Triune god before the foundation of the world, see Ephesians 1:4.

The Spirit of Holiness. Rom. 1:4 “And who through the Spirit of Holiness was endowed with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.” No wonder the early church put all those titles together, the Son of God, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice everything the Spirit does is Holy. That is why He is called Holy Spirit and when He comes into the life of a believer they are no longer sinners but holy persons living a life of holiness, because that is the only kind of life He imparts. He sanctifies all believers when they get saved and then He makes them holy when they yield entirely to Him to fill them.

The Comforter John 14:16, 26, the Spirit of Love 2 Tim. 1-7, the Spirit of Truth John 14-17, the Spirit of Life Rom. 8:2, The Spirit of Adoption Rom. 8:15, the Spirit of Faith 2 Cor. 4:13, the Spirit of Promise Eph. 1:13-14, the Spirit of Grace Heb. 10:20, the Spirit of Glory 1 Peter 4:14, the Spirit of Power 2 Tim. 1:7, the Spirit of Prophecy Rev. 19:10, the Good Spirit Neh. 9:30, the Free Spirit Ps. 5:12, the Voice of the Lord, Isa. 6:8. These passages all indicate what this comfort is that the Holy Spirit brings into the life of the believer. He senses He is loved by God and that this love wants to continually reach out to others through him. He knows when he is obeying the Spirit that he is living out the truth, for miracles that only the Holy Spirit can perform follow his life. He knows he is living beyond himself, and yet it is all so supernaturally natural, there is no straining to live a holy life. He is constantly aware that he is a member of God’s family for the life in him is different from the world he lives in. He knows he is growing in his trust in God’s faithfulness because faithing it is becoming his lifestyle. He knows that he can trust God’s faithfulness, in all circumstances that come his way. He knows that he is living more than his own accomplishments, he is experiencing the help that only God’s grace can supply to do these impossible things. He has a growing love for God and finds himself praising the Goodness of the Lord in His life, he continuously gives the Glory to God. He experiences a growing power to be and do holy things, for there is this Spirit of Good creating a bias for good in him. He has a growing discernment of God’s dealings and he warns by word and life of the consequences of judgment both now and yet to come. Because He enjoys the protection of being in God’s will

he feels free to do Jesus things to the world. The voice of the Lord is in him, which grows stronger and clearer as he lives in obedience to God's will. He is indeed a Blessed man, living supernaturally natural.

Lesson Four

THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPARTS THE LIFE TO THE CHURCH

After thousands of years of prophesying and promises the church was born.

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit gave birth to the Church and filled them with His presence and power, purifying them to become the New Temple where He would abide. He also made the Church the Body of Jesus Christ and placed Jesus as Head of the Body. The resurrected and glorified Christ could now continue His ministry of extending His Kingdom and adding to His Church. This plan was to include all men into His Kingdom and the privilege of reaching men and women with the Gospel was given to His Body, His Church. In Matt. 28:18-20, Jesus gave His Church this Commission, "Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations".

This lesson will be more subjective for that is a mark of Wesleyan theology, it is a doing theology, and speaks constantly of personal experience.

The Holy Spirit formed a universal church. They were to reach all nations and all peoples from all nations were invited to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved and become members of His Church.

He glorifies Christ John 16:14, "He will glorify me, He will take of what is mine and declare it to you." What are some of these things that are Christ's that the Spirit declares to His church? From the Word He teaches the followers of Christ how to be and to live Christlike and how to keep growing in Christlikeness. He is their spiritual guide to a holy and meaningful life. He has the best in mind for all of the disciples of Jesus.

John 16:13. **He reveals to Christians the Truth about God,** "He will tell you things to come." Christians do not need a prophet to predict their future. They need to hear what He, the Spirit, is saying to the churches about the future. John in his Revelation pleads with the churches to hear what the Spirit is saying to them, Rev. 2:7. Many prophets expect the church to hear their nonsensical messages

and revelations which do not come from the Spirit but from themselves. When the church obeys what the Spirit is saying the same things which happened in the New Testament will happen again to the glory of the Living Jesus Christ.

He is the Spirit of Christ, living in the Christians. Rom. 8:9, Gal. 4:6. "...If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." And "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts..." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, the Son of God. That means that He enters the spirits of believers as the living Lord Jesus Christ. He makes Jesus alive in their spirits. Then He seats Jesus on the throne of their lives and more than that, from there Jesus by His Spirit enters their minds, feelings and will, illuminating them, guiding them and empowering them to do His Will. He lives in each believer by His Spirit.

He comes to implement and complete Christ's salvation in all men. John 14:25, 26. "He will teach you all things," and He does. He draws men to Christ and they become reconciled to God and receive the Spirit into their lives who imparts life and purity to them in order that they may enter a new dimension of living in the Spirit. It is ongoing and continuous. He has saved them from their past, is saving them now in the present and will save them in the future. They are saved, are being saved and will be finally saved by Him. John 6:8, He convicts of sin and righteousness and judgment to come. This is now Person to person because they have Him in their lives writing God's law on their hearts. They really do know what sin is and what holy is and they bring judgment to themselves when they do not obey Him.

He brings everyone 'at-one-ment' with God because of the work of Jesus on the Cross for them. 2 Thess. 2:13, "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth..." God chose everyone for salvation, not some but all have been chosen to be saved and sanctified by the Spirit, but they have to exercise their individual faith to respond to God's choice of them and also by grace through faith they will be made holy by the Holy Spirit. This faith is ongoing and growing.

The Holy Spirit Himself bears witness with all believer's spirits that they are accepted into God's family and now are partakers of His Holy nature. Rom 8:14-17 "For as many who are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."...You received the Spirit of adoption by which you cry out, Abba Father." I have heard some scholars say that the Holy Spirit is "the other self of Jesus," not that there is "Jesus only" or "Spirit only", but meaning that they are always present in each other, with each one agreeing to what they always agree upon. So, in this sense, Jesus is always present in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:9-11 " And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." 1Cor. 4:13 "And since we have the same Spirit of faith, according to what is written ... we also believe and therefore speak ..." The only reason that some have believed in the

risen Lord Jesus is because the Holy Spirit has given them power to believe in Him. Faith is what He gives all men so that they can believe in Christ and be saved. He also gives men faith to trust Christ to make them holy and daily faith to walk in His light and be kept clean. His work in believers is moment by moment and is always by grace, through faith; that is how Christians can testify to the world that Jesus is alive in them. It is not something they can do apart from His enabling grace.. All Christians live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God." When they are being guided and led into every day by the Holy Spirit, they want to obey Him because they love Him and they know that He wants only the best for them.. The older people get they either are living a blessed life or living with regrets. The double minded or unsanctified heart is always in a struggle with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and leans towards living in a twilight zone where it can enslave the Christian again and again. The only answer is to have this carnal mind expelled from their spirits so that they can think clearly and obey what the Holy Spirit is revealing to them. Rom. 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." They are becoming the kind of persons that they are choosing to be every day. When they think sin things and do them, they are taking on devil-likeness but when they choose to do Jesus things, they are growing in Christlikeness. Imagine living for 50 years as a carnal Christian – what type of person will that one be at that age – their minds and hearts slave to jealousy, envy, pride, selfishness, greed, hatred? A weak character in many areas, not to say anything about being disgruntled, always fighting, unhappy, insecure, suspicious, with all sorts of physically related illnesses.as a result. But look at those who have allowed the Spirit to guide them. They are human, and very much so, but carry the dignity and graciousness, love and friendliness of their Master. In old age they are exciting people to be around and you can sense their love for their Lord.

It is the Holy Spirit Himself who has entered their spirits and infused them with spiritual life, enabling them to reconnect with their Triune God. So the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are now all present in their lives. That is why they are aware of the Father's presence, the enabling grace of Jesus His Son and the sustaining and refreshing presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Notice that sometimes it seems as if it is only the Father that one is aware of in fellowship and prayer. Other times it seems as if one is conscious of Jesus, especially when one is reading His Word – it is because He makes the Word His Word to that one. On another occasion it is a sense of power and the sustaining of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing wrong with this for they are always present in each other, all the time, and they always work as the one God whom They are! Christians as children in the faith, and in God's family, will naturally think 'Father'. Many times it is as if Jesus is the big brother, in fact, the Bible says that He is a "friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Some of us always think of the Holy Spirit as our personal "life coach" and hear Him coaching from the side lines. Many times He sits His children down for a One-to-one, but He is always there. Titus 3:5.

It is His presence and power that makes believers holy and keeps them empowered to live holiness. 1 Thess. 5:23 “May the God of peace Himself, sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you also will do it.” The Holy Spirit’s presence, in fact, the Triune God’s presence in believers sanctifies them. He does it by imparting the quality of His Holy Spirit into them, and they share His quality of life. Of course, they do not become a God. It is the same Spirit that was breathed into Adam when he was still “red earth” (his name) and man became a living soul. Some say that this only means that God “sets us apart”, but that is the weakest of words to use; it means He imparts to His children His spiritual life which sets them apart from death to life and from darkness to light, from the bondage of the sinful nature, so that they can set themselves “apart to serve Him.” Sanctification is both a negative and a positive experience in that they are set apart from all sin so that they can live holy in spirit in soul and in body. It is not the flesh of the body that is sinful. It is the “fleshly nature of sin” controlling the body which is human flesh that is cleansed in sanctification. As fully human and now spiritually alive they can do Spirit/spirit things. They have both a supernatural side and a holy human side. Some call it living supernaturally natural. God did it and keeps doing it until the day Jesus returns to glorify them..

He is the believers intercessor before the Father. Rom. 8:26-27. “ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning that cannot be uttered ... because He makes intercession for the saints according to the Will of God.”

As Christians grow older and have to slow down and accept a lot of things they would change, but cannot, they groan; not that it is a bad thing – they sort of put up with the situation knowing deep down that one of these days they will be totally healed, changed and glorified. No Christian likes looking forward to an unknown experience, like ill health or poverty. Bad things do happen and Christians groan at all the possibilities. Then there is the BIG ONE – death! That really gets all disciples groaning simply because they have never done it before. When the Holy Spirit looks at the whole of creation groaning, awaiting the glorious day when all things will be made new, He identifies with all of it and He comes to encourage us and help us to keep our sights on the coming Deliverer. He is on His Way! All of the things that Christians cannot change He gives everyone grace to accept for, as God, He feels for everyone.. Remember He has already waited thousands of years to usher in Phase 2. He would have done it all if Adam had passed the test and now the second Adam, Jesus Christ, is going to make it all happen soon. Of course all Christians have weaknesses in different areas and they are going to get weaker the longer they live, but that will only reveal His greatness and power when He changes them. They must learn to accept all that people would normally moan about. Inward groaning is not so bad for another few years and then they will all be

there in the new world. He will make it all work out for their good. The consequences of the fall and not sin in themselves, they are the results left in us, old age, sickness, pain and disease, but we will be finally sanctified from all of these at the return of Jesus.

Have you noticed how easy it is for God's children to look up and say 'Father' in the sense of Dad? That is the Holy Spirit who has given them His power and His closeness with God. He has cast out all fear for God the Father and helped them to reconnect with Him, to discover that He has been waiting to accept them into His family as co-heirs with Jesus. All Christians have this spiritual sixth sense now, that they have finally arrived 'Home' and now nothing will ever separate them from His love ... shall tribulation, no, even if it means groaning sometimes, or distress or persecution, or famine or nakedness or peril or sword. If God be for us, who can be against us. Let it come on! Rom. 8:31-39

He produces 'Jesus fruit' in our lives. Gal. 5:22. These are qualities of the experiences that all Christians can choose to have with Him and others every day. When they yield to Him and choose these experiences they thereby resist the devil and he flees from them. Every time they choose to do 'Jesus things' they sense that are changing. They find themselves thinking like Him, feeling like Him and choosing to act like Him ... and they really like themselves and what they are becoming in Him; such as when they are tempted to lose control of their tempers, they choose to walk away and count to ten and are enabled to control themselves. When they want to compete instead of praising another's achievement and purposely put out their hand to congratulate the person, they find it makes them feel good. Also, when they want to retaliate to defend themselves and instead choose to humble themselves and ask forgiveness, they sense deliverance straight away. When they know something is wrong they find they have power from the Spirit to take themselves by the scruff of the neck and force themselves to turn away and refuse to do the wrong thing, they feel like winners, which they are In Christ.. But some say, "the fact that you feel that way, to do wrong, shows that you have a sinful bias in you and yet you claim that you have been cleansed from all sin". Do not confuse normal human desires that have been warped by sin as sinful desires. The real desire is not to do wrong; that is why the sanctified Christian wants to get control of his normal desires so that he can train them with the help of the Spirit to respond from a love basis which is joy, love, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control. Even Adam had normal human desires, that is how he could be tempted, do not confuse your humanity with the sinful nature. There is no longer a sinful bias in the sanctified person forcing them to cut corners or to sin wilfully. Hence, they can operate from a power base of His Spirit in their spirits empowering their humanness to live on a Spirit level; and when deliberately sought it starts happening naturally. Eventually the desire is changed to respond in a holy manner.

The Holy Spirit makes all believers one Body of Christ. Eph. 2:14-16. “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one ... so as to create in Himself one new man from the two making peace...” Who were the two who became one new man which Paul was referring to? He was talking about the Jews and the Gentiles. Remember the Jews had Abraham’s blood in their veins. They saw themselves as a separate people – “the circumcision”. Anyone not circumcised was considered unclean. They had Moses, the Law and the Prophets and Jesus was their Jewish Messiah from David’s line. Now these Gentiles who had nothing and were nothings, were coming into the church as if they were equals “in Christ”. We in South Africa know all about paternalism, superiors and inferiors in the church to the point where people of colour and whites were not allowed to worship together. But Paul, 2000 years ago, taught the Church that no one is a Jew when he is in Christ and no one is a Gentile when he is in Christ. In fact, there are no whites or people of colour in Christ. They have all been re-created into ‘Christians’. --- One New Man. See Eph. 2:15. They were even given a new name ‘little Christs’, because they were a new race of people. If only people would accept this truth in Africa, there would be no wars or poverty, for everyone would be a member of the same “new race”, the Church, the Body of Christ. It did not take long for Churchianity to get people back into their cultures and tribal settings, not only in Africa, but all over the world. Imagine if we could get back to the truth that there is only one temple where God lives by His Spirit and only one family of God, this new Israel, His Body. There are no African Christians or American Christians, no Zulu or Xhosa Christians. There are only “Christ-ians” who happen to be Africans or Americans. When Jesus talks about unity and oneness, this is what He means – “One new supernatural humanity called Christians.”

We must not acculturate the Gospel

At present, the writings of so-called “Black theologians writing a Black Theology” leave the impression that only men from their various cultures can correctly contextualise the gospel for their people. The fact is that theologies can be written and rewritten but unless they convey only the truth as taught in the scriptures, they are not worth the paper they are written on. We have both Jewish and Gentile theologians writing the New Testament and because they wrote as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit, the “Truth” fits every culture. We must beware that so-called contextualization does not change the content to fit the context of the people. In fact, the message of Christ which comes from the One who created and knows all men and all cultures, many times, confronts our cultures and calls for changes in the way we live and what we believe. Many have tried to call Christianity the white man’s religion. They have confused Christianity with what they have seen and witnessed in Churchianity.

Christianity is news about Jesus which cannot be changed. Of course, Churchianity demanded that all people adhere to their regulations, but Jesus met people where they were, changed them and they went back and did the same. as He did. The

Jews went and preached the gospel to Gentiles and they, in turn, preached to other language groups until it reached each one of us where we are today. It does not mean that all Christians have to dress alike, eat the same food, or use one language, but it does mean that they have to believe revealed Truth and respect God's Word alike. God will tell His church what is righteousness and what is evil. He has also only revealed one way of salvation for all, through His Son, Jesus Christ. There can be disagreement on the non-essentials of salvation but there must be agreement on the essentials, as taught by Jesus, for all Christians. 1 Cor. 12:11. The Holy Spirit distributes gifts for ministries to the Body, for the work of the ministry. He never intended that there should only be Zulu evangelists and church planters for the Zulu nation only. They belong to Him. There should be missionaries of all colours working over the whole of Africa. There should have evangelists from all cultures travelling the world and becoming world renowned for God. There should be teachers around the world teaching all nations the good news. He never only gave the gifts to the Jewish Church. He gave gifts to His Body and then He sent them out to preach to all nations. John 16:13-15. The Holy Spirit tells about "God's Tomorrows". He is the One who speaks to the church and the church must hear what He is saying, it the only way to be authentically Christian. His Word must be obeyed.

Lesson Five

THE TERMS THAT DEFINE THE WORKINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Terms can be made to say anything and when used, must be defined clearly for us to understand the "saving procedure" operating in man. Every term means something specific. To say that I am a "Christian" to some may mean that they attend a Christian church. To others, it means they were christened as "Christians", and to yet others, it means that they have been born again. We want to examine and define the terms used in scripture and in theology to try and understand what they are really teaching. Another term that is misused and misinterpreted is the term "sanctification", so we will give it a lot of attention.

What does the term "justification" mean? Martin Luther spoke of justification as "the article of a standing or falling church." Wiley defines it as follows, "Justification is that judicial or declarative act of God, by which He pronounces those who believingly accept the proprietary offering of Christ, as absolved from their sins, released from their penalty, and accepted as righteous before Him." (Wiley – p.381). Acts 13:38, 39, "Be it known unto you therefore men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you, the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which he could not be justified by the Law of Moses." We see here that forgiveness and justification are synonymous terms. In the case of a sinner, he is accused, is guilty and condemned. He can only be justified in one

way – he could be pardoned. So, by an act of God, his sins are pardoned for Christ's sake, his guilt is cancelled, his punishment remitted and he is accepted before God as righteous. He is declared righteous by Judicial action, and stands before God as if he had never sinned. But now come the confusing issues when trying to understand man's state before God. His standing now as "righteous" does not make him righteous. That is why we cannot leave the poor righteous sinner standing there all his life and nor does God. Salvation means more than standing declared righteous before God on the grounds of the saving work of Jesus in his place. Therefore, we conclude that justification is a relative change and not a work that makes a person actually just and righteous. This does not mean that he is righteous by proxy, meaning that someone is standing in his place but nothing has really happened to him spiritually, but because he did the right thing to put his faith in Christ, he was counted for having done the right thing and was then made righteous.

Christian Sonship. John 1:12. "To as many as received Him to them gave He the power to become the sons of God." We have seen that justification had to do with guilt and penalty accompanied by sanctification – God making man righteous before Him and actually changing them. This is closely tied to becoming sons of God. Now God accepts the justified sinner into His family and puts His Spirit in Him regenerating him, changing him from a sinner into a saint.

Regeneration is the change in man's moral state. The term 'regeneration' means "again" and "to be." "to be again". This means a restoration. A restoration of what in man? Many speak of "born again" or "born of God" John 1:13. The word regeneration occurs twice in the New Testament. Matt. 19:28 "that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of His Glory, ye shall sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel". Titus 3:5 "... saved by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." Referring to regeneration means that "the moral image of God in man will be again".

Eph. 4:24 takes it a step further. "**Put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Col. 3:10 "... put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him." Regeneration, then, is a spiritual quickening by which the souls of men dead in trespasses and sins are raised to walk in newness of life (Col. 2:13). As a new creature 11 Cor. 5:17, man is restored to the original image in which he was created. However, this regeneration is not man receiving a new ego. His personal identity is the same in essence after regeneration as before. He has the same powers of intellect, feeling and will, but these are given a new direction; but there is a change in moral and spiritual nature. He is now spiritually recreated, he is now restored spiritually. This radical change is wrought by the agency of the Holy Spirit. It is an act of God. The Holy Spirit meets man Spirit to spirit, and breathes life into him. Now that he is spiritually alive and really human he can grow as a really balanced person. The life bestowed in regeneration is a holy life. It becomes the gateway to what has been done initially entirely by God. Instantly man is cleansed from the pollution of guilt

and acquired depravity which necessarily attaches to sinful acts. Because he was without God's Spirit in him he was deprived of spiritual life, but he is now changed.

Entire sanctification is subsequent to regeneration and is the cleansing from original sin – sin as a state or principle. Adoption is the declaratory act of God, by which upon being justified by faith in Jesus Christ, we are received into the family of God and reinstated into the privileges of sonship.

Justification removes personal guilt, regeneration imparts spiritual life, and adoption receives them into the family of God. (Wiley Vol. 11 p. 438) Gal. 4:5 “. . . that we might receive the adoption of sons.” (Rom. 8:17, Gal. 4:5-7).

The Witness of the Spirit. “By the witness of the Spirit we mean that inward evidence of acceptance with God which the Holy Spirit reveals directly to the consciousness of the believer,” (Wiley p. 431). Rom. 8:16 “The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Entire Sanctification. There are at least four views we want to look at in an effort to find the truth.

1. Some say that it all happens at regeneration and completed at that time. Called the Zinzendorfian theory.
2. Another group say that it is growth extending from the time of regeneration until the death of the body.
3. Others hold that man is made holy only in the hour of death.
4. The Wesleyan position is that holiness begins at regeneration but is completed as an instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit subsequent to regeneration.

Holiness is the standard of Christian experience. It is God's Will that all believers be holy and filled with His Spirit and once filled, are continuously so. Eph. 5:17-18. Christians were filled with the Holy Spirit as a crisis experience. Acts 2:4. God has promised to sanctify His people. Isa. 1:18, Ezk. 36:25, Matt. 3:11-12. In fact, God commands His people to be holy. 1 Peter 1:16, Deut. 30:6. If God says “be ye holy” it is because He has provided the way to BE so! His commands are His enablings. The emphasis here is on “BEING” not acting out or merely imitating or even just growing, but “BE”.

Entire sanctification is subsequent to regeneration. It has to be, for Rom. 12:1-2 Present yourselves, living sacrifices...” That is something Christians do in a crisis moment. They present themselves to God. Being now free from acquired depravity and fully human, they can now do something they could not do before “present yourselves . . . holy”. They now have the bent to conform to the world taken care of by facing up to the sinful nature which has been explained to them in Rom. 6, 7 and 8. In Chapter 12, Paul gives them the answer as to how they would experience the perfect Will of God for them. Go to 11 Cor. 7:1 and you will see that

this is the normal Christian life. Rom. 12:1 Present – aorist tense in the Greek, a single act, not needing to be repeated. Readings in the Greek testify to the need for a definite moment of being cleansed from sin. Acts 15:8-9. Dr Daniel Steele in *Milestone Papers* Chap V says, “this verse is a key to the instantaneous sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit wrought in the hearts of believers on the day of Pentecost.” Purifying (aorist – instantaneously) their hearts by faith. Gal. 5:24. “And they that are Christ’s have crucified (aorist – a single distinct and completed act) the flesh . . .” 1 John 1:9 “If we confess (present tense) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive (aorist) us our sins, and cleanse (aorist) us from all unrighteousness”.

The Oberlin position held by Charles G Finney said “sin is the transgression of the Law” and believed that sin consists solely of the will. The Plymouth Brethren believed in so much atonement for so much sin and hold that all sins, past, present and future, have been done away with. Like Calvinists, they believe that Christ covers all sinners with His Robe of Righteousness and that God sees only Christ when he looks at sinners. The popular Keswick movement believe in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, generally subsequent to conversion, which is a baptism of power for holy living and Christian service, but do not see this as a cleansing from the sinful nature.

The Wesleyan position believes that there comes a moment for every believer to face a total consecration, an infilling of the Spirit, a baptism of the Holy Spirit and, because He is faithful, He completes the work. No one has to understand all the theology to receive this blessing to which the Holy Spirit testifies. Many people just have not been taught about entire sanctification and if they were, they would grow so much quicker in the life of holiness. To mistake their humanity for a sinful nature means that they will be fighting themselves when, in reality, they should be learning to discipline themselves and enjoy living supernaturally natural. As some of the old preachers used to say, “You may take a long time dying but there is a moment of death” and I might add, a time of growing after you have been sanctified. Too long Christians have thought that the unsanctified life was the normal life – they have accepted that they will always be sinners but now that they have been restored to their full humanity, the image of God in them, they have to learn how to grow in Christlikeness, and that is a life long journey. As the downward drag of the sin nature has been cleansed and their lives are now being filled with God’s love, they have an upward love pull which makes them want to continue in this new, exciting life of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Some words that teach the cleansing from all sin :

Gr. “katharidzo” means to make clean, to cleanse in general, both inward and outward, to consecrate by cleansing or purifying, or to free from defilement of sin. Study these texts: Acts 15:8-9; 11 Cor. 7:1, Titus 2:14, 1 John 1-7, Matt. 23:25, 26, Luke 11:39, Mark 7:19, Matt. 8:2ff, Eph. 5:26, Heb. 10:14, James 4:8.

Gr. “kartargeo” means to annul, to abolish, to put an end to, to cause to cease. Romans 6:6, Luke 13:3, 1 Cor. 1:28, 11 Thess. 2:8, 11 Tim. 1:10, Heb. 2:34, Gal. 5:11, 1 Cor. 13:8, 11 Cor. 3:7, 11.

Gr. “elekathairo” means to cleanse out thoroughly, to purge, 1 Cor. 5:7, 11 Tim. 2:21.

Gr. “ekrizoo” which means to root out, to pluck up by the roots. Matt. 15:13, 1 John 3:8, Matt. 13:29, Luke 17:6, Jude 12. Thayer says the word “stauroo” means to crucify the flesh, destroy its power utterly. See Gal. 5:24.

Closely related is “thanatoo” which signifies to subdue, mortify or kill. Rom. 7:5, Rom. 8:13.

Gr. “ivo” means to loose or free from, but also to break up, to demolish, to destroy.

A careful study leaves us in no doubt that the scriptures teach that Jesus came to completely destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) and Wesleyans are convinced that the scriptures teach the complete cleansing of the heart from inbred sin and the utter destruction of the carnal mind. This is what they call “entire sanctification”.

Jesus goes to where man’s real problem lies, deeper than the acts. He goes behind the motive, beyond the thought, into the spirit of man and expels the darkness of the brooding sin principle lurking there. He switches on the Light of God, as in the beginning of Creation. Everything lights up and the person can now live and walk in the Light, and while he does, the darkness of sin cannot find a way back into his spirit. What a way to live. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit filling the spirit of the believer that keeps the sinful nature from returning and not one’s faith in a work of grace or an experience. It is always faith in HIM!

Naturally, the fruit of the Spirit is perfect in quality, even when worked through the cleansed humanity. Not perfect in the sense of being fully mature fruit but because we are starting on new ground and have to learn to find new and exciting ways for this fruit to grow. This fruit is, “love, which is joy, love which is peace . . . love which is self control.” These are perfect in quality but not in maturity in a believers life. So when Christians seriously work at allowing this fruit to grow in and through their lives, they are doing something with this perfect fruit of the Holy Spirit. They are getting involved in a quality of life which God says is perfect. Matt. 5:48, this is how disciples of Jesus can be perfect as their Heavenly Father is perfect. It is the blessed life, the Kingdom quality of living.

When you go for a check-up, if there is nothing wrong with you then the doctor says “you are perfect.” You have good health. So it is with those who have ‘spirit health’. They are perfect!

All this and more, the Holy Spirit teaches all followers of Christ from the Word of God.

A Spirit filled life is the supernaturally natural life.

The Holy Spirit leads His followers into living out a life of Holiness. He has removed from their lives what made them carnal-human and has made them supernaturally natural human beings. They have lived so long as natural and/or carnal human beings that they thought of that state as normal. However, real normalcy is being free from the presence and power of sin and free to live out a holy life, pleasing to God, which has a bent towards operating from a basis of His love. They now want to really do 'Jesus things' to their world. They are conscious of the power to love, to want to help, to lift and improve the plight of others in need. They must remember that living this way is not an automatic cause and effect mechanism kind of existence.

To have value in building them up into 'Christlikeness' there has to be personal involvement. Their personal desires toward the good of others have to be translated into their choosing to act. There must be the acceptance of responsibility and deliberate choices must be made to be involved in this 'lift up others' living. These right choices are what the Spirit uses to build and strengthen their characters.

There is an exciting balance that comes when one realises that the right choices (enabled by His Grace) have been made, for the results produced are way beyond human intelligence and capability. Blessedness from King Jesus kicks into action producing something supernaturally natural, far above what our small faith could ever produce, and more – there is a snowballing effect. The blessings seem to touch many other lives. It is the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand principle under the control of the Spirit of Jesus.

The words for expressing 'Spirit fullness' are *pimplemi* (or *pletho*) and *pleres* (*pleroo* and *pleroma*), which suggest completion, full of, wholly occupied with, completely under the influence of. (Taylor 1985, p.188). To be filled with the Spirit means

- a) Christians find their complete fulfilment in Him, they have no voids in their lives, they have found their spiritual home.
They are pervaded by His Presence, in the sense that He brings the colours and perfumes of the New World into their lives. He filled His Creation with beautiful colours and scents that make everything so fresh and alive.
- b) It also means that they are now completely under His influence. Eph. 5:18 gives us this contrast, "Be not drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit. The implication is that humans have to fill the void in their lives with something and the wise thing to do is to "be being filled with the Holy Spirit." When they yield to alcohol or drug taking or something else outside of God's Will, it does not take long before it influences their entire lives to the point of controlling and enslaving them.. The infilling of the Spirit does not control them as if they were puppets. He never invades peoples lives and never overrides their

wills; rather He comes as the Counsellor, the Helper, the One who guides and energises them to do what they understand as His Will. Wine enslaves but the Spirit liberates, for no one is ever more free or ever more totally himself than when directed and enabled by the Spirit.

When speaking of the control of the Spirit, it is not “automation” that is meant but what it means is that all human abilities and powers are given over to His greater control, believing that He always does what is best. His complete control is always an invited control. He never swallows up the human selves into the Divine self. It is not one trying to lose one’s self; rather it is finding ones true self in Him. The sanctified self learns to act, think and choose with His aid, for He is always filling the obedient child of God with Himself. It is a growing relationship of learning to keep in step with Him. The Christian starts feeling about things the way His Lord does and it influences him towards living a life of holiness.

God’s Spirit of power needs to reconnect man to His source of Life, Power, Light and Love. Since Adam severed his relationship with God, he broke the connecting line of God’s power to man’s spirit. Therefore, man is born into this world without God’s Spirit of power in his spirit. This is what is meant when we say that man is born spiritually dead. He still has the spirit faculty waiting to be connected back up to God’s Spirit. God’s prevenient grace did not allow this faculty of a spirit to be utterly destroyed. It became unplugged so could not function without Eternal Life, devoid of supernatural ability and power. It had replaced self love for God’s love and was lost and in darkness as a result, not knowing how to reconnect to God. Jesus changed all that by providing a reconciliation with God again.

We know that man is both a spirit being and a human being and that because his life is devoid of the presence of God’s Holy Spirit, his life has become an open door for the devil, his demons and the sin nature. It seems that when tempted to become his own god, man opened the door for satan’s influence and nature to enter his life and make him think that he was the god of his life. The image of God in which he was created was marred and warped by sin, making him believe that he was now number one in his world. It made him self-centered, self-sovereign, selfish and becoming worse, he became a slave to sin. However, that image of God was not totally destroyed, so man is aware that there is a higher power missing from his life. He ever searches for it, hence all the religions in the world today. That part of his life which yearns for the greater power is his spirit which is tied to his entire person. Man is a thinking, feeling, choosing human being, who longs to be fully human and in control of all his faculties but it seems this ‘something’ is always missing.

Now his spirit, although unable to become truly spiritually alive, in the sense of being able to connect with the ultimate power, mind, love, light and eternal life, gets led down many false trails which imitate true spirituality. True spirituality always produces a truly whole human being. A whole person is someone who is truly human, free from all sin and connected to God who is Spirit. It is this Spirit who

enters man's life and brings a 'new birth' so that he is recreated again in the image of God – the way he was intended to be.

The 'alive spirit' in man which is the result of the new birth and the coming of God's Holy Spirit into his spirit, connects man not only to God but to his real self. The Holy Spirit living in his spirit connects him to his physical humanness, producing a spiritual, thinking, feeling and choosing human being, a supernaturally natural person.

Some believe that Spirit cannot act upon the physical and yet the record of Genesis has God's Spirit hovering over a dead void, bringing forth the heavens, earth and all of material creation. Man himself came to be a living soul after God had breathed His Spirit into the red earth and fashioned him into a man. Although we cannot explain it, the Spirit works on the physical and man functions as a spirit-human, able to communicate with the physical and spiritual world and have fellowship with God who is Spirit.

Man has a physical brain – spiritual mind, and through the brain – mind he can think, choose and feel both spiritual and physical. That is how God created him to function. Somehow, the spirit of man can activate his brain cells and respond. The Holy Spirit can also activate the brain cells themselves and then the spirit of man can relay to his thoughts and impulses those which his spiritual faculty can endorse or resist. All I am saying is that our thinking is more involved with man's brain – spirit than just his physical brain cells. That is where grace operates. It moves mind and spirit enabling man to grasp truth and obey it. Man is not a robot but someone who when restored to the full image of God in him can function the way God intended. This is what we mean by the fullness of the Spirit. This experience is available to every believer. We can be filled all the time with the Holy Spirit.

However, there has to be a first time. In order for there to be a continuation, there must be a moment when the individual understands that he has chosen to ask the Holy Spirit to fill his life, to expel everything that is not of Him and to fill him with everything that is of God for him as well as to continue doing so. The Holy Spirit has to be given the full right of occupancy.

The Spiritfilled-human will still be tempted but the Holy Spirit will teach him how to face temptation and overcome. Temptation and testing is not a bad thing for in the process of learning to be an over comer, he will grow stronger in character and his personality will constantly become more Christlike. This is a life long process. It is not, however, the person becoming more holy, as if he will grow out of his sinful state and become less sinful. The presence of the Holy Spirit imparts the quality of a holy life in a divine work of grace and the individual grows in holiness, not into a holy life. He is now as a spiritual babe. He has to learn how to live supernaturally natural.

It is not quite correct to say that once sanctified temptation can only come from outside because all temptation involves ones desires. Human desires are part of these sanctified Christians. They have a desire to know more, do more and

achieve more in life. They have normal desires to eat, drink and be happier, to love and be loved. There is a natural desire to be appreciated, to feel worth, and many other normal desires humans think and desire in their minds. They also desire in their spirits and all of their other faculties reach out for satisfaction. Here is the danger area within all men, for this is where Adam and Eve made the big mistake. They followed their natural desires and desires are blind in themselves. That is why all Christians need to be restored in their full humanity for if the desire gets a full hold of them, body, mind and spirit, 'the living soul', then it will seek satisfaction in ways that were not designed to bring full satisfaction. Even the 'conscience' will say to them "It feels right, so go for it," but once the Holy Spirit is present and in control, He will teach the disciple of Jesus how to find real satisfaction for every desire they have.

God bless you as you live out your supernaturally natural life in the power of God.