

OUR HELPER

The Gift of the Holy Spirit



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INTRODUCTION WHY THIS TOPIC?

After completing the teaching on prayer, it became obvious that God wanted to share this topic with us. We must understand the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily life and especially in prayer. It is important to understand that God is not the author of confusion, and I am certain that He does not want us to be uninformed concerning the Third person of the Trinity, the Holy Ghost (our Comforter).

Croft Pentz outlines four extreme viewpoints receiving the charismatic experience: “(1) Mysticism. There is nothing mystic about the Holy Spirit. (2) Spiritual pride. Some feel that because they have certain spiritual gifts, they are better than others. (3) Feeling of perfection. Perfection will come only when we are with the Lord in heaven. (4) Emotion without God’s Word. Emotional experiences are of little value unless we live according to God’s Word.”¹

Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they have been endowed with power from on high, “Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:44-48). In John Jesus explains the importance of the Holy Spirit, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13-15).

We must remember the emphasis that Paul places on the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18 he encourages us to be filled with the Spirit, “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 5:18, ESV).

All God’s people need to know what it means to be filled with the Spirit, to have the fruits of the Spirit in daily operation, and to use the gifts of the Spirit.

“The Spirit, then, is “he,” not “it,” and he must be obeyed, loved, and adored along with the Father and the Son.”²

¹ Croft M. Pentz, *Outlines on the Holy Spirit*

² J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*

WHO IS OUR HELPER?

“Before Jesus’ passion, he promised that the Father and he would send his disciples “another Counselor” (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). The Counselor or Paraclete, from the Greek word *parakletos* (meaning one who gives support), is a helper, adviser, strengthener, encourager, ally, and advocate. Another points to the fact that Jesus was the first Paraclete and is promising a replacement who, after he is gone, will carry on the teaching and testimony that he started (John 16:6-7).”³

“In the New Testament, however, it becomes clear that the Spirit is as truly a Person distinct from the Father as the Son is. This is apparent not only from Jesus’ promise of “another Counselor,” but also from the fact that the Spirit, among other things, speaks (Acts 1:16; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 28:25), teaches (John 14:26), witnesses (John 15:26), searches (1 Cor. 2:11), determines (1 Cor. 12:11), intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27), is lied to (Acts 5:3), and can be grieved (Eph. 4:30). Only of a personal being can such things be said. The divinity of the Spirit appears from the declaration that lying to the Spirit is lying to God (Acts 5:3-4), and from the linking of the Spirit with the Father and the Son in benedictions (2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-6) and in the formula of baptism (Matt. 28:19). The Spirit is called “the seven spirits” in Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6 partly, it seems, because seven is a number signifying divine perfection and partly because the Spirit ministers in his fullness.”

“The Spirit’s full Paraclete ministry began on Pentecost morning, following Jesus’ ascension (Acts 2:1-4). John the Baptist had foretold that Jesus would baptize in the Spirit (Mark 1:8; John 1:33), according to the Old “Testament promise of an outpouring of God’s Spirit in the last days (Joel 2:28-32; cf. Jer. 31:31-34), and Jesus had repeated the promise (Acts 1:4-5). The significance of Pentecost morning was twofold: it marked the opening of the final era of world history before Christ’s return, and, as compared with the Old Testament era, it marked a tremendous enhancing of the Spirit’s ministry and of the experience of being alive to God.

Jesus’ disciples were evidently Spirit-born believers prior to Pentecost, so their Spirit-baptism, which brought power to their life and ministry (Acts 1:8), was not the start of their spiritual experience. For all who have come to faith since Pentecost morning, however, beginning with the Pentecost converts themselves, the receiving of the Spirit in full new-covenant blessing has been one aspect of their conversion and new birth (Acts 2:37; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13). All capacities for service that subsequently appear in a Christian’s life should be seen as flowing from this initial Spirit-baptism, which vitally unites the sinner to the risen Christ.”

The Holy Spirit, Our Helper

John 16:7–14

³ IBID

1. THE SAVIOR'S WORDS—v. 7

- a. *Departure of the Savior—v. 7a. Christ would ascend to His home in heaven (John 14:1–3). This would be fulfilled in Acts 1:9–11. Christ knew the will of God and the plan for His life.*
- b. *Descent of the Spirit—v. 7b. If Christ did not go away, the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) would not come.*

2. THE SPIRIT'S WORK—vv. 8–11

- a. *Reproving—v. 8. He would reprove:
 - i. *Of sin*
 - ii. *Of righteousness and unrighteousness*
 - iii. *Of judgment**
- b. *Rebuke—v. 9. Christ would judge sinners, because of their failure to accept His love and pardon. The Bible speaks of the final judgment in Revelation 20:11–15.*
- c. *Righteousness—v. 10. Christ has gone to the Father. Righteousness is needed in our lives, in our churches, and in our nation.*
- d. *Revealing—v. 11. The power of Satan will be destroyed.*

3. THE SPIRIT'S WAY—vv. 12–14

- a. *Spiritual ignorance—v. 12. There are things that are too overwhelming for men to know now that are understood by only the Lord and the Holy Spirit.*
- b. *Spirit's impact—v. 13. The Holy Spirit will speak of certain things.
 - i. *Guidance. He will guide men into all truth.*
 - ii. *Unselfish. He will not speak for Himself.*
 - iii. *Revelation. He will speak what He hears from God.*
 - iv. *Prophecy. He will tell future events.**
- c. *Spirit's influence—v. 14
 - i. *The Spirit will praise Christ. "He shall glorify Me."*
 - ii. *The Spirit will share Christ. "For He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."**

4. THE SPIRIT CHANGES MEN

- a. *Attitudes. The Holy Spirit will change once unholy men to Christlike men as He is allowed to work in their lives.*
- b. *Ambitions. The Holy Spirit will give men goals that are pleasing to the Lord.*
- c. *Affections. The Holy Spirit will help men to love Christ and others.*
- d. *Actions. The Holy Spirit will show men how to put their love for Christ and others into action.⁴*

⁴ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 37–38.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIVER

In this section we will take a close look at John 16:7, “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7).

1. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVICTION**—John 16:8–11

- a. *He convicts people of sin—vv. 8, 9. Men are born in sin—Romans 3:23. The Holy Spirit shows man he is a sinner and that he should turn to God’s goodness.*
- b. *He convicts the world of sin—v. 9. The sin of the world is unbelief and rejection of Christ.*
- c. *He offers deliverance from judgment—v. 10. Because Christ ascended into heaven and the Comforter came, righteousness is available for those who turn to God.*
- d. *He convicts the person of sin—v. 11. Satan has already been judged.*

2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION**

- a. *Pardon by Spirit—John 3. Being born of the water and the Spirit, is the only way to enter God’s kingdom. The water stands for refreshment and the Spirit provides redemption and regeneration.*
- b. *Power of the Spirit—Titus 3:5 (1-7). We had nothing to do with our salvation, other than accepting Christ. It is the Spirit that regenerates and makes man a new creature in Christ. Paul speaks of this in 2 Corinthians 5:17.*
- c. *Practice of the Spirit—Ezekiel 36:26 (22-27). God places within man a new spirit. – Ezekiel chapter 37 - 6/22/21*

3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CLEANSING**

- a. *Saved by the Savior—2 Corinthians 5:17(16-21). Notice the importance of “being in Christ.”*
- b. *Secured by the Spirit—Romans 8:16. (15-17) - The Spirit gives evidence that we are the children of God.*

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONTROLLING** - *The Holy Spirit wants to control God's people; however, He will not force Himself upon any man.*

a. *Favor of the Spirit—1 John 4:13 (13&14). We are assured that we are children of God by having His Spirit dwelling in us.*

b. *Fruit of the Spirit—Galatians 5:22, 23. The nine fruits come as the result of being filled with and living in the Spirit.*

i. *If you kept in step with the Spirit how would your life change?*

ii. *Is it possible not to have the word of God in you when you are keeping in step with the Spirit?*

5. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN COMPLETION**

a. *Healing for the soul. Jesus spoke of man losing his soul (Mark 8:36) (34-38). However, through faith, we can have our souls restored. David spoke of this in Psalm 23:3.*

b. *Healing for the body—Isaiah 53:5. Christ paid the price for our healing. He wants us to be healthy.*

c. *Healing for the mind. We keep our minds healthy by allowing the Holy Spirit to control them. (See Psalm 19:14.)⁵*

⁵ Croft M. Pentz, [Outlines on the Holy Spirit](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 21–22.

OUR CHANGE AGENT

Consider how the Holy Spirit will change your life and your thoughts.

Daniel 4:28-38

Acts 9:8-19

Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4

The Holy Spirit wants to work in the hearts and lives of men and women. He can do more for us in a few moments than we can do for ourselves in our lifetime. He wants to fill us, empower us, guide us, and work through us.

Think about when you edit a document, you want the changes to be saved; no one ever expects the old document to be used going forward they want the changes to be carried forward.

The Holy Spirit continues to provide power, (Romans 1:16) to change life's for the better (after all that is the power of the Gospel).

1. **PURGING POWER**—John 16:8

- a. *He purges from sin. This is salvation.*
- b. *He purges from unrighteousness. This is holiness.*
- c. *He purges from judgment. This is assurance.*

2. **PRAYING POWER**—Romans 8:26

- a. *He helps us in our weakness. He gives spiritual strength.*
- b. *He prays through us. This is intercession.*

3. **PARDONING POWER**—Romans 8:16

- a. *He convicts—Acts 2:37. God planned our salvation. Jesus paid for our salvation. The Holy Spirit brings our salvation.*
- b. *He cleanses—Acts 2:38. Note Peter's words: "for the remission of sins."*

4. **PREACHING POWER**

- a. *Power to witness—Acts 1:8. This power was promised to the disciples to help them do God's work. The disciples were helpless without this power.*
- b. *Power to work—Acts 4:31. They were given power to speak the Word of God.*

5. **PRAISING POWER**—John 16:14

- a. *Praise through prayer—Acts 3:1-12 (16)*
- b. *Praise through preaching—Acts 2:14-41. Peter's preaching lifted up Christ.*

c. *Praise through worship as a form of praise—Acts 2:46–47.*

6. **PERCEIVING POWER**—John 16:15

- a. *The Spirit helps us understand God’s will for our lives.*
- b. *The Spirit shows us the meaning of God’s Word.*
- c. *We can understand God’s personality and power by the help of the Spirit.*

7. **PERSONAL POWER**—John 14:26

- a. *Power to teach us. He shows us right from wrong.*
- b. *Power to train us. He helps us remember.*

8. **PACIFYING POWER**—John 15:7

- a. *Comfort in sorrow—Ephesians 6:22*
- b. *Comfort during separation—Matthew 28:20*
- c. *Comfort when sick—Psalm 30:1–3. If God does not choose to heal a sick person, He will give that person power to endure.⁶*

⁶ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 24–25.

THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

Note – Starting point on 8/9/2021 – Bible Study will be Monday – Thursday – until the end of the year.

The theme as we return is – coming out of the wilderness ... it the with the strength, power, wisdom, love, and grace from God that will enable us to complete the journey.

Jesus never expected us to make it through this life on our own, so He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. Let's unpack the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Consider the following regarding the promise of the Holy Spirit

- *Joel 2:28-29*
- *Many promises are given about the Holy Spirit in both the Old and New testaments. Some of these promises apply to us today. The Holy Spirit was sent by God to help people be better and stronger Christians. After Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent the Comforter who abides with God's people.*

1. THE PROMISES IN PROPHECY

- a. Major prophet—Isaiah 28:11. This prophecy was given 712 years before Christ was born. The prophet here is speaking about the forthcoming day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Stammering lips precedes speaking in tongues.*
- b. Minor prophet—Joel 2:28, 29. This prophecy was given 800 years before Christ's birth. This promise would come true on the day of Pentecost. Peter confirms this in his sermon, after the Holy Spirit had descended (Acts 2:17, 18).*

2. THE PROMISES OF POWER

- a. Power to wait—Luke 24:49. Seeking God almost always involves waiting. The prophet Jeremiah tells how we will find God if we search for Him with all our hearts (Jer. 29:13,14). Power is always available to those who take time to wait before God.*
- b. Promise to witness—Acts 1:8. The witness would be fourfold:*
 - i. Jerusalem—hometown*

- ii. *Judea—home state*
- iii. *Samaria—home country*
- iv. *Uttermost part of the earth—foreign missions*
- c. *The Bible speaks of the four corners of the world (Isaiah 11:12). This could mean taking the gospel to the north, south, east, and west.*

3. THE PROMISE IN PREACHING—Mark 16:17–18

- a. *Promise—vv. 17–18. What this promised power would do:*
 - i. *Cast out devils. Satan’s oppression, depression, and possession.*
 - ii. *Speak with new tongues—Acts 2:1–4.*
 - iii. *Take up serpents (by mistake) and not be hurt.*
 - iv. *Drink any poisonous liquids (by accident) and not be hurt.*
 - v. *Lay hands upon the sick, and the sick will recover.*

b. Proof—vv. 19–20

- i. *Ascension—v. 19. Christ ascends into heaven (cf. Acts 1:11).*
- ii. *Power—v. 20. Christ’s followers go forward with power, performing the things He promised in vv. 17–18.*

4. THE PROMISE AFTER PENTECOST—Acts 2:38, 39

- a. *The past. The gift of the Holy Spirit was given to those who asked.*
- b. *The present. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given today, to all who ask for it and who meet the requirements of God’s Word for receiving it.*
- c. *Some try to explain away the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Some say that it is not for today, and use Scriptures out of context to back their teaching. However, even cults can use Scriptures in this way to prove their teachings.*

5. CLAIMING THE PROMISE

a. *If a person claims the promises of God, he will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given so people will know and serve God in a better way. God wants people to know how to:*

i. *Walk in the Spirit—Galatians 5:16*

ii. *Witness in the Spirit—Acts 1:8*

iii. *Worship in the Spirit—John 4:24*

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH

It is the desire of God that the Holy Spirit be the leader of the church. It was the Holy Spirit who established the church on the day of Pentecost. It was the Spirit who maintained the church in the book of Acts, as well as throughout history. When the Spirit has His rightful place within the church, the church will be a powerhouse for God, changing the world as the early church did.

1. **PREPARING THE CHURCH**—1 Corinthians 12:13

- a. *The Spirit.* "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body" (v. 13a). Jesus told Nicodemus that men must be born of the Spirit and of water in order to enter God's kingdom (John 3:5). When we are born into God's family, He is our Father and we are His children (John 1:12).
- b. *The scope.* "... whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free" (v. 13b). Salvation is for whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord (John 3:16; Rom. 10:13). The Spirit calls all men to salvation. Those who respond and accept Christ, become members of God's family, as well as His church.
- c. *The sharing.* "And have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (v. 13c). Church customs and rituals mean little to God. All who have been born again are members of His family.

2. **PERSONALITY OF THE CHURCH**—Ephesians 2:20–22

- a. *Foundation of the church*—v. 20. The church is built upon the apostles and the prophets with Christ as the chief cornerstone, not upon a man, an organization, nor a dogma. Matthew 16:18 tells how Christ would build His church upon the rock.
- b. *Frame of the church*—v. 21. The church must be properly put together and must be holy in the sight of the Lord. Paul spoke of the holiness of the church in Ephesians 5:25–27.
- c. *Fellowship of the church*—v. 22. Note the four-fold fellowship: *** 1 John 5-7

- i. Fellowship with God—1 John 1:7a*
- ii. Fellowship with Christ—1 John 1:7c*
- iii. Fellowship with the Spirit—through prayer and praise*
- iv. Fellowship with Christians—1 John 1:7b*

3. POWER OF THE CHURCH

- a. Praying power—Luke 24:49. Note the importance of these words: pray, wait, tarry. The power of prayer is shown in Acts 4:31.*
- b. Preaching power—Acts 1:8. See Peter in Acts 2 preaching with authority. Just a short time before he had denied Christ, now he is changed. The Holy Spirit made the difference.*

4. PROVISION FOR THE CHURCH - The Holy Spirit provides proper leadership for the church.

- a. The selection of leaders—Acts 13:2–4. The Holy Spirit knows who is best qualified for certain jobs and selects accordingly.*
- b. The sacredness of leadership—Acts 20:28. The Holy Spirit appoints certain men to take care of the flock of God.*
- c. The stability of leaders—2 Corinthians 6:4–6. Sufferings, misunderstandings, and even pain are part of being a leader.*

It has been said that the success of the early church was three-fold: Jesus went up; the Holy Spirit came down; and the disciples went out.⁷

⁷ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 35–37.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND

1. *For the sake of His Name*

a. *"When the Pharisees attributed the Spirit's work to Satan (Matt. 12:24), the Lord warned them that such hard-hearted blasphemy was unforgivable. Ananias and Sapphira were instantly struck dead after lying to the Holy Spirit. As a result, "great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things" (Acts 5:11). Simon Magus, when he asked to purchase the Spirit's power with money, received this severe rebuke in response: "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!" (Acts 8:20 NASB). And the author of Hebrews, writing to those in danger of insulting the Spirit of grace, offered his readers this sober admonition: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). The third member of the Trinity is dangerous to anyone who would offer Him strange fire!"*

2. *Reinventing the Holy Spirit*

a. *"Of course, you wouldn't know that from the way the Holy Spirit is treated by scores of professing Christians today. On the one hand, some mainstream evangelicals are guilty of neglecting the Holy Spirit altogether. For them, He has become the forgotten member of the Trinity—as they attempt to grow the church through their own cleverness rather than His power. For the sake of popular appeal, they deemphasize personal holiness and the Spirit's sanctifying work. They contend that biblical preaching, in which the sword of the Spirit is wielded with care and precision, is now passé. In its place, they offer entertainment, edginess, empty platitudes, or the elevation of uncertainty—thereby exchanging the authority*

of the Spirit-inspired Scriptures for cheap and impotent substitutes.”

3. How Should We Respond

- a. "It is high time for the evangelical church to take a stand and to recover a proper focus on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual health of the church is at stake. In recent decades, the Charismatic Movement has infiltrated mainstream evangelicalism and exploded onto the global scene at an alarming rate. It is the fastest-growing religious movement in the world. Charismatics now number more than half a billion worldwide. Yet the gospel that is driving those surging numbers is not the true gospel, and the spirit behind them is not the Holy Spirit. What we are seeing is in reality the explosive growth of a false church, as dangerous as any cult or heresy that has ever assaulted Christianity. The Charismatic Movement was a farce and a scam from the outset; it has not changed into something good.*
- b. This is the hour for the true church to respond.”*

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN

We have spent a lot of time working through the mission and ministry of the Holy Spirit, what does it mean to be spirit-filled? For that we need to use as a backdrop Ephesians chapter five verse eighteen. We will unpack that text as we work through this text. (verses 19-20)

1. **WILL BE DEVOTED**

- a. *By study—2 Timothy 2:15. We are to hide God’s Word in our heart (Ps. 119:9&11; see also Joshua 1:8).*
- b. *By surrender—Romans 12:1, 2. Our bodies belong to God, therefore our bodies should bring honor and glory unto God. (See 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.)*
- c. *By separation—1 Timothy 5:22. We are to keep ourselves pure. (Note the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:17; 7:1.)*

2. **WILL BE DEDICATED**

- a. *Loving God—2 Corinthians 11:24–29. Paul’s dedication to God caused him to accept all these sufferings. He had scars on his body as the result (Gal. 6:17).*
- b. *Looking to God—Hebrews 12:1, 2. We need to keep our eyes upon Christ. Looking about us will bring discouragement, but looking to Him brings encouragement, strength, and help.*
- c. *Longing for God—Philippians 3:10. Paul had one desire—to know God. Note the desire of Job in Job 23:3. This longing will draw us not only near to God but make us like Him.*

3. **WILL BE DETERMINED**

- a. *Testimony—Acts 20:24. Paul could say that all sufferings and problems could not move or discourage him.*
- b. *Testing—Galatians 6:7-10. Suffering for Christ was a test for Paul, yet he endured testing. He was determined to live for the Lord regardless of the cost.*
- c. *Trials—James 5:11. Christians will be happy to endure all the trials that come their way.*
- d. *Temptation—James 1:12. The person who endures temptation is blessed by God, and is a happy person.*

4. **WILL BE DETAINED** *There must be a time of waiting before God in prayer (Isa. 40:31).*
- a. *Plea to prayer—1 Timothy 2:8. Men everywhere should pray.*
 - b. *Personal prayer—Matthew 6:6. Secret prayer is the secret of the Christian life.*
 - c. *Powerful prayer—James 5:16. There is no limit to the power of the prayers of the righteous.*
 - d. *Patient prayer—Acts 1, 2. They prayed for ten days. This was Christ's command (Luke 24:49).*
 - e. *Prevailing prayer—1 Thessalonians 5:17. Christians should always be in the attitude of prayer.⁸*

⁸ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 38–40.

THE SINLESSNESS OF CHRIST AND OUR SINFULNESS

THE SINLESSNESS OF CHRIST

1 Peter 2:22 (NIV)

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

1. *Christ faced overwhelming opposition, however it never overwhelmed him, and through the agony of Gethsemane and the cross he fought temptation and resisted sin to the point where his blood was shed.*
 - a. *If we are going to be spirit-filled, then we must learn from him to do likewise:*
 - i. *(Heb. 12:3-13; Luke 14:25-33).*
2. *Jesus' sinlessness was necessary for our salvation. Had he not been "a lamb without blemish or defect" his blood would not have been "precious" (1 Pet. 1:19).*
3. *Jesus' active obedience (perfect lifelong conformity to God's law for mankind, and to his revealed will for the Messiah) qualified Jesus to become our Savior by dying for us on the cross. Jesus' passive obedience (enduring the penalty of God's broken law as our sinless substitute) crowned his active obedience to secure the pardon and acceptance of those who put their faith in him (J.I. Packer, Concise Theology)*
 - a. *(Rom. 5:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Phil. 2:8; Heb. 10:5-10)*

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN

Psalms 51:5 (NIV)

⁵Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

1. *Scripture diagnoses sin as a universal deformity of human nature, found at every point in every person (1 Kings 8:46; Rom. 3:9-23; 7:18; 1 John 1:8-10). Both Testaments have names for it that display its ethical character as rebellion against God's rule, missing the mark God set us to aim at, transgressing God's law, disobeying God's directives, offending God's purity by defiling oneself, and incurring guilt before God the Judge. This moral deformity is dynamic: sin stands revealed as an energy of irrational, negative, and rebellious reaction to God's call and command, a spirit of fighting God to play god. The root of sin is pride and enmity against God, the spirit seen in Adam's first transgression; and sinful acts always have behind them thoughts, motives, and desires that one way or another express the willful opposition of the fallen heart to God's claims on our lives. (J.I. Packer, Concise Theology)*
2. *All People Are Sinful Before God.*
 - a. *1 John 1:8-10 (NIV)*
 - i. *⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*
 - b. *Scripture in many places testifies to the universal sinfulness of mankind. "They have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good, no, not one" (Ps. 14:3). David says, "No man living is righteous before you" (Ps. 143:2). And Solomon says, "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46; cf. Prov. 20:9).*
 - c. *In the New Testament, Paul has an extensive argument in Romans 1:18 - 3:20 showing that all people, both Jews and Greeks, stand guilty before God. He says, "All men, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin, as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one' " (Rom. 3:9 - 10).*

He is certain that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). James, the Lord's brother, admits, "We all make many mistakes" (James 3:2), and if he, as a leader and an apostle in the early church, could admit that he made many mistakes, then we also should be willing to admit that of ourselves.

3. Degrees of Sin?

- a. "Scripture sometimes speaks of degrees of seriousness of sin. When Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, he said, "he who delivered me to you has the greater sin" (John 19:11). The reference is apparently to Judas, who had known Jesus intimately for three years and yet willfully betrayed him to death. Though Pilate had authority over Jesus by virtue of his governmental office and was wrong to allow an innocent man to be condemned to death, the sin of Judas was far "greater," probably because of the far greater knowledge and malice connected with it."*
- b. "When God showed Ezekiel visions of sins in the temple of Jerusalem, he first showed Ezekiel certain things, then said, "But you will see still greater abominations" (Ezek. 8:6). Next, he showed Ezekiel the secret sins of some of the elders of Israel and said, "You will see still greater abominations which they commit" (Ezek. 8:13). Then the Lord showed Ezekiel a picture of women weeping for a Babylonian deity and said, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these" (Ezek. 8:15). Finally, he showed Ezekiel twenty-five men in the temple, with their backs to the Lord and worshipping the sun instead. Here clearly we have degrees of increasing sin and hatefulness before God."*
- c. We can readily see how some sins have much more harmful consequences for ourselves and others and for our relationship with God. If I were to covet my neighbor's car, that would be sin before God. But if my coveting led me to*

actually steal the car, that would be more serious sin. If in the course of stealing the car I also fought with my neighbor and injured him or recklessly injured someone else as I drove the car, that would be even more serious sin."

d. "in terms of legal guilt, all sins are equally bad because they make us legally guilty before God and constitute us as sinners."

4. What happens when a person sins?

a. A Believer

- i. "When a Christian sins, his or her legal standing before God is unchanged. He or she is still forgiven, for "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Salvation is not based on our merits but is a free gift of God (Rom. 6:23), and Christ's death certainly paid for all our sins — past, present, and future — Christ died "for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3), without distinction. In theological terms, we still keep our "justification."*
- ii. "When we sin as Christians, it is not only our personal relationship with God that is disrupted. Our Christian life and fruitfulness in ministry are also damaged. Jesus warns us, "As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me" (John 15:4). When we stray from fellowship with Christ because of sin in our lives, we diminish the degree to which we are abiding in Christ."*

b. Unbeliever

- i. "While a genuine Christian who sins does not lose his or her justification or adoption before God, there needs to be a clear warning that mere association with an evangelical church and outward conformity to accepted "Christian" patterns of behavior does not*

guarantee salvation. Particularly in societies and cultures where it is easy (or even expected) for people to profess to be Christians, there is a real possibility that some will associate with the church who are not genuinely born again. If such people then become more and more disobedient to Christ in their pattern of life, they should not be lulled into complacency by assurances that they still have justification or adoption in God's family. A consistent pattern of disobedience to Christ coupled with a lack of the elements of the fruit of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace, and so forth (Gal. 5:22 – 23) is a warning signal that the person is probably not a true Christian inwardly, that there probably has been no genuine heart-faith from the beginning and no regenerating work of the Holy Spirit."

ii. "A long-term pattern of increasing disobedience to Christ should be taken as evidence to doubt that the person in question is really a Christian at all."

1. Wayne A. Grudem. "Systematic Theology.

CONCLUSION

We have taken a quick look (believe me when I say a quick look) at what it truly means to be spirit-filled, and asked the question does the classification of a spirit-filled person change (meaning are they still called a sinner)? The answer is now a little clearer, the former self has passed away, I am now a new creation, I am now justified by faith, I am now an adopted member of the family of God, I am now redeemed by the blood of the lamb of God, I am a sinner who is saved by God's grace. This classification allows for me to remember my former self, and cling to my redeemed self on a daily basis.

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

Acts 2:41–47

What is a Spirit-filled church? The best way to measure is to look at the early church of the book of Acts.

1. **A GROWING CHURCH** *"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47b).*
 - a. *Growth in attention—Acts 2:42. They continued in the apostles' doctrine which was true to God's Word.*
 - b. *Growth in attendance—Acts 2:46. They were daily in the temple.*
 - c. *Growth in affection—Acts 2:45. They sold their possessions and shared their money*
 - d. *Growth in attitude—Acts 5:29. They would rather obey God and suffer than obey men.*
2. **A GOING CHURCH** *"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).*
 - a. *People could not stop them—Romans 1:16. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel; criticism could not stop him.*
 - b. *Prisons could not stop them—Philippians 4:11. Wherever he was, Paul was content. Paul and Silas were even happy in prison (Acts 16:20–33).*
 - c. *Persecution could not stop them—Acts 20:24. Paul could say that despite his sufferings, nothing would make him give up Christ.*
 - d. *Problems could not stop them—Acts 6:1–15. All threats, and even murder, could not stop Stephen from serving Christ.*
3. **A GLOWING CHURCH** *The early believers changed their world (Acts 17:6).*
 - a. *The power—Acts 11:26. It was the world that called Christ's followers Christians.*

- b. *The prayer—Acts 4:13. Peter and John, though ignorant, showed Christ within them. This came as the result of prayer.*
- c. *The persuasion—Acts 26:28. This power of the Spirit caused people to do some serious thinking. The apostles had the power of Acts 1:8.*

4. A GROANING CHURCH

- a. *Crying for the lost—Acts 20:31. Paul’s love for the non-Christian caused him to weep for the lost.*
- b. *Concern for the lost—Romans 8:26. The Spirit intercedes for those who pray for the lost.*
- c. *Compassion for the lost—2 Corinthians 5:11. Knowing the judgment of God (Rev. 20:11–15), we seek to lead men to a saving knowledge of Christ. The psalmist tells us in Psalm 126:5, 6 how we should weep for the lost. (See also Isaiah 66:8, Jeremiah 9:1.)*

To reach the lost and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15), the church must be filled with the Spirit. Forms and rituals will not accomplish the Great Commission. Plans, programs, and even finance will not get the job done. As the church is filled with the Spirit, we will reach the lost with the gospel.⁹

⁹ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 40–41.

THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1).

There is no limit to the power of unity. The book of Acts demonstrates this fact. As the early church used this power, many people were helped and blessed through the miracles that took place. Satan seeks to divide, but the Spirit always unite.

1. **UNITY IN PRAYER**

- a. *Prayer with purpose—Acts 1:14. For ten days, 120 people prayed in unity for God’s power so that they could help accomplish His work.*
- b. *Promise of prayer—Acts 18:19. There is no limit to the power of united prayer.*
- c. *Power in prayer—Acts 4:31. United prayer brings unusual power (cf. James 5:16).*

2. **UNITY IN PENTECOST—Acts 2:1**

- a. *United in the purpose of God. They sought God until they had power to do His work (Luke 24:49).*
- b. *United in the desire for the power of God. They knew they could not do God’s work in their own strength.*
- c. *United in prayer unto God. They did not depend on any past experience nor on any wisdom or ability of their own. They needed God’s power.*

3. **UNITY IN PERSEVERANCE—Acts 2:46–47**

- a. *Consistent—“And they, continuing daily.” Once a week religion was not enough for the early believers; they needed God daily.*
- b. *Concern—“with one accord.” Denominational differences did not divide the early believers. They agreed, since they needed God’s power to do His work.*
- c. *Conversion—“And the Lord added to the church daily.” When men unite to do God’s work, God gives them power.*

4. **UNITY IN PERSECUTION**

- a. *Pleasure—Acts 5:40–41. The apostles were willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel.*

- b. *Preaching—Acts 8:1. Persecution scattered the Christians, but as they scattered, they preached the gospel. Persecution always strengthens the Christian as well as the church.*
- c. *Power—Acts 4:1–4. The apostles were told not to preach, but they could not remain silent. As the result, many people were converted.*

God's work suffers when various denominations cannot agree in working together to advance the kingdom of God. Some people seem to have no concern about the lost world, they only want to further their viewpoints. Time is short. God's people need to unite in reaching and winning the lost to Christ.¹⁰

¹⁰ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 43–45.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

1. **Fruit of the Spirit #1: Love** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love” (Gal. 5:22).

a. **DIVINE LOVE**—Matthew 22:37

- i. Love that worships God—John 4:24. This love is shown in our attendance at church, in our Bible reading, in our daily prayer, and in our daily Christian walk.
- ii. Love that waits on God—Isaiah 40:31. The love that causes us to wait on God will in turn cause us to receive strength and power.
- iii. Love that works for God—Mark 16:15. Love will cause us to fulfill the command of Christ. This command will be easy to obey.

b. **DEDICATED LOVE**

- i. Love for friends—Matthew 22:39. Loving others as we love ourselves is love from God. The natural man cannot have such love.
- ii. Love for foes—Matthew 5:44. We must love those who oppose us and show kindness to those who mistreat us. This may seem difficult, but with God’s help we can do it.
- iii. Love for the friendless—John 13:35. We show that we love Christ by loving others, not in words, but in deeds.

c. **DOMESTIC LOVE**

- i. Love that shows—Ephesians 5:25–33. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Women are to love their husbands in the same manner. Love will bring respect and respect will increase love.
- ii. Love that shelters—1 Timothy 5:8. If a man does not provide for his family he is worse than an unbeliever.

The husband should not only provide materially, but spiritually as well.

d. DESCRIPTION OF LOVE—1 Corinthians 13:4–7, 13, LB.

- i. Patient—vv. 4–5. Love is patient and kind. It is never jealous. This patient love comes from God as we obey Him.*
- ii. Praise—v. 6. Love never rejoices in failures, but in the truth, as well as in the success of others.*
- iii. Protection—v. 7. Love understands and forgives. It protects from all types of wrong and*
- iv. Permanent—v. 13. Faith, hope, and love remain. All are important, but love is the greatest. One may have great faith, yet not have love, or one may have hope, yet not have love.*

2. Fruit of the Spirit #2: Joy “But the fruit of the Spirit is joy” (Gal. 5:22).

a. THE PLAN OF JOY

- i. Christ’s birth brought joy—Luke 2:10. Christ brought good tidings of great joy to all people.*
- ii. Christ’s life brought joy—Acts 10:38. Wherever Christ went, He brought joy, through His teaching, ministry, healing, or miracles.*
- iii. Christ’s death brought joy—John 1:36. Because Jesus is the Lamb of God, we no longer need to make sacrifices. Through His death we have full forgiveness.*
- iv. Christ’s resurrection brought joy—John 14:19. Because He lives, we too shall live (cf. John 11:25, 26).*
- v. Christ’s ascension brought joy. Note Christ’s words before His ascension (John 14:1–3) and the angel’s words after Christ’s ascension (Acts 1:11).*

b. **THE POWER OF THIS JOY** He wants our joy to be full (John 16:24).

i. Joy in sorrow. Job's life.

1. Job lost all that he had (Job 1:21).

2. Job had faith in God (Job 12:15).

3. He knew God was alive (Job 19:25).

4. When Job was tried, he was as gold in a fire (Job 23:10).

5. Even in times of sorrow, Christians may find joy in the Lord (Ps. 30:5).

ii. Joy in sickness. (Paul had a thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12:9). Paul knew that God had a plan and purpose in everyday happenings of men (Rom. 8:28).

iii. Joy in suffering—2 Timothy 3:12. Persecution and suffering will come. Paul and Silas were in prison, yet they still sang praises to God (Acts 16:25).

c. **THE PERIL OF THIS JOY** - One may lose the joy of the Lord. David prayed for God to restore the joy of salvation (Ps. 51:12). One may lose this joy:

i. Anger. When one becomes angry, he loses the joy of the Lord.

ii. Criticism. Being critical toward others shows the lack of the joy of the Lord.

iii. Sin. Sin always separates men from God, causing them to lose the joy of the Lord. David is an example.

iv. Spiritual pride. This leads to criticism, as well as a fighting spirit.

d. Lack of patience. A patient person is a joyful person.

3. **Fruit of the Spirit #3: Peace** - "But the fruit of the Spirit is peace" (Gal. 5:22).

a. **SALVATION**

- i. *Peace because of our faith—Isaiah 26:6. By living close to God, we can have peace in our heart, life, and home.*
- ii. *Peace because of forgiveness—John 5:24. Since all our sins are forgiven, we do not have to be afraid to stand before God.*
- iii. *Peace because of following. He calls us to follow Him (Matt. 4:19). He then makes us what He wants us to be.*
- iv. *Peace because of fellowship—1 John 1:7. Knowing that we are cleansed from all sin, we can enjoy fellowship with other Christians.*

b. SECURITY

- i. *Our minds are free from worry—Philippians 4:7. He gives us peace in our hearts, souls, and minds.*
- ii. *Our minds are free from doubt if we trust God—Hebrews 11:1. We may not understand, but we trust Him in all things.*
- iii. *Our minds are free from unbelief. We please God by our faith (Heb. 11:6).*
- iv. *Our minds are free from fear—Isaiah 41:1. Fear destroys faith and trust in God.*

c. SATISFACTION

- i. *Peace—Psalm 29:11. The Lord will give peace to those who dedicate their lives to Him.*
- ii. *Promise—Isaiah 26:3. His strength and power keep us.*
- iii. *Power—John 16:33. In the world there will be trials and tribulation. However, Christ has overcome the problems of the world. He will give us peace.*
- iv. *Partition—Ephesians 2:14. He is our peace. Though we were once separated from God, Christ made a way for us to come back to God.*

d. SERENITY

- i. *Rest—Colossians 3:15. When God rules our hearts, we will have peace.*
- ii. *Redemption—Colossians 1:20. Through His blood we have not only forgiveness, but peace.*
- iii. *Relaxation—Romans 5:1. Because we are justified we have peace and a relaxed attitude at all times.*

4. **Fruit of the Spirit #4: Patience** "But the fruit of the Spirit is longsuffering [patience]" (Gal. 5:22).

a. **PATIENT IN TEMPTATION**

- i. *Reason for temptation—1 Corinthians 10:13. Be patient when you are tempted. God knows how much you can bear and will not allow you to be tempted beyond that. He will give you the strength that is needed to overcome all temptations.*
- ii. *Result of temptation—James 1:2, 3. Temptation teaches patience. Temptation is not sin until one yields to it.*
- iii. *Release from temptation—2 Peter 2:9. He knows how to deliver the godly from temptation. As we live godly lives, He will free us from all temptation.*
- iv. *Rewards in temptation—James 1:12. After we have been tried, He will reward us in heaven, as well as on earth.*

b. **PATIENT IN TROUBLES**

- i. *Attitude—Romans 12:12. Being patient during tribulation is one of the hardest things to practice. God doesn't always deliver from trouble, but He will help us go through it. Patience in trouble shows stability.*
- ii. *Affect—Hebrews 10:36. All need patience in time of trouble.*
 - 1. *Patience—"For ye have need of patience."*
 - 2. *Promise—"After ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."*

iii. *Answer—Psalm 40:1. Note how the psalmist waits patiently on the Lord. He was in no hurry. Isaiah tells the value of waiting before God (Isa. 40:31).*

c. PATIENT IN TRIALS

i. *The work of patience—James 1:4. We are to allow patience to have her perfect work. Patience not only tests us; it purifies us. It teaches us complete dependence on God and allows God to have His will and way. Trials teach more than a smooth life can.*

ii. *The waiting in patience—James 5:7. Be patient for the coming of the Lord. Though many long for His coming, we must remember He has a timetable. We must be patient, knowing that all our trials will end when He shall appear.*

iii. *The way of patience—Psalm 37:7. God is never late; He is always right on time.*

5. Fruit of the Spirit #5: Kindness *"But the fruit of the Spirit is gentleness [kindness]" (Gal. 5:22).*

a. THE PURPOSE OF KINDNESS—Colossians 3:12

i. *Kindness is more than words; it is deeds and actions.*

ii. *Humbleness of mind is realizing we are nothing without God.*

iii. *Meekness is putting Christ first.*

iv. *Longsuffering is needed for one to be kind.*

b. THE PRACTICE OF KINDNESS—Ephesians 4:32

i. *Considerate. "And be ye kind one to another." The Spirit-filled Christian is considerate of both Christians and sinners.*

ii. *Concern. "Tenderhearted." Kindness leads to charity. Charity is love in action. It sees men's problems, then helps.*

iii. *Christlike. "Forgiving one another." We need to practice the teaching of Christ by being forgiving.*

c. **THE PERSONALITY OF KINDNESS**—1 Corinthians 13:4, 5, LB

- i. *The patience of kindness—“Love is very patient and kind.”*
- ii. *The practice of kindness—“never jealous or envious.”*
- iii. *The practicality of kindness—“never boastful or proud.”*
- iv. *The pardon of kindness—“It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do wrong.”*

d. **THE PROOF OF KINDNESS**

- i. *Joseph—Genesis 50:18–24. Joseph forgave his brothers. He could have sent his brothers to prison for selling him as a slave, but he forgave and forgot the past.*
- ii. *David—2 Samuel 18:5. David forgave Absalom who was seeking to kill his father.*
- iii. *Christ—Luke 23:34. Upon the cross, Christ prayed that God would forgive those who were crucifying Him.*
- iv. *Stephen—Acts 7:60. Stephen forgave the religious leaders and others who were stoning him to death.*

6. **Fruit of the Spirit #6: Goodness** - “But the fruit of the Spirit is goodness” (Gal. 5:22).

a. **SUPERNATURAL GOODNESS**

- i. *Personality of God—Psalm 25:8. “The Lord is good and glad to teach the proper path to all who go astray” (LB).*
- ii. *Place of goodness—Psalm 33:5. The earth is filled with the goodness of the Lord. Should the Lord remove His goodness, men would be helpless and hopeless.*

- iii. *Pardoning goodness—Romans 2:4. It is God's goodness that leads men to repentance, and salvation. God doesn't have to forgive men of their sin. Men deserve punishment. It is only God's goodness that keeps men from being sent to hell.*
- iv. *Peace and goodness—Psalm 34:8. Here is an invitation to "taste and see" that the Lord is good.*

b. SENSIBLE GOODNESS

- i. *Practical goodness—Luke 6:27. We are to not only love our enemies, but to do good for them. This is not man's nature. Unless man lives in the Spirit, he cannot expect to fulfill God's rules.*
- ii. *Pity and goodness—Romans 12:20. It is easy to be good to those who are good to us and it is easy to help those who will repay us. But when our enemy is hungry we should feed him; if he is thirsty we should give him to drink.*
- iii. *Prayerful goodness—1 Thessalonians 5:15. Never return evil for evil. Always return good for evil. Only as we are filled with the Spirit will we be able to practice this.*

c. SPIRITUAL GOODNESS - "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (Ps. 23:6).

- i. *Reaping—Galatians 6:6-7. God promises that we will reap what we sow. We are always paid for what we do, whether it be good or evil.*
- ii. *Reward—Luke 6:38. If we give, God will give back. This includes our money, time, life, and work. Withhold from God, and He will withhold from you.*
- iii. *Results—Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2. "Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. Divide your gifts*

among many, for in the days ahead you yourself may need much help” (LB).

7. Fruit of the Spirit #7: Faithfulness - *“But the fruit of the Spirit is faith [faithfulness]” (Gal. 5:22).*

a. FAITHFULNESS IN LIVING FOR CHRIST

- i. Disrespect—Luke 6:46. If one truly loves Christ, he will obey and respect Him.*
- ii. Disregard—1 John 1:6. We cannot truly say we love God, but not practice our love for Him.*
- iii. Deliverance—John 8:32, 36. Christ sets men free from all sin. After we accept God’s gift of salvation, we must do something on our part—we must resist sin and temptation, keeping ourselves pure.*
- iv. Denouncing—Hebrews 12:1, 2. We are to put aside all things that may hinder us from looking unto Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.*

b. FAITHFULNESS IN LOVING CHRIST

- i. Complete love—Matthew 22:37, 39. Loving God first, we will love others as we love ourselves.*
- ii. Controlled love—Matthew 6:33. We can have a love strong enough to put Him first in all phases of our lives.*
- iii. Consecrated love—Proverbs 3:5, 6. Here is a very simple, yet safe rule to follow as Christians.*
- iv. Compassionate love—Acts 20:31. A love for Christ will lead to a love for the lost.*

c. FAITHFULNESS IN LEARNING OF CHRIST

- i. Learning God’s will—Psalm 143:10; Romans 12:1, 2. It is easier to find God’s will than to do His will.*
- ii. Learning God’s Word—Psalm 119:11; Joshua 1:8. Paul tells us to study God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15).*

iii. *Learning God's way—Matthew 4:19. As we follow Him, He will make us what He wants us to be.*

d. FAITHFULNESS IN LOOKING FOR CHRIST

i. *Promises of His coming—Acts 1:11. He will come the same way He left—in the clouds. We shall rise to meet Him.*

ii. *Person of His coming—John 14:3, "I will come again." There will be no substitute; Christ will come in person.*

iii. *Preparation for His coming—Matthew 24:44. We must be ready at all times for His coming.*

8. Fruit of the Spirit #8: Meekness - "But the fruit of the Spirit is meekness" (Gal. 5:23).

a. PROMISE OF MEEKNESS

i. *Practice—Matthew 18:4. Christians should humble themselves like children. Such will be great in heaven.*

ii. *Pleasure—Proverbs 22:4. Note how humility brings a three-fold blessing: riches, honor, and life. Although it is hard to practice meekness, there is great pleasure in practicing it.*

iii. *Paradox—Proverbs 29:23. Pride always brings men down. It makes them low in the sight of their fellowmen, as well as before God. God honors the meek.*

iv. *Personal—Isaiah 57:15. God's Spirit dwells in the life of all who have a meek spirit. Christ brings this meekness; Satan will seek to destroy it.*

b. PRACTICE OF MEEKNESS

i. *Personal—James 4:10. Humble self. A person does not pray for humility—he practices it. As he humbles himself, God will lift him up.*

ii. *Practice—1 Peter 5:5. We are to be clothed with humility.*

1. *God resists the proud.*
2. *He gives grace to the humble.*

iii. *Practical*

1. *Respect—Luke 22:26. Greatness and humility are found in being willing to serve others.*
2. *Realization—Romans 12:3. We must not deceive ourselves by thinking we are something we are not.*

iv. *Pleasure—Micah 6:8. Note the requirements from the prophet:*

1. *Do justly.*
2. *Love mercy.*
3. *Walk humbly with God.*

c. **PEOPLE WITH MEEKNESS** - *There are many examples, however, here are a few:*

- i. *Joseph—Genesis 50:16–21*
- ii. *Saul—1 Samuel 9:21*
- iii. *David—2 Samuel 7:18*
- iv. *Solomon—1 Kings 3:7*
- v. *John the Baptist—Matthew 3:14*
- vi. *Paul—1 Timothy 1:15*
- vii. *Centurion—Matthew 8:8*
- viii. *Syrophoenician woman—Matthew 15:27*

9. **Fruit of the Spirit #9: Self-Control** *"Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:23)*

a. **CONTROL OF OUR TIME**

- i. *Reviewing our time—Psalm 90:12. Knowing the shortness of life, we must adjust our time accordingly.*
- ii. *Remembering the importance of time—Ecclesiastes 12:1. Solomon had all one could ask or dream of, yet he forgot God.*

- iii. *Redeeming the time—Colossians 4:5. "Make most of your chances to tell others the Good News. Be wise in all your contacts with them" (LB).*
- iv. *Realizing the importance of time—Ephesians 5:15–16. "So be careful how you act; these are difficult days. Don't be fools; be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good" (LB).*

b. CONTROL OF OUR TEMPER

- i. *Patience and anger—Proverbs 16:32. We must control our tempers.*
- ii. *Practical advice—Ecclesiastes 7:9. It is never right to become angry quickly.*
- iii. *Punishment for anger—Matthew 5:22. The punishment for anger is God's judgment.*
- iv. *Practical attention—James 1:19. Christians should be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.*

c. CONTROL OF TALENTS—Matthew 25:15–30

- i. *Reason for talent—v. 15. God expects us to invest our talents or to use them to make a gain.*
- ii. *Rules with the talent—vv. 16–18. The five talents increased to ten, the two increased to four, and the one talent was hid in the ground.*
- iii. *Rewards for talents—vv. 19–23. God always rewards faithfulness.*

d. Rebuke for not using talent—vv. 24–30. If our talents are not used, they will be cast out.

e. CONTROL OF THE TONGUE

- i. *Slandering tongue—James 3:5–7. A sharp tongue can destroy others.*
- ii. *Surrendered tongue—Ephesians 4:31. All evil is removed from a surrendered tongue.*

iii. Sanctified tongue—James 1:26. If we do not control our tongues, our religion is vain.¹¹

¹¹ Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 47–59.

GIFTS GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Please note that the gifts are for the expansion of the kingdom, never to focus on the individual!!

1. **The Gifts** - 1 Corinthians 12:1- God has placed these nine gifts in the church to be used to advance the kingdom of God. They are not to be used for selfish reasons. When God entrusts any of these gifts to a person, that person should not feel spiritually superior.

a. THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

- i. To edify. To build up the Christian and the church. Always keep in mind, these gifts are to advance God's work.
- ii. To encourage. They are to encourage the Christian in every phase of their lives.
- iii. To enlighten. They help the Christian know right from wrong. Since Satan is supernatural and has power to deceive, we need a supernatural power to understand the true from the false.
- iv. To educate. These gifts can educate even the illiterate, as they are used for God's glory.
- v. To expose. These gifts will help us expose false spirits and religions.

b. THE PERSONALITY OF THESE GIFTS

- i. Spiritual gifts vs. natural gifts. Natural gifts are for personal help and enjoyment. Spiritual gifts are to share by helping others.
- ii. Spiritual gifts vs. fruit of the spirit. Fruit grows; gifts are given.
- iii. Spiritual gifts are given by God to those whom He knows will use them for His honor and glory. At times they are given to the most unlikely people. However, only God knows the hearts and minds of men.

c. THE POWER OF THESE GIFTS

- i. Power to discern. Spiritual gifts help us discern God's will and way. They also help us discern the nature of a problem, as well as a way to solve that problem.*
- ii. Power to denounce and destroy. Spiritual gifts are backed by the power to denounce the powers of sin, Satan, and sickness.*
- iii. Some fear the gifts of the Spirit because of past experiences with misuse of the gifts. God has a plan and purpose as to how these gifts are to be given and used. God will give these gifts to those who will use them for His glory.*

2. Gifts of Revelation - 1 Corinthians 12:8, 10

a. THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

- i. Explanation. This gift is not human intelligence. It is not knowledge gained from experience, nor is it skill or ability. This gift comes directly from God.*
- ii. Examples:*
 - 1. John on the island of Patmos is shown future events—Revelation 2–3.*
 - 2. Ananias received revelation of Saul's conversion in complete detail—Acts 9:11–12.*
 - 3. This gift used to expose a hypocrite—2 Kings 5:20–27.*
 - 4. The word of knowledge was used to reveal correction for the church—Acts 5:3.*
 - 5. This gift helped the disciples find a suitable meeting place for God's people—Mark 14:13–15.*
- iii. The word of knowledge may come by means of a dream or vision. However, dreams or visions should always agree with God's Word.*

b. THE WORD OF WISDOM

- i. *Explanation. The word of wisdom is the supernatural revelation by the Spirit for a divine purpose.*
- ii. *Examples:*
 - 1. *The wise men needed the word of wisdom to find the Christ child—Matthew 2:20.*
 - 2. *God showed His judgment to Noah by a word of wisdom—Genesis 6:13–22.*
 - 3. *The word of wisdom was used to assure God’s servant of His calling—Exodus 3; Acts 26:16.*

c. DISCERNING SPIRITS

- i. *Explanation. Discerning spirits is a gift given by the Holy Spirit, enabling a person to instantly discern between the Spirit of God and evil spirits. It is not human intelligence, experience, or ability. It is directly from God. It is not fortunetelling.*
- ii. *Evil spirits*
 - 1. *Satanic spirit—Matthew 24:24. Satan is able to deceive Christians.*
 - 2. *Seducing spirits—1 Timothy 4:1. These spirits are very deceptive. The Bible warns that we should “try the Spirits” (John 4:1).*

3. Gifts of Power - 1 Corinthians 12:9–10

a. THE GIFT OF FAITH

- i. *Explanation. This is not the faith spoken of in Hebrews 11:6. Paul used the phrase “to another faith” (1 Cor. 12:9). It is difficult at times to distinguish between the gift of faith and the gift of the working of miracles.*
- ii. *Examples:*
 - 1. *Personal protection—Daniel 6:16–17, 19–23.*
 - 2. *Personal provision during a famine—1 Kings 17; 19:4–8.*
 - 3. *Accepting God’s promises—Genesis 21:5; Romans 4:20.*

4. Deliverances from the lion's den—Hebrews 11:33.

5. Supernatural power—Matthew 17:20.

b. THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

i. *Explanation. A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature. A miracle takes place against natural laws.*

ii. *Examples:*

1. *The miracles in Egypt—Exodus 7–10.*

2. *Dividing the Red Sea—Exodus 14:16, 21–22.*

3. *Miracles of the manna and the water—Exodus 16–17.*

4. *Elijah and the prophets of Baal—1 Kings 18:25–46.*

5. *Elijah bringing fire from heaven—2 Kings 1:9–11.*

6. *Feeding the 5,000—Matthew 14:15–21.*

7. *Blinding Elymas—Acts 13:6–11.*

8. *Transporting Philip—Acts 8:38–39.*

c. THE GIFTS OF HEALING

i. *Explanation. These gifts are for the supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities without natural means. Instant healing or gradual healing may take place through these gifts.*

ii. *Examples:*

1. *Laying on of hands—Mark 16:18, 20.*

2. *Anointing oil and elders—James 5:13–15.*

3. *Handkerchiefs and aprons—Acts 19:12.*

4. *Peter's shadow—Acts 5:15.*

4. Gifts of Inspiration - 1 Corinthians 12:10 - The gifts that confuse people most are the three gifts of revelation. They have at times been misused mainly because of misunderstanding. As the result of this misuse, pastors and laymen have been afraid of

use of these gifts. If these gifts are used properly they can be a blessing to individuals, as well as the church as a whole.

a. GIFTS OF PROPHECY

i. Understanding. The Greek word for "prophecy" means to speak for another. Prophecy is a divine inspired and anointed utterance. It is a manifestation of God without using human knowledge. This gift may be had by all who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 14:31).

ii. Use.

1. For edification, exhortation and comfort—1 Corinthians 14:3.

2. It is not to be used for prediction. God's Word has given us the future.

3. It is not to be used for personal guidance. Men should use common sense and God's Word for this.

4. To convict the unbeliever—1 Corinthians 14:24–25.

5. GIFT OF TONGUES

a. Reason for this gift. This gift is to be used for God to speak to men. It is a supernatural utterance never learned by the speaker. These gifts were prophesied by Isaiah and by our Lord (Isa. 28:11–12; Mark 16:17).

b. Regulations of this gift.

i. It is used mostly for Christians—1 Corinthians 14:23–33.

ii. There is a difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4), and the gift used to help the church. Speaking in tongues in our personal devotion need not be interpreted.

iii. Governing—1 Corinthians 14:32, 23–33.

iv. Paul said that we should forbid not to speak in tongues (1 Cor. 14:39).

c. GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- i. Reason. The gift of interpretation of tongues is used to explain the meaning of the message given in tongues, so that all in the church may be helped (1 Cor. 14:5, 27).*
- ii. Regulation. The one speaking should pray that there be an interpretation (1 Cor. 14:13). Only one should interpret the message at one time. No more than three messages may be given in any one service (1 Cor. 14:27).¹²*

¹² Croft M. Pentz, [*Outlines on the Holy Spirit*](#), Sermon Outline Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 59–64.