

# THE PLAN OF SALVATION

**HEAR** the word of God, the Gospel, the New Testament:

Romans 10:13-17; John-6:44-45; Matthew 11:15; Acts 2:22;  
Acts 3:23; Acts 7:37; Acts 10:22,33; Acts 11:14

**BELIEVE** the Gospel and that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior, the  
Son of God: Mark 1:15; John 1:12; John 3:16; John 6:29,69;  
John 8:24; John 11:27; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37; Acts 13:39;  
Acts 19:4

**REPENT** of your sins: Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19;  
Acts 17:30; Acts 26:20

**CONFESS** faith in Jesus, that he is the Christ the Son of God:  
Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37; Matthew 10:32-33;  
Philippians 2:11

**BAPTISM** (immersion) into water for the forgiveness of your sins:  
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38,41; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 22:16; Romans  
6:3-6,17-18; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21;  
John 3:1-5

**LIVE FAITHFUL** to the Lord all your life, even if it costs you  
your life: Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Corinthians  
15:58; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:2; Revelation 2:10

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# Lectures

# On

# The

# Holy Spirit

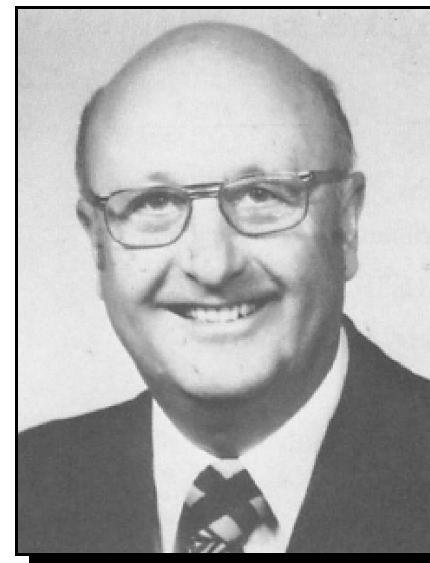
(With charts and Diagrams)

By

**Perry B. Cotham**  
(1912 – 2013)

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Perry B. Cotham



William M. Worthey

## INTRODUCTION

Any evangelistic or teaching effort has its own set of circumstances surrounding it. The outcome may not be dramatic or produce fruit immediately. The effort may even seem burdensome, being faced with surprise problems. But we believe the preaching of the truth is always profitable. God is always glorified; the church is once again established as the pillar and ground of the truth; Christians are edified in the faith; and sinners are instructed about the way of holiness. Such was the case, January 12-16, 1981, by the preaching of Perry B. Cotham on the work of the Holy Spirit.

The work of establishing a congregation in George Town, Grand Cayman, began in May, 1977. An evangelistic group from Florence, Alabama, directed by Harvey Starling baptized twelve people. Some Christians had already moved here from Jamaica due to political problems. Especially the Alburga family was centrally involved in planning and praying for a congregation to be established. In September 1977, my wife and I returned to preach under the oversight of the elders of the Amory Church of Christ, Amory, Mississippi. During the past four years, seventy five people have obeyed the gospel. Many move regularly to enter college in the United States or to find better employment. Thus, there is a constant movement in the congregation. People from many countries and islands have been in the fellowship at various times. Some are from Jamaica, America, Columbia, Nigeria, Haiti, and Guyana. To continue to reach other people, we sponsor a special evangelistic effort yearly, usually with the services broadcast over Radio Cayman.

The teaching on the Holy Spirit by Perry B. Cotham was additional to our evangelistic campaigns each summer. A group of workers did not accompany him. The purpose was a time of planting instead of reaping. Many listened with interest around the island by means of radio. The messages were new and so different to what most had been taught. Many expressed appreciation for the lessons. Seeing the need for further study and meditation, Perry B. Cotham has made available this book which includes his messages each night along with questions and answers.

Special appreciation is expressed to Patsy Alberga for typing the manuscripts. Whenever the church is engaged in good works, Patsy is always there to do her part.

To fully appreciate the following Biblical lessons, the errors of Pentecostalism must be understood. Especially, the fatal conclusions of such doctrines in the Holy Spirit movement must be

considered. Following is a discussion of some of the errors of that movement.

1) Centrally involved is the idea that there is a conflict between New Testament Christianity and reason. It is often stated that a good knowledge of the scriptures is good so far as it can go, but something else is involved. That something else is unexplainable. It is just called the mysterious working of the Holy Spirit.

We readily admit that there are many things we do not know or clearly understand. For example, Jesus taught that the Kingdom was like a man planting seed in the ground. The farmer would arise night and day and the seed would spring up and grow. And Jesus said, "And he knoweth not how" (Mark 4:26-29). But we do know that if we plant and water, God will give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6). We can only know what is revealed to us. And it has been revealed how faith is produced in the heart (Romans 10:17); and how Christians grow in the faith (1 Peter 2:2); and how the Kingdom is defended (Ephesians 6:17).

2) Another momentous error is violating simple rules of Bible study. For example, it is affirmed that all have been promised the "Spirit of truth" to guide us into all truth (see John 16:13).

In studying the scriptures, it is imperative to know to whom the specific message is intended. If this is ignored, confusion results. The Bible teaches that we should handle aright its message (2 Timothy 2:15), and not twist the scriptures to our own destruction (2 Peter 3:16).

The whole context of John chapters 13-17 reveals that Jesus was speaking to His Apostles. The promise was fulfilled in Acts 2 just after Jesus instructed the eleven Apostles to go into Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:1-8).

3) Often Hebrews 13:8 is quoted in an effort to teach that what Jesus once did, He always will do. But surely it is obvious that the passage refers to the character of Jesus, not His works. For example, should we expect Jesus to die again or be resurrected for each generation? If not, then Hebrews 13:8 does not teach what Jesus once did, He continues to do. As Brother Cotham pointed out, the verse also says "forever." Will Jesus heal the sick and raise the dead forever, even in heaven? What proves too much, proves nothing at all!

4) Involved in the Pentecostal movement is the belief that God speaks directly and privately to individuals. But notice the following passages:

- a. "Have not spoken in secret...." (Isaiah 45:19; 48:16).
- b. "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our

children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29).

- c. “For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner” (Acts 26:26).
- d. “Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing” (John 18:20).
- e. “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 13:35).

These verses are sufficient to show that God does not work secretly or speak privately to individuals in regard to eternal truth. Everything about Christianity demands public proclamation. Its message should be preached boldly, even from the housetops!

The gospel should be preached to every creature. What one person must know for his salvation, everyone needs to know! Therefore, the purpose for a book like the Bible is self evident.

It is recorded on several occasions in the scriptures that God or Jesus appeared directly to individuals and revealed matters to them. But notice, in every example, this pertained to God’s overall scheme of revealing the truth to be delivered once for all time. God spoke to Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Daniel, Job, and others. Angels appeared to Joseph and Mary. The Lord showed Himself to Paul on the road to Damascus. But all of these had to do with God’s work of revealing all the truth. Now that it has been revealed, we should not expect the Lord to speak directly to us about our salvation. God speaks to us by means of the Bible. Read John 6:44-45 and John 20:30-31.

5) It is thought by many that the Bible alone cannot be understood without the help of the Holy Spirit. But one passage clarifies the matter. Ephesians 3:3,4 reads: “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; as I wrote afore in few words, whereby when ye read, ye may understand by knowledge in the mystery of Christ....”

Paul says simply that when we read, we may understand. Note also the meaning of the words “revelation” and “reveal.” Do not they indicate that now the truth is known and can be understood? What good is a revelation that needs to be revealed?

Above are common errors of the Pentecostal movement. I trust that you will study the following messages with a mind searching the truth. Jesus said, “Seek and ye shall find.” And

John recorded, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17).

William M. Worthey  
April 6, 1981  
Grand Cayman

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## PREFACE

In January, 1981, it was my privilege to visit the lovely Grand Cayman Islands for the first time. I was grateful to be invited by Brother William Worthey and the church there to come and speak on the subject of the Holy Spirit and His work in the lives of people today. The five-night series was broadcast over Radio Cayman, one hour each service, which included the singing, prayers, announcements, as well as the sermons. Due to my missing a plane connection in Miami, Florida, as I was coming from a meeting in Barbados, I was unable to be present Monday night to deliver the lesson, so Brother Worthey gave the sermon in my stead. We also had two 15-minute morning radio programs in which questions and answers concerning “tongue-speaking” were used. All of these programs created much interest among the religious people of the Islands, and it was thought best to have the material printed for future study and for a greater number of people. The lessons, in a somewhat gist form, appear in the following pages, plus some charts and diagrams that I often use in lessons on this general topic. (We were unable to secure the tapes of the two morning radio programs). There are many grievous and fatal errors relative to the Holy Spirit and His work.

The religious world is so involved in “Pentecostalism” or the so-called “Charismatic Movement” that a study of this kind is always of special interest to those who are searching for the truth. Many take the language of Jesus, which was addressed to His Apostles, found in John chapters 14, 15, and 16, and make it applicable to all believers today. Then they talk about the illumination of the Holy Spirit, that we can depend upon the Holy Spirit for guidance and in interpretation. This does not mean that Christians in the 20th century are promised this aid today. Jesus did not promise the baptism of the Holy Spirit to all His followers. Yet the religious world is being flooded with such false doctrine in many books and tracts. This shows the utter unreli-

ability of denominational treatises on the work of the Holy Spirit. It is sad indeed when members of the church will read such material for instruction touching the Spirit's work rather than to go to the Word of God and the writings and debates of the early great men of the Restoration. No wonder we have so much false ideas about the Holy Spirit today in the church.

Does the Holy Spirit work in conversion? Yes, but **how? It is only through the Word.** Does the Holy Spirit lead, guide, direct, and strengthen the child of God? Yes, but **it is through the inspired teaching of the Spirit.** Alexander Campbell affirmed in the great *Campbell-Rice Debate* held in Lexington, Kentucky 1843: **"In Conversion and Sanctification, the Spirit of God operates on Persons only through the Word."** Faithful gospel preachers have ever been willing to thus affirm on the polemic platform. N. B. Hardeman in the *Hardeman-Bogard Debate*, held in Little Rock, Arkansas, 1938, said: "But **how** does the Spirit operate? That is the question. My answer, first, last and all the time, is that He influences through the gospel, which is God's power. The Word is the medium through which the Spirit accomplishes His work" (p.21). Does the Holy Spirit dwell in the heart of a Christian? Yes, but **how? It is through one's obedience to the gospel.** The Spirit does not dwell in one who does not follow or obey the teaching of the Spirit. H. Leo Boles, in his work *The Holy Spirit, His Personality, Nature, Works*, says: "...the Holy Spirit dwells in us through His agent, the word of truth. ... When the word of Christ dwells in Christians, the Holy Spirit dwells in them. ... Neither God nor Christ dwells personally in us" (p.207).

The question is, does the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians literally, or by a *medium*, the word of truth? How did Paul have the Philippian saints in his heart (Phil. 1:7)? To say I do not know how the Spirit dwells in me, just as I do not know how my spirit dwells in my body, is dodging the issue. What does the Bible teach on the subject? *The Holy Spirit does not operate on the mind of man to convict of sin and convert and teach and guide, separate and apart from the word, or in addition to the word. The Spirit never operates independently, separate and apart from, the means – the word of God. There is not one thing said to be done by God's Spirit to man for his soul's salvation but that the same thing is said to be done by the Word.* God uses the Word as the means by which the Spirit today operates; so what one does the other is said to do. Again from Boles: "The Holy Spirit...dwells in Christians through the Word of God...as Christians obey the truth of God and live faithful to His Word, the fruit of the Spirit is the natural result" (p.232). "...The only way

to receive the Holy Spirit is to receive His teaching. ... The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians to the extent that they receive the teaching of the Spirit" (p.273). "By the truth of the gospel, people are lead to become Christians and are guided in the Christian life." "The Holy Spirit leads all the same way." "To follow the New Testament is to follow the Holy Spirit" (p.241). "What the New Testament says to one it says to all; what it commands one alien sinner to do it commands everyone to do" (p.296).

In James W. Zachary's book *The Witness of the Spirit* the following statements are found:

"The personal habitation of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit is in heaven, and they only dwell in Christians by faith and through the influence of wisely adapted **means and medium**" (p.51).

"The Bible teaches that God dwells in Christians, that Christ lives in Christians, and that the Holy Spirit abides in Christians; but it does **not** teach that either God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit exists in any man in the sense of real personality. (See Eph. 4:6; I Cor. 3:16; Col. 3:1-4; Eph. 2:22; Col. 1:27)" (p.50).

"...All spiritual knowledge is obtained through the Spirit's revelation" (p.54). "The Spirit now impresses us through **revealed truth**" (p.61).

"...**All spiritual knowledge** is obtained through the Spirit's revelation" (p.82).

"In religion we should not be anything, do or teach anything, except as the Holy Spirit directs. 'For as many as are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.' (Rom. 8:14). The Holy Spirit leads no man **except by his teaching**" (p.211).

Many have difficulty in thinking of the Holy Spirit as a Person, as Deity (God); they want to think of Him as "an influence," "a power," "a fluid." Too, many fail to see the difference in the Holy Spirit's work of inspiring the Apostles to reveal and confirm the truth, and the Holy Spirit's work through the recorded truth in converting men to Christ and building them up spiritually. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit was never to save anyone.** It is not necessary to conversion to Christ.

In *Life and Sermons of Jesse L. Sewell* we note these pertinent statements regarding the operation of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people today:

"...We do not read in all the book of God of even one that was made a believer in Jesus Christ by a direct operation of the Spirit on the heart without the word" (p.186).

"We feel sure that the theory that the Spirit operates

directly without the word of God in the conversion of sinners is not taught in the word of God and that therefore it must have originated in the theories of uninspired men and is well calculated to deceive the people” (p.187).

“And the words of the Spirit when written in the Bible are no less the words of the Spirit than they were when spoken by the inspired Apostles” (p.187).

“...No sinners can be converted and saved now until they hear the word of God and believe and obey it” (p.188).

“And we regard this teaching that the word of God is a dead letter and that there must be an immediate operation of the Spirit before the sinner can be converted as a very dangerous doctrine” (p.189).

The student of the Bible will find in Ashley S. Johnson’s book *The Holy Spirit and the Human Mind* much good material. Too, *Clark Braden and G. W. Hughey Debate*, held in 1868, contains an excellent discussion of the operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion, and so does the *Moody-Harding Debate*. Another good book is *The Spirit and the Word* by Z. T. Sweeney.

Writing on the subject of the Holy Spirit, Alexander Campbell said: “Christians are, therefore, clearly and unequivocally temples of the Holy Spirit; and they are quickened, animated, encouraged, and sanctified by the power and influence of the Spirit of God, working in them through the truth” (*The Christian System*, p. 68). Note: **through the truth**.

“God and Christ never personally occupied anyone; and for the same reason the Holy Spirit does not personally occupy anyone,” said Foy E. Wallace, Jr. He also stated: “It is here proposed in the form of a proposition that whatever influence is ascribed to the Holy Spirit within us in the New Testament is affirmed also of the Word of God. ... The Holy Spirit operates upon and within the heart of man only through the Word. The Word of God is not a person, it is a medium ... the Word is not the Spirit, but it is the medium through which the Spirit operates upon and dwells within us, therefore the medium of reception. The men who are teaching the direct operations and indwellings of the Holy Spirit today ... are repeating the mistakes and blunders of the denominational clergy through all time since the origination of their doctrines of inherited sin, direct operation of the Holy Spirit, and impossibility of apostasy – they all go together, and they stand or fall together. If the Holy Spirit operates upon or dwells within the heart without the Word, what does He do that is not affirmed of the Word?” (*The mission and Medium of the Holy Spirit*, pp. 7,12,13,64,66,34).

Does the fact that miracles were done in the early church by the Apostles and some baptized believers prove that they can be done today? NO! We need to learn the facts as to how long, how, and when believers (Mark 16:17) possessed miraculous powers. Other passages teach that these signs followed believers only for a limited time — they ceased. Commenting on the promise of miraculous power in Mark 16:17, J. W. McGarvey said:

“The promise is, not that these signs shall follow for any specified time, nor that they should follow each individual believer; but merely that they shall follow ‘the believers’ taken as a body. They did follow the believers during the apostolic age – not every individual believer, but all, or nearly all, organized bodies of the believers. This was a complete fulfillment of what was promised. ... he who affirms that the signs do yet follow the believers, should present some ocular demonstration of the fact before he asks the people to believe his assertion. . . . Paul’s expectation was that prophesying, speaking in tongues, and miraculous knowledge, would vanish away (I Cor. 13:8); and so they did with the death of the Apostles and of those to whom they had imparted miraculous gifts” (Commentary on Matthew and Mark, p.375).

These miraculous powers had to cease when the last man on whom the last Apostle laid hands died. Since these miraculous powers could be given only through the Apostles (Acts 8:18); it follows that when all the Apostles died there was no one on earth to lay hands on people and give them this power; and upon the death of the last man on whom the Apostles laid hands there was not anyone on earth who could work miracles. Hence, miracles have ceased. The Word of God has been given and confirmed. “All so-called miracle workers today are fakes” (II Thess. 2:9). (Franklin Camp, *The Work of the Holy Spirit*, p.122)

The Gospel Plan of Salvation, a book written by Dr. T. W. Brents, has long been recognized as an outstanding work on material to refute denominational errors. His last chapter is devoted to the Holy Spirit. After pointing out that the persons represented by the pronoun “you” in the sentence, “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost,” referred to the Apostles; and the language of Jesus, “Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (Acts 1:5) referred to the Apostles, to whom Jesus was speaking, he said: “We have a rule in grammar saying: ‘Pronouns must agree with the nouns for which they stand, in gender, number, and persons.’” Then he added, “That Christians are now such subjects is the matter to be proved — to assume it is to assume the whole controversy” (pp.577-578).

**“...There is now no such thing as Holy Spirit baptism, and hence ... there is not a man, woman, or child, alive today who has been the subject of it” (p.587).**

The author is very clear in describing the “measures of the Spirit” — (1) baptism of the Spirit, (2) miraculous gifts of the Spirit, and (3) the ordinary non-miraculous gift of the Spirit to all Christians today. Speaking of the Son of God, John the Baptist said: “God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him” (John 3:34). This language clearly implies...that God gave the Spirit by measure to others (p.594). He states that the baptism of the Spirit was a promise, not a command, a miracle performed by Jesus Himself. The miraculous gifts of the Spirit were always bestowed by apostolic hands. “The baptism of the Holy Spirit was not the measure of it which Peter and John designed to confer upon the disciples at Samaria” (p.590). The baptism of the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost and the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius. The ordinary measure of the Spirit was received by “the hearing of faith” (see Gal. 3:2). The Holy Spirit “in some sense dwells in every Christian.” “...Some mix up the baptism, gifts, reception, and operation of the Holy Spirit” (p.600). “...It is easy to see when and how these signs, or spiritual gifts, ceased. As none but the Apostles, as instruments in the hands of God, had power to impart this endowment of the Spirit to those who believed and obeyed the gospel, it is obvious that when they died, the power to work miracles necessarily ceased to be conferred upon any person; and when all died who had received the power at the hands of the Apostles, they, of course, ceased to be performed” (p.602-603).

Does the Spirit operate today in conversion? Yes, but how? How does He do it? The work is done through the gospel (Rom. 1:16). Does the Christian need anything extra in addition to the word of God? No, the scriptures “not only **furnish him**, but **thoroughly** furnish him, not only to **some good works** but to **all good works**” (p.613). (II Tim. 3:16, 17; cf. II Peter 1:3)

“If God has given us a full and perfect revelation of His mind and will concerning the redemption, conversion, salvation, government, spiritual growth, and final happiness of man in His Word, what need have we for influences of, or communications from, the Spirit without the Word? We cannot conceive of an impression necessary to be made upon the heart of man which the Word of the Lord is not capable of making” (p.630).

“If you tell us you do not want influences of the Spirit without the Word, but an accompanying influence with the Word, then is this not an attack upon the sufficiency and truth of the Word? ... If the Spirit makes impressions through our feelings not con-

veyed by words, we would like to have the rule of interpretation” (p.631). “Finally, this doctrine opens the door to every species of imposition as wide as the speculations of men may desire it” (p.632). “...We do not live in the days of miracles” (p.634).

“The church is God’s spiritual family, into which we enter as “babes in Christ” (I Cor. 3:1). And we are admonished, “as newborn babes, to desire the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2). Reading and feeding upon this spiritual food, the children of God are “filled with the Spirit” – not because the Word is the Spirit, for it is not – but because the Spirit is ever present in the inspired Word, and the service appointed therein is God’s ordained means of giving them the Spirit. Hence, says Paul: “Let the word of God dwell in you richly, in all wisdom, Col. 3:16” (p.647).

Again from Boles: “God gave the Holy Spirit in his fulness without measure to Christ as the Messiah; he gave the Spirit by ‘measure’ to Apostles, prophets, and others; that is, they had the Holy Spirit in modified degrees” (p.126).

It is very necessary that one understands these three portions of power of the Holy Spirit as set forth in the New Testament: (1) Baptism of the Spirit (Apostles on Pentecost and later Paul, and the household of Cornelius), direct from heaven by Christ; (2) Miraculous gifts, bestowed by the laying on of the hands of an Apostle; and (3) the ordinary, non-miraculous indwelling common to all Christians, through obedience to the word.

Today we have the complete Word of God, inspired by the Spirit, and this is sufficient to furnish us unto all good works, and Christians are urged to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3; II Tim. 3:16-17). There, in the Holy Scriptures, the Spirit speaks to us, and He does not speak to us elsewhere.

I quote from Z. T. Sweeney, *The Spirit and the Word*: “That the Christian is led, guided and strengthened by the Spirit cannot be denied by any Bible reader. To deny the fact that the Spirit dwells in us is to deny the Bible. But it is asserted with equal clearness that God dwells in us (2 Cor. 6:16). This not only says that God will dwell in us, but that He walks in us. It is also clearly taught that Christ dwells in us (Eph. 3:17).”

“Now, if God, Christ and the Spirit dwell in us, is there any teaching that the Spirit dwells in us in a different sense from that in which the Father and the Son dwell in us? How, then, does the Father dwell in us? ...How does Christ dwell in us? ...How does the Spirit dwell in us?” In Gal. 3:2, Paul asked the Galatians: “Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of the faith?” – or the gospel. The above Scriptures

clearly teach that when the Words, thoughts and Spirit of God are controlling in our lives, God dwells in us; that when the gospel controls us, Christ dwells in us; that when we receive the gospel by the hearing of faith, the Spirit dwells in us.

“Now, what reason has any man for declaring that the Spirit dwells in us in any other way, unless he can point to an explicit declaration of God’s Word defining and explaining that other way? ... Now, when a man says, ‘I am conscious of the presence of the Holy Spirit within me,’ he simply means, I am conscious of a feeling within me which I have been taught was caused by the Holy Spirit.’ If the man has been taught wrong, he assigns a wrong cause for the feeling. ...In the absence of clear testimony, what right has anyone to attribute such feeling to the personal presence of the Holy Spirit?” (p.117-120)

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“In the above cases we have covered all the conceivable things a direct indwelling Spirit could do for one, and have also shown that all these things the Spirit does through the word of God. It is not claimed that a direct indwelling of the Spirit makes any new revelations, adds any new reasons or offers any new motives than are found in the word of God. Of what sense, then, would a direct indwelling Spirit be?” (p. 125-126).

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“The Spirit maketh intercession for us. This is not a work done “in us” nor “upon us,” but something done “for us” before the throne of God. We cannot dogmatize as to how the Spirit maketh intercession, but Paul says he does it ‘according to the will of God.’ This is a fact that appeals to our faith and not to our Christian experience. ... We can also draw comfort from the fact that Christ ‘ever liveth to make intercession for us,’ though we have no knowledge as to how He does it.” (p. 135-136).

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“...There is not one who can give any definite reason why he is conscious of the personal indwelling of the Spirit within him.” (p. 85).

A fine book on questions and answers from the “Bible is Questions and Answers OPEN FORUM” Freed-Hardeman College Lectures by Guy N. Woods. In this book one will find several questions relating to the Holy Spirit and His work. Also, the Franklin-Woods Debate has much good material on miracles having ceased once the complete Word of God was given and confirmed. Maurice W. Lusk, III has published “The Indwelling of Deity – A Critical study of the New Testament Teaching on the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.” One will also profit by reading the Nichols-Weaver Debate. Brother Nichols affirmed (second propo-

sition): “The Scriptures teach that the signs and miracles done by the Apostles and other disciples, as recorded in the New Testament, were to cease, or be done away, at the close of the apostolic age, or by the time the complete will of God was revealed and confirmed in the New Testament.”

Other good books on this subject are: “The Work of The Holy Spirit” by Franklin Camp; “Pat Boone and The Gift of Tongues” by James D. Bales; and some of the writings of Foy E. Wallace Jr. Others could be mentioned but these should be sufficient for those who would like to do further research.

I trust the reader of this book will understand that *God has chosen to reveal His will through ideas expressed in words*; that the inspired Word of God is living and active (Heb. 4:12); that the Holy Spirit today, as on the day of Pentecost, pricks the heart of man with His words, and not in some direct “touch” or divinely given “feeling” or some “better felt than told” experience. The gospel is still God’s power to save (Rom. 1:16). In love we must preach and teach the gospel plainly to those who are dying in sin all over the world.

God has revealed His will to men. But God used human beings for the revelation of His will – men guided by the power of the Holy Spirit – and that will is recorded in the Bible. To ignore these facts leads one into the wildest fanaticism. Moreover, at the close of the apostolic age, God completed the revelation of His will and stopped. The Apostles and prophets spoke first, then wrote – but they did both under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:6-13; Eph. 3:3-5). All the Apostles are dead and all the co-workers on whom they laid their hands have died, but the inspired Word, “the seed of the kingdom,” abides, and will abide forever. Today, “the sword of the Spirit,” the Word of God, always cuts when unsheathed. It matters not by whom wielded.

As Ashley S. Johnson so ably said: “It took the Resources of an Infinite and Eternal Mind to conceive of and make a grain of wheat with power to grow, and produce itself in its kind; but once made, with Divine power in it to live and multiply, any man, however circumscribed, can sow it! It took the Resources of the Infinite Mind to originate and unfold the plan of salvation, to create and reveal ‘the seed of the kingdom,’ but anyone who has the seed can sow it; and anyone who knows the story can and must tell it aloud and abroad” (p.128).

Yes, God has revealed that which was once secret – the great truths of Christianity (Rom. 16:25, 26; Gal. 1:12), and man can understand and obey God’s will and be saved, and he will be held accountable for not obeying the Word of God. The whole remedial scheme has been revealed by the Holy Spirit through the



Apostles and is on record in the New Testament. God desires that all men come to the knowledge of the truth, obey it, and be saved. Whoever therefore resists revealed truth, recorded truth, resists the Holy Spirit.

Those who teach doctrines contrary to the revealed word of God and who teach contradictory doctrines among themselves, although claiming to be guided by the Holy Spirit, are wrong. (The inspired apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, never contradicted one another; and those who had spiritual gifts never contradicted an apostle.) Furthermore, those who teach a direct, personal, non-miraculous indwelling and operation of the Spirit today in the heart of the Christian, apart from the Word of God, and in conjunction with the Word, are likewise in religious error. The New Testament is God's complete and final revelation of His will to man, and we can know that will for our lives by reading the inspired Book.

*June 22, 1981 — Perry B. Cotham*

## THE WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Monday night lecture, Jan. 12th, 1981

Speaker: **William M. Worthey**

This subject of the Holy Spirit extends itself into every aspect of Christian doctrine and living. It challenges even the most mature Christian to meditate and to think discerningly and particularly. The Father-Son-Holy Spirit relationship demands sober meditating – concentration. A broad knowledge of all that the Bible says on the Holy Spirit is a must. To base belief and behavior only on a few passages is dangerous indeed. It is important to point out as we begin this discussion that *all that can be known this side of heaven about the Holy Spirit is what the Bible teaches!* The Bible is the primary source of knowledge about any Christian doctrine.

For tonight, consider this one aspect of this subject: the relationship of the Word of God to the Holy Spirit.

Primarily, there are two schools of thought in regard to this relationship. One popular line of thought proceeds in this fashion. It is claimed that, in addition to the divinely inspired scriptures, the Holy Spirit still imparts truth to individuals privately and personally. This pattern of thought suggests that the Bible is a cold, written message and is not completely understandable or totally helpful in living the Christian life. It is affirmed that something else is needed other than the Bible.

The second school of thought that I maintain is correct according to the scriptures, is that the Holy Spirit revealed the scriptures which are able to thoroughly furnish the Christian into every good work (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

- We believe that the scriptures are understandable when we read them (Eph. 3:4).
- We believe that the way the Holy Spirit convicts the sinner and sanctifies the Christian is by the use of the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17).
- We believe that preachers should spend time in study before addressing an assembly, instead of expecting direct guidance of the Spirit (I Tim. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 2:15).

Much confusion would be cleared away if the following points would be remembered:

- 1) Both covenants, old and new Testaments, were written by holy men as directed by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).
- 2) The promise of direct guidance into all truth was made to the Apostles (see both John 16:13 and Acts 1:1-5).

- 3) This guidance guaranteed to all mankind that the scriptures would be without human error.
- 4) The scriptures can be understood when read (Eph. 3:4). The very word “reveal” means to make known, to unveil that which was hidden.
- 5) The Bible (its message) is alive and powerful in instructing and saving both sinner and saint (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16).
- 6) If the Holy Spirit still guides men directly into truth today, then it naturally follows that the Bible is not complete or sufficient as it claims.
- 7) We believe that it is important to understand to whom John 16:13 was spoken.

These two schools of thought discussed above get further apart the farther one goes in Bible study and application. A person cannot cleave to both these lines of thought at once. They are opposites!

It is interesting to notice that the origin of the idea that man is so sinful and dulled by sin that he cannot even understand the Bible came from man. It may have existed before, but certainly John Calvin erroneously stressed that point. He taught that man was totally depraved and could not turn to God or even understand anything about God until the Holy Spirit illuminated his mind and convicted his heart directly and personally.

First Corinthians 2:14 is often referred to in an effort to teach that a “natural” person cannot understand the things of God. The verse reads: *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

This verse cannot mean that a sinner cannot read and understand the scriptures! This would directly conflict with Paul’s plain statement that “when we read, we can understand” (Eph. 3:4). The “natural man” is the “uninspired man.” Paul is discussing “how” man can come to know God and His will. The answer is that God must reveal Himself to man. This He **did** by the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10). Now that the truth (scripture) has been revealed, all can read and know the things of God.

Many openly teach that the scriptures **alone** will not convert sinners. The claim is made that the Holy Spirit works separate and apart from His instrument — the Word. Note the following quotation from “The Mission of the Spirit” by L.R. Dunn:

“Even where the light of the gospel does not shine, and the institutions of the gospel are not enjoyed, there the Spirit acts directly upon man’s heart and conscience...”

From a sermon entitled “The Baptist Pulpit” by Rev. J. W. Hayhurst, this statement was made:

“God has given us no means by which the conversion of sinners or the general revival of religion, can be effected, irrespective of the direct agency of the Spirit. The gospel itself will not do it.”

Now in comparison, read what the Bible says about the subject.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (II Cor. 4:3, 4).

Mr. Dunn’s statement above is in direct conflict with the Apostle’s statement! Now compare Mr. Hayhurst’s quotation with Romans 1:16.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Peter further said that “according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...” (2 Peter 1:3). We conclude from these verses that the powerful gospel of Christ, when preached and read, is sufficient to instruct and turn the sinner to God and provide the Christian with all things necessary unto every good work!

It seems that all the confusion results from overlooking a very simple matter. If a man cuts down a tree with an axe, it could be said that the man cut down the tree. Someone else might say that the axe did the job. We would clearly understand both statements. There is no contradiction. But the whole story is that the man used an axe to cut down the tree. In like manner, many verses say that both the Spirit and the Word do the very same thing (see page 56). It does not mean that both do the particular thing separate and apart from one another. Can an axe cut a tree down by itself? Or, can a man cut a tree down with his bare hands? In like manner, the Spirit uses the Word as His sword to defend the Kingdom and prick the hearts of sinners (Eph. 6:17).

Consider these verses: Luke 8:11 says that “the seed [of the kingdom/church] is the word of God.” First Peter 2:2 instructs “new born babes to desire the sincere milk of the Word to grow thereby.” Ephesians 6:17 teaches that “the sword of the Spirit is the word of God.” So then, it is by the Word that the (1) kingdom is established, that (2) new Christians grow, and that (3) the kingdom is defended. Since the Word was revealed by the Spirit, we could also say that the Spirit does these same things.

Below are a few verses where both the Word and the Spirit are said to accomplish the same thing.

<u>HOLY SPIRIT</u>	<u>WORK</u>	<u>WORD OF GOD</u>
Gal. 5:22	“brings fruit in our lives”	Col. 1:5-6
Eph. 3:16	“gives strength”	Acts 20:32
2 Thess. 2:13	“sanctifies”	John 1:17

(A more lengthy list is found on page 56)

We conclude that the Spirit accomplishes His work by using an instrument, the Word of God, instead of working directly upon the minds of people.

## MESSAGE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Tuesday Jan. 13th, 1981

Speaker: **Perry B. Cotham**

This is indeed a great series of studies on the Holy Spirit. In our King James Version sometimes the term “Holy Ghost” is used. So both are acceptable to use. Now then, I will not have time to cover all the aspects of this subject. But we will cover as much as possible tonight and will continue through Friday night.

I want you to understand the Bible teaching on the Holy Spirit and His work in the lives of individuals today. First of all, we need to understand that **all we can learn about the Holy Spirit comes from the Bible**. And, so I am concerned about what the Bible teaches, not what someone might think or feel.

Now, we need to understand in the first place, that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, one of the members of the Godhead. He is not just some kind of force or influence. The eternal Godhead consists of God the Father, God the Son (or Word), and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is as much a person as Jesus Christ. Some people do not understand that. Jesus gave the Great Commission and mentioned these three persons. He said that the disciples should go and baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19).

The Holy Spirit had a part in the creation of the universe, and the organization of the materials, and setting things in order in the natural realm. “Let us make man in our own image” refers to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working in the creation of man (Gen. 1:26).

The Holy Spirit also directed the Old Testament writers in giving the Word of God. Second Peter 1:21 says that *“the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* “Moved” means influenced by, directed by, the Holy Spirit. For example again in Acts 1:16, Peter said that “the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas.” Therefore, we would understand that David wrote this by the direction of the Holy Ghost. So, the Word of God is inspired by the Holy Spirit. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Tim. 3:16).

When Jesus was about ready to leave this earth and return to the Father, He gave instructions to His Apostles in John chapters 14, 15, and 16. These instructions dealt with the coming of the Kingdom and the great truths of Christianity shortly to be revealed. He said, “I am going away, but another Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, will come and guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). So, the Apostles would have divine power when they went forth preaching things concerning the Kingdom of God. The establishment of the Lord’s church would have divine guidance. His Word would be preached without error. The New Covenant would be given by the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, Jesus said in Luke 24:49, “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” After the ascension of Jesus, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem and waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them. That is, they would have “power from on high.” They would be guided, influenced directly in their work by the Holy Spirit. They went forth preaching repentance and remission of sins in Christ’s name, beginning at Jerusalem. Jesus said, just before He ascended, that the Apostles would receive “the promise of the Father” not many days hence (Acts 1:4-5).

The “not many days” were about ten days. Jesus was alive on earth from the resurrection until His ascension for 40 days. From Passover to Pentecost is fifty days. Therefore, for ten days the Apostles waited for the coming of this power from on high.

This promise of being baptized in the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. Only the Apostles received this baptism, not the one hundred and twenty disciples. Acts 1 and verse 2 shows that the promise was made to the Apostles. Acts 2 uses the pronouns “they” and “them,” referring to the Apostles from Acts 1:26. Those who received this power were Galilaeans (Acts 2:7), but surely not all the one hundred and twenty were Galilaeans. Peter stood up with the eleven defending their actions (Acts 2:14). Thus, all the evidence shows

that only the Apostles received this power from the Holy Spirit.

The word “baptism” used in Acts 1:15 is surely figurative. The word literally means to dip, plunge, overwhelm. So, the Apostles were immersed in, overwhelmed, by the Holy Spirit. They were completely influenced by and directed by the Holy Spirit.

When the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they began to speak with “other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 1:4). I will stop right here and let the Lord define “speaking in other tongues.” Acts 2:8 shows the meaning: “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?” The Apostles were speaking in the **languages** of the Jews from many different countries (Acts 2:6, 11). They were able to do this by the influence of the Holy Spirit upon them. Today we have to learn those languages.

Just speaking syllables that no one can understand does not meet the Bible definition of tongue-speaking. No one today has had the baptism of the Holy Spirit. No one has had an Apostle to lay hands upon him (Acts 8:18). Thus no one today can speak in languages (tongues) that he has not studied.

Jesus commanded the Apostles to go into all the world and preach to every creature. To help in carrying out this great task the Lord gave them this power to speak other languages.

Following this great outpouring on Pentecost day, Luke records that “many wonders and signs were done by the apostles” (Acts 2:43). Also, Peter and John healed the lame man (Acts 3:1-8). In Acts 9, Peter raised Dorcas. Paul raised Eutychus from the dead in Acts 20. All these signs were done by the Apostles for several years after Pentecost. Why were all these wonders and signs performed? The answer is to **confirm the Word** (Heb. 2:3-4; Mark 16:20). This means that they proved the Word to be from God by doing supernatural things, which also proved them to be messengers of God. Magicians can perform tricks and deceive people, but they cannot raise the dead!

Notice the reading of Hebrews 2:3-4:

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation: which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed** unto us by them that heard him: God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

The Holy Spirit also directed the recording of “all truth” for men of all ages. Paul wrote:

“If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few

words, whereby, when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” (Eph. 3:2-5).

We learn God’s will today by reading what inspired men wrote as directed by the Holy Spirit. No one today is inspired to write scripture or to preach without studying. Today, we have an inspired Book to read and study.

When the Lord was ready for the gospel to go unto the Gentiles (as recorded in Acts 10 and 11), Cornelius was told to send for Peter who would tell him words whereby he and his house would be saved. Peter went to Caesarea with six Jewish brethren. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his household as on the Apostles at the beginning (Acts 10:44; Acts 11:15). “The beginning” refers to Acts 2 when the church had its beginning on earth. This was the beginning of the Christian age. The purpose of this outpouring upon the Gentiles was to prove to the Jews that God had accepted the Gentiles into His Kingdom (Acts 11:17-18). Nothing like this outpouring on the Gentiles had occurred since Acts 2, some ten years earlier. There is not another example recorded in all the New Testament.

Here is a summary of what I just said:

- (1) Joel foretold that God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh,
- (2) All flesh refers to both Jew and Gentile,
- (3) The Jewish Apostles in Acts 2, and
- (4) The Gentiles in Acts 10.

The Apostles could not always remain with the congregations to teach and instruct. So it was necessary for other Christians to have miraculous (spiritual) gifts of the Spirit to edify the new Christians. The New Testament had not yet been written. Therefore, the Apostles laid their hands upon some Christians to impart various gifts (see Acts 8:18). In this chapter, Luke recorded Philip’s work among the Samaritians. Two Apostles, Peter and John, were sent down from Jerusalem to impart spiritual gifts. Since only the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, only they could impart spiritual gifts to others. Philip could perform miracles because hands had been laid upon him by the Apostles as recorded in Acts 6:6.

There are several other occasions where Apostles imparted gifts to other Christians by the laying on of their hands. Paul laid hands on twelve men at Ephesus (Acts 19:6). Afterwards they spake with tongues, and prophesied. Paul also gave a gift to

Timothy by the laying on of his hands (2 Tim. 1:6). Romans 1:11 shows Paul's desire to impart some gift to the Romans.

But there are no Apostles living today and neither can there be! So no one can have these spiritual gifts today. These gifts ceased when the Apostles died and when those upon whom the Apostles had laid their hands died. **The purpose for all the miracles, signs and wonders was for the giving and confirming of the truth.** When the truth had been given, the miraculous gifts were no longer needed.

Now let me give an illustration. I have seen already here on the Cayman Islands the construction of many buildings, condominiums, etc. There is much equipment and tools round about on the job site. But when the building is completed, all the equipment and machinery will be removed. In like manner, the gifts and powers of the Holy Spirit were needed until the church was established. After the building (church) was completed, then the tools (miraculous gifts) were no longer needed. Paul said that in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10:

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

“That which is perfect” refers to the completed, sufficient revelation of truth. James 1:25 refers to the “perfect law of liberty” or the New Covenant of Jesus. Some think that “the perfect” refers to Jesus’ second coming. But nowhere in the whole context of 1 Cor. 12, 13, and 14 is the second coming discussed. Notice that 1 Cor. 13:10 does not say, “when He who is perfect is come,” but rather it says, “when that which is perfect is come.” It refers to the fact that partial revelations and knowledge received through the gifts and powers of the Spirit would cease when the full revelation of truth was given.

Also note Ephesians 4:11-13:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

After Jesus ascended. He gave gifts unto men (Eph. 4:8), **until** (Eph. 4:13) we all come in the unity of the faith. All can and should be united today in “the faith” of the gospel, since all truth

about salvation has been given (see 2 Peter 1:3).

These series of meetings have been announced to continue until Friday night. After Friday, they will not continue. In like manner, Jesus gave gifts unto some until all the truth had been revealed. So after the church received that “perfect (complete) law of liberty,” the gifts ceased! God never intended that the baptism of the Holy Spirit and miraculous gifts would continue down through the centuries.

Individuals may make claims today of possessing miraculous power. But they need to be demonstrated! If one claims to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then he should be able to do what the Apostles did! He could do things like raising the dead, or restoring sight to the blind. I say tonight in all love and kindness that there is not a man living on Grand Cayman, or anywhere else in all the West Indies, America, Europe, Asia, or any part of this world, that can go to a cemetery and raise one from the dead. If so, I am ready to go with him to see it. No one can do it; and that's not all, he will not even attempt it. That should show to everyone today that individuals do not have what the Apostles had.

Now, how does the Holy Spirit today lead, guide, or direct people? The answer is: **through and by the instructions of God's Word.** How does the Holy Spirit convict people of sin today? **By the Word of God.** The Word is the instrument that the Spirit uses to accomplish that work. As a man cuts down a tree with an axe, so the Spirit uses the Word to pierce the hearts of sinners and defend God's Kingdom when that divine message is preached.

For example, Romans 8:14 says, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” This verse does not say, though, how we are led by the Spirit. But elsewhere we learn that the gospel (the Spirit's message) is God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The Spirit leads us as we follow God's word, which was given by the Spirit.

Friends, let us study the Bible, read the Bible, obey the Bible; and when we do, we are guided by the Spirit's teachings. If you would like to obey the Lord's will tonight, we would encourage you to come. Turn from sin, confess your faith in Jesus as God's Son, and be baptized into the Lord as we read in the Bible.

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# THE HOLY SPIRIT #1

Wednesday, January 14th, 1981  
Speaker: Perry B. Cotham

I am delighted to address you again on this theme of the Holy Spirit. We have visitors tonight, and we trust that the attendance will increase throughout the week until Friday.

We appreciate the interest of many on this lovely island in studying God's Word. I especially appreciate the questions that have been submitted, and further encourage those listening to feel free to ask questions about this subject. Much is being said and taught on this subject of the Holy Spirit around the world. It is often called Pentecostalism or the charismatic movement. Many books and tracts have been written on this subject.

**Question: Are Christians being baptized with the Holy Spirit today?**

**Are they being given special miraculous powers?**

**Is it possible for Christians to speak in tongues, heal the sick, and raise the dead?**

**Answer:** Remember that the promise to be guided into all truth was given to the Apostles, and they alone received that "power from on high" on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus. The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles aided them in carrying the gospel to every creature, writing and confirming the New Covenant, and establishing the church for which Jesus died. Be careful in your Bible study to handle aright the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). It is wrong (error) to teach that a promise applied to "everyone" when it was only intended and addressed to the Apostles. The idea that people down through the ages would receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit is nowhere taught in the Bible!

After the holy Apostles and prophets received "the mystery" of how lost men would be saved in Jesus, they recorded it for men of all ages to read (Eph. 3:3-5). "All truth" was revealed to them (John 16:13), and the Bible warns men not to change its message (Rev. 22:18, 19).

I would like to introduce a new verse of scripture in our study. John 3:34 says: "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."

"By measure" means portions of power of the Holy Spirit. So Jesus had access to all divine power through the Spirit. This verse also shows that God gave His Spirit (that is, various powers of the Spirit) "by measure" unto others. Not all the first century

Christians were given the same gifts or powers, and some did not possess any of the powers of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Cor. 12:28-31). The Holy Spirit influenced and directed the holy Apostles in ways that He does not influence people today. Also, the Apostles imparted gifts to others by laying on their hands (Acts 8:18). **Since no one today can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and there is no Apostle alive to lay hands on Christians to impart gifts, then no one today has miraculous gifts or powers.** The only power that the Holy Spirit exerts upon the minds of people today is the power of the truth of the gospel.

The Holy Spirit both pricks the hearts of sinners and guides the Christian in his life through the Word of God.

So, in summary, here are the three different measures or manifestations of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) The baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and later Cornelius and Paul;
- 2) The miraculous gifts by the laying on of the Apostles' hands;
- 3) The ordinary, non-miraculous, indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all believers who have obeyed the gospel.

The Bible says that God dwells in us (1 John 4:12,15), and that Christ dwells in us (Col. 1:27). But **HOW** do Christ, the Father, and the Holy Spirit dwell in us? Certainly not literally! **It can be said that they dwell in us when we listen to the divine Word, love the Word, and obey its message.** We thus are guided, directed, and motivated by the Spirit. Ephesians 3:17 says "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith," and faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). And, so it is by our obedience to the Word of God that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. No, this dwelling is not in a miraculous sense, enabling one to perform miracles or to speak in tongues today!

Now, there is an organization called the Full Businessmen's Fellowship International which emphasizes the movement and miraculous efforts of the Holy Spirit today. Friends, we need to seriously study the Bible on this subject.

Blessings are promised to those who obey the Lord. If we confess faith in Jesus and are baptized into Christ, then blessings are promised to those in Christ. All believers are commanded to be baptized in water, but Holy Spirit baptism was a promise to only a few. Miraculous gifts were bestowed on some disciples in the first century. Note these words in Mark 16:15-20:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall

they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.”

Sometimes people will say this is what the Lord promised, so every baptized believer should have these powers. We must remember this rule of Bible study; that is, that not everything is taught in one Bible verse. All of God’s word is truth. In this passage, Jesus did not explain “how” these signs would follow. But other Bible verses do explain the matter. And, we must be careful to read “all” that is said on the subject of the Holy Spirit. No two verses of truth will contradict each other. One verse may shed more light on the subject, but it will not contradict another Bible statement.

If any individuals today can speak in tongues, then they can also take up serpents and drink deadly things and raise the dead. But no one can perform these things. While preaching in North Carolina, a man in the audience said that he had the baptism of the Holy Spirit. After offering to close the service to go to the cemetery to prove it, the man did not accept. He just sat there. So I continued with my lesson. Someone might say that it isn’t Christ-like to put someone to the test. But 1 John 4:1 commands:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

And, John wrote to Ephesus in Revelation 2:2:

“I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.”

The Lord thus commended the Ephesians for “trying” these impostors. They found them to be liars.

Paul further said to the Corinthians that “the signs of an apostle were worked among you” (2 Cor. 12:12). Not that signs were told to the Corinthians that were worked somewhere else, but **the signs were worked among them.**

Usually today, claims are made about miracles being performed, but they always “occurred” off somewhere else, half-way around the world. Suppose I told you that last month while in India I swallowed a pulpit as large as the one here! Now you wouldn’t believe it, of course. You would be thinking, “Now, he

needs to prove to us that he did it.” But I could say, “Oh, no, I am not going to do it again, but I did it over in India.” Well, you wouldn’t believe it. Paul said that signs were wrought among you, not off somewhere else! Now I ask you good friends, “Have you ever witnessed someone bringing another from the dead?” “Have you ever seen the crippled, the blind, and the dumb, healed instantly?”

The teaching that people today can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and perform miracles is contrary to the scriptures. Time was when they were performed, but no one today can. Their purpose in confirming the Word has been fulfilled.

Now, I would like to address myself to the questions that have been submitted. I really do appreciate these questions.

**Question: “Why can’t God do today what he once did?”**

**Answer:** It is not a question of God’s “power,” but of God’s “plan.” He could do today what He once did, but has He promised and willed to do so? One time God created man from the dust of the ground. But does He do so today? God established natural law for the procreation of man after that miraculous beginning. I’m not questioning God’s power. I am teaching His Plan. We are not questioning that miracles were once performed, but are they being performed today?

**Question: “What does Hebrews 13:8 mean?”**

**Answer:** The verse reads, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” The argument is made that since Jesus is the same, then what He once did He is still doing. But the verse deals with the “character” of Jesus, not His “method of operation.” He once dealt with His people under the law of Moses, but He took it out of the way and gave another covenant (see Hebrews 10:9,10 and Jeremiah 31:31). Therefore, He does not continue to do what He once did! But He is the same Lord.

Please note, that according to this argument, there would be healing even in heaven since Jesus will be the same forever! Surely we understand that this will not be done. Will anybody be sick in heaven? No.

**Question: “What about ‘recorded cases’ of people being healed in other parts of the world?”**

**Answer:** I have answered that already. But note again 2 Cor. 12:12. Paul said that signs were wrought among them. You can hear about almost everything you want to hear. But do we have someone in Grand Cayman who can raise the dead, heal the sick, and speak in foreign languages (tongues) that they have not

studied? Do you believe in the testimonies and “recorded cases” of healing done by the African witch doctors? They make bold “claims.” But where is the actual performing of these claims?

Over in Singapore, there is a great image of Buddha in a large building. The guide said that it took more than 300 tons of concrete to make Buddha’s image. I thought to myself, “Now, that’s a lot of Buddha!” Many bow before this image and claim to receive blessings. But does this prove anything? We desire to follow what God’s Word says.

Let us turn to 1 Cor. 14 for a discussion of tongue speaking. The Corinthians had abused this gift of the Spirit and Paul addresses this matter. The whole context of spiritual gifts is 1 Cor. 12, 13, and 14. In chapter 12, nine spiritual gifts were named to be used in the “one body” (church) for its edification. Chapter 13 shows the better way than “the best gifts;” that is, the way of charity (love). Tongues, prophesies, and super-natural knowledge would come to an end, but love would never fail. Now chapter 14 deals with the proper use of the gift of tongues while they did last.

The word “unknown” is in italics in your King James Version of the Bible. This means that the word is not found in the original Greek manuscripts. So, tongue-speaking is not some mystical, unknown language to humans. It is simply “unknown” to the one doing the speaking, but not to those who speak that language. Now verse two has often been misused. It reads:

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”

Some think this verse indicates a prayer language uttered unto God. But read further. Why was it “unto God?” It’s because “no man understandeth him.” People understand their own language. An English audience must be addressed in English. If one speaks in tongues (a foreign language) to an English audience they would not understand. Only God could understand the message. But the main purpose for tongue speaking was for people of other nations to understand the gospel. It was used as a “sign to unbelievers” that the message was God-sent (1 Cor. 14:22).

I often go to foreign countries where other languages are spoken. While preaching, I have by my side a translator, or interpreter. Otherwise, I could speak for an hour and no one, but God, would understand.

Nothing is said in this chapter about the need of a special “prayer-language” to speak to God! Not at all. Pray in your own language.

Paul emphasized the need for a church and individuals being

edified. If one cannot understand what is being said, then he cannot be edified. Paul said that he could speak in tongues more than all of them could.

“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue” (1 Cor. 14:19).

Again, the emphasis is for the congregation to be edified by its understanding. Even in singing and praying, it must be with the understanding. Note 1 Cor. 14:16 and 17:

“Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say. Amen, at the giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.”

Several people were not to be speaking at the same time, and when speaking in a foreign language, one was to interpret (1 Cor. 14:27). Those prophesying were to do so “one by one” so that all may understand and be comforted. “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40).

I want to mention another matter. First Cor. 14:34 says that the women should keep silence in the churches, for it was not permitted unto them to speak. In the public services, the women were not to address the audience. Now friends, this is the teaching of the Bible! Generally, people do not like that in the Western world. They criticize Paul, saying that he was an ole bachelor, or he didn’t like women. But please read verse 37:

“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”

Further in 1 Tim. 2:12, Paul wrote:

“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed then Eve.”

This is God’s order — first man, then the woman. This is also God’s law and line of authority. Let’s be careful not to violate or disobey the inspired teaching of the Word of God.

In 1 Tim. 3:2, one qualification for a bishop, or overseer of the Lord’s church, is that he should be “the husband of one wife.” Some religious bodies have women on the “church board” which oversees the work. I just cannot see how a woman can be the husband of one wife!! This just emphasizes how far religious people have drifted away from the scriptures and how little respect many have for what the Bible says. Many of these very teachers who claim to be guided by the Holy Spirit ignore or do



not understand the Spirit's message as the Bible records it! How can they be guided by the Spirit??

Paul closed 1 Cor. 14 by saying, "...forbid not to speak with tongues." He was not speaking about the twentieth century, but of those at Corinth in the first century. Paul wanted them to know that he was not forbidding to speak in tongues but to use them properly and reverently. Today of course, we must understand that tongues have ceased (see 1 Cor. 13:8-10).

**Question: "What about praying in an unknown tongue. What actually occurred?"**

**Answer:** Praying in a tongue is praying in a foreign language that one has not studied. This was for the benefit of those in the audience who would know that language. Or, if no one could interpret the prayer, let him speak to himself and to God. First Cor. 14:13 must be read along with, and in the light of, verses 27 and 28. But this does not teach that Christians today need a special prayer language.

**Question: What advantage would there be in speaking to God in a tongue?**

**Answer:** No advantage at all. Again, I say that God knows all languages. It would neither be beneficial to God or the one uttering what he does not understand.

Let me encourage you to continue to study.

The Holy Spirit teaches in the book of Acts what one needs to do to be accepted into fellowship with God. Many examples reveal that a sinner should believe what the Holy Spirit revealed about God and His Son.

One should **turn from his sins** (repent), **confess faith in Christ** (Acts 8:37), and **be baptized into Christ** (Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:27). This is in the likeness of the burial and resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:17-18). Then that person will arise to **walk in a new life** (Rom. 6:3, 4).

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT #2

Thursday, Jan. 15th, 1981

Speaker: Perry B. Cotham

I am happy to continue this discussion on the Holy Spirit. Have your Bible ready as we study. You will want to turn and read some passages with me as we continue to study this great theme.

I want to briefly review our main line of thought and discussion. We have been considering the time in the first century when the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and worked great supernatural acts. The dead were raised, sight restored, the crippled and sick were healed. I pointed out that the reason for these great signs and wonders was to **confirm the Word of God** (see Mark 16:20 and Hebrews 2:3-4). The central thought for our discussion is: **Do these miracles continue today?** It is not a question of whether they once were performed, but rather do men have such powers today?

I have also emphasized that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. He is Deity; not just some kind of force or influence. The Holy Spirit directed the Bible writers in revealing God's will for men of all ages to read and follow. All scripture has now been given. It is sufficient to direct men unto every good work. Peter wrote that God, by His "divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). If we will read, believe, and obey the teaching of the Bible, we can become Christians, saved from our sins, and thus have the great hope of heaven.

Some may think this subject is very confusing and difficult to understand. But really it is very easy and plainly revealed in the Bible. Just because the religious world may be greatly confused and teach conflicting doctrines while claiming direct guidance of the Spirit, this does not mean that the subject of the Holy Spirit is difficult to understand. Remember that the whole world, including man, began by miraculous creation. After that, each seed reproduces after its own kind. This also is true in regard to establishing Christianity. In the beginning of the church, there was a need for inspired men with supernatural powers. But after the Bible was completely recorded and the church thus established, the church continues to grow in a "natural way." That is, the "seed of the kingdom" is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). The Word was given by inspiration (miraculously by the Holy Spirit), but today it is taught and learned "naturally" (by study and preaching).

The Apostles were clothed upon with power from on high when the church was established (Acts 2). They could lay hands on Christians and impart spiritual gifts (Acts 8:18). These signs and wonders worked by these Apostles and Christians continued until the full (perfect) revelation was given (1 Cor. 13:8-10). Then, the gifts ceased. The Bible is our complete and sufficient guide (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We believe because of the “recorded evidence” of signs worked in the first century (John 20:30-31).

I am grateful for questions. Those who read and search the scriptures are commended in the Bible (Acts 17:11).

Please understand that we are not discounting the power of prayer. We can and should pray for the sick. The Bible teaches such. But we are talking about individual Christians possessing spiritual gifts (that is, supernatural powers to raise the dead, heal the sick, and speak in tongues). The magician can perform some amazing tricks for entertainment and enjoy such.

But the Bible warns against religious people believing “lying wonders.” This sobering thought is presented by Paul in 2 Thesalonians, chapter 2, verses 9-12:

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

This is the reason we should not accept stories that are told about “miracles” being performed somewhere else and about some mysterious feeling someone has had! They could all be “lying wonders”! We are commanded to “try the spirits” to see if they are of God because many false teachers are gone out into the world (1 John 4:1).

In view of this passage, we want to give any reputable preacher the invitation to present an opposing view point. I would be ashamed to teach that miracles continue today and not be able to show the reason from the scriptures and to show the evidence that I had such power. Over in Arkansas, there was a preacher who claimed he had such powers, even to the raising of the dead. He once had an opportunity because his mother died. He called prayer meeting services at the funeral home. The body was kept in cold storage for several days, hoping this person would be brought back to life. Finally, he gave up and the body was buried. The man was sincere, but deceived!

I want to emphasize that there is not a man anywhere in all

the world, that can raise one from the dead today or any other day! That power does not belong unto individuals today.

I had a religious discussion in Melbourne, Australia, with an individual who believed he had the baptism of the Holy Spirit and accompanying powers. He was a preacher of a religious group there. Present was a crippled man, using crutches, but the preacher did not even try to heal him. But I knew that he would not, because he could not. I asked him to show the audience that he had such powers, as he claimed, but he could not demonstrate that he was telling the truth.

This preacher read from Mark 16:17-18 that one who believes could drink deadly things and it would not hurt him. So I went by the drug store and purchased some very strong medicine. During our discussion, I asked him to take the medicine. But I warned him that it would hurt him if he did so. The preacher left the strong medicine alone, saying that such was childishness. But really his claim of having such powers was childishness. I knew that he did not have any such powers, and I knew that he knew that he didn't! And, there is no man in any part of the world that has miraculous powers, no more so than in Australia!

Paul proved that he had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit to the Corinthians. He wrote: “The signs of an Apostle were wrought among you” (2 Cor. 12:12). He said that his preaching was “in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Cor. 2:4).

**QUESTION: “It is said that the Holy Spirit does not operate in the manner in which He did upon individuals in the first century. Granted. However, after being baptized (in water) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, what does the Holy Spirit do?”**

**Answer:** Please note that there are some things that the Holy Spirit is not doing at all that He once did! For example. *He is not revealing truth directly to man.* That has been completed. *He is not empowering men to perform miracles to confirm the word.* This need no longer exist. The Holy Spirit, today, *convicts the sinner, teaches and sanctifies the new convert, and guides him in his Christian life by means of the Word of God.* We may not know all that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are doing daily. We can only know what is revealed about their work in the Bible. And, the Bible teaches that spiritual gifts no longer exist in the church. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). We do know that the Holy Spirit *helps our infirmities in our praying, that He intercedes for the saints* according to God's will (Rom. 8:26-27). In the natural realm. Deity exerts power. God upholds all things by the Word of His power (Heb. 1:3).

**QUESTION: “If people in the first century needed miracles performed in order to believe, why don’t we today?”**

**ANSWER:** The miracles were first needed to confirm the oral preaching of the truth until it was recorded. Now, we believe the recorded evidence of the once performed signs (John 20:30-31). Should we expect Jesus to do His work, including His death and resurrection, for people of every generation? Of course not! We believe what the eye witnesses recorded. What better evidence can one have twenty centuries later than a reliable eye-witness report?

**QUESTION: “Why do you believe that only the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2? What about the 120 disciples also?”**

**ANSWER:** First, note that the command to wait for “the promise of the Father” was given to the Apostles, and not all 120 disciples (Acts 1:2-5). The 120 disciples are not even present with Jesus before He ascended from the Mount of Olives.

Second, the pronouns, “they” and “them” in Acts 2:1-4, refer to the eleven Apostles plus Matthias in Acts 1:26.

Third, all those speaking in tongues were Galilaeans (Acts 2:7). Some of the 120 were Judeans, like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. It is inconceivable that they would not have been present.

Fourth, Peter stood up and defended himself and the other eleven Apostles when accused of being drunken (Acts 2:14-16).

Fifth, it is recorded after this outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles performed miracles (Acts 2:43; Acts 3:1-8; Acts 5:12). In fact, the first record of any other persons performing miracles is Acts 6:1-8, after the Apostles imparted gifts to seven men by laying hands upon them.

**QUESTION: If only the Apostles could lay hands on others and bestow the gift of the Holy Spirit, how did Ananias do so in Acts 9:17?**

**ANSWER:** Paul was waiting to be told what he should do to be saved. When Ananias laid hands on Paul, immediately scales fell from his eyes. Note these two important points: 1) It does not say that Paul received the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him, and 2) there is no evidence (like speaking in tongues, etc.) that Paul received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on this occasion. But no doubt later he did. But Jesus administered it directly from heaven (Matt. 3:11). The result of Ananias’ preaching and Paul’s obedience would be that Paul would be filled with

the Spirit.

**QUESTION: In Matthew 8:17, reference is made to Isaiah 53:4. Did not Jesus die to bare our sicknesses as well as our sins?**

**ANSWER:** In Matthew 8, Jesus is healing people in Capernaum. But note that this is not connected to Jesus’ death on the cross for the sins of the world. Indeed, Jesus died for our sins. But there is no verse that says that He died so that all could be healed physically. The references in Isaiah 53 to our being “healed” through the stripes of Jesus have to do with being healed “spiritually.”

**QUESTION: John 14:12 says that when Jesus left earth his disciples would do “greater works” than what he did. If so, then why can’t his disciples today perform even greater miracles than Jesus?**

**ANSWER:** There is no possible way for one to do greater “miracles” than Jesus! He raised the dead! Who can do greater miracles than this? Please notice that the verse says “greater works,” not “greater miracles.” There is a difference. Also, Jesus said they would do greater things because He was going to the Father. That is, by His returning to His throne at the side of His Father, it was then possible for His disciples to preach forgiveness in His name (Luke 24:47). The church could not be established until the King was on His throne in the heavens. This is the greater work. There is something greater than healing the sick and raising the dead; that is, using the keys of the Kingdom to open the doors to everlasting salvation and joy. The Lord left this great treasure (the gospel, whereby men are saved) in the hands of His followers (2 Cor. 4:7). So, “greater works,” spiritually.

**QUESTION: How do Christians bear the fruit of the Spirit mentioned by Paul in Galatians 5:22-23?**

**ANSWER:** When we love the word of the Lord and obey it, the Word produces this fruit in our lives. Remember that the Word was given by the Spirit. This is how one may read two verses: one saying that the Word produces this fruit (Col. 1:5-6), and another saying that it is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

**QUESTION: How does the Spirit bear witness to our spirit that we are the children of God?**

**ANSWER:** The verse referred to is Romans 8:16. It does not say that the Spirit bears witness “to” our spirit, but rather “with”

our spirit. How may we know that we are the children of God? Witnessing is done by words. The Holy Spirit said in the New Testament what one must do to be saved. That is, a sinner must **hear** the gospel (John 6:45), **believe it** (Mark 16:16), **repent of sins** (Luke 13:3,5), **confess the name of Jesus** before men (Matt. 10:32), and be **baptized for the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38). Now that is the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

Another witness that I am a child of God is my own spirit (mind). If I know that I have obeyed the Spirit's recorded message on what one should do to become and remain a child of God, then the Holy Spirit is bearing witness with my spirit that I am indeed a Christian. The only way a person can know that he is saved is by knowing and obeying what the Bible demands.

I do not know whether you are a child of God. But you do! If your own spirit is in agreement with the Spirit's message, then the Holy Spirit is bearing witness with your spirit that you are a Christian.

In a court of law, two witnesses may give testimony. After both are heard, it will then be evident if they are in agreement. One witness is bearing witness with (alongside of) the other witness that the matter is true. The Holy Spirit does not make you "feel" some peculiar way and when you feel that, then you know you are a child of God. No! The Spirit bears witness "with" (not "to") our spirit.

**QUESTION: What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?**

**ANSWER:** This will be dealt with latter in this book (page 38). One great difference between the Lord's church and the denominations in the world is in regard to this subject of the Holy Spirit. Many falsely teach that the scriptures are not complete and all sufficient, but that the Holy Spirit still guides men directly today. The Lord's church is teaching the truth concerning this great subject. The church is planted today, Christians grow today, and the Kingdom is defended today by the Word of God (Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 2:2; Eph. 6:17).

I want to encourage you to obey the Lord. The Spirit's message from the scriptures is plain. The Lord invites you to obey him. We hope that you will surrender to him.

# THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Friday, Jan. 16th, 1981  
Speaker: Perry B. Cotham

## BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

I was most happy to be assigned this topic of the Holy Spirit. Over the years, I have given it quite a bit of study, and as it has been mentioned I have written a tract entitled, THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION (see page 44).

I want to express appreciation to brother William Worthey, not only for inviting me to speak, but also for kindly befriending me. In the parable of the soils, one was the honest and good soil (heart) which would bring forth fruit some thirty, some sixty, and some one-hundred fold. I care not where I go, I always find some people who are interested in learning and obeying the will of the Lord.

I want to discuss the topic, "**Blasphemy Against The Holy Spirit,**" or as it is sometimes called, "**The Unpardonable Sin.**" Before I do so, here are some additional questions.

**QUESTION: If we do not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit today, how then are we sanctified?**

**ANSWER:** To sanctify means to "set apart" to the Lord, to cleanse from sin. John 17:17 says: "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Some may be thinking of Paul's statement: "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11). Yes, sanctification is by the Holy Spirit. But "how" does the Holy Spirit sanctify a person? Surely, it is through a message that man understands and obeys; that is, by the Word of God given by the Spirit. Away with this idea of a direct guidance or leading of the Holy Spirit!

**QUESTION: Does not Acts 2:39 extend the promise of the Holy Spirit to "as many as the Lord our God will call?"**

**ANSWER:** Remember that God calls by the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14). But now, what is the promise mentioned in the verse? God said to Abraham that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blest. That had reference to Jesus' coming to bless both Jew and Gentile (Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:16,29).

On the day of Pentecost, the gospel of Jesus first began to be preached. On this day, the church was established. So from this day onward to as many as would be called by the gospel, the

promise of salvation through Jesus would be extended. The spiritual blessings of the Holy Spirit would be given. This does not refer to a continuation of the baptism of the Holy Spirit to every Christian, but of the blessings of forgiveness in His name.

**QUESTION: If you stress following the Word, do you not violate 2 Corinthians 3:6? Paul said they were not ministers of the letter, but of the spirit.**

**ANSWER:** In this chapter, Paul was contrasting the Old Testament with the New. The Old Covenant is referred to as “the letter of the law,” because it brought death. And the New is called “the spirit,” because it gives life through Jesus. No one could be justified by the law of Moses (Acts 13:39). Paul is not saying that one should not stress strict obedience to the Word of God, but rather he is comparing the two covenants. The New Testament grants forgiveness through Jesus as one obeys this covenant.

We need to exalt and respect the Bible. It is sad when one claims to be led by the Spirit but rejects what the Bible says!

In Matthew 12:31, 32 Jesus said:

“Wherefore I say unto you. All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the **blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.** And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

The Pharisees said that Jesus was casting out devils by the prince of the devils, Beelzebub. Jesus showed how illogical that would be by saying:

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?” (Matt. 12:25-26)

I believe some people are needlessly concerned about this subject. Some feel they have committed this sin and therefore cannot be forgiven. Even though they are penitent and sorrowful, some feel they have no hope. But according to 1 John 1:9, if we are penitent and confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive. Therefore, *if one is penitent, having not hardened his heart, he has not committed the “unpardonable sin.”* (For a much fuller discussion of this subject I suggest you read my tract titled “The Unpardonable Sin.”)

**What is this blasphemy against the Holy Spirit that will not be forgiven, neither in this world nor the world to come?**

I have heard several answers.

Some say this sin must be *murder*. But that cannot be right. Paul was a murderer even of Christians, but he was granted repentance unto life. I knew of a man who was a murderer in Texas. While in prison a girl gave him a Bible to read. Having nothing else to do, he read the scriptures. After coming up for pardon several times, he finally was released. Afterwards, he obeyed the gospel and became a gospel preacher. Not only that, he married the girl that gave him the Bible. He spent the latter years of his life teaching prison inmates. Several of these he baptized into Christ.

Some say this sin must be *suicide*. One who commits suicide naturally does not have time to repent afterwards. But Jesus said, even if he lived in this world after committing the “unpardonable sin,” he would not be forgiven. Thus it is not suicide.

Other answers are given, but time will not permit a discussion of all of them. But note the occasion. Jesus had performed miracles. Some said He did it by the power of the prince of devils. Jesus then replied that sins against Him would be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven.

Blasphemy means harsh, unkind, evil words spoken against another, coming from an hardened heart and ugly attitude. During the personal ministry of Jesus, many often criticized Him, as in Matthew 12. Peter even said in Acts 2 that Jesus was crucified, being rejected and abused by “wicked hands.” Some, when they heard this, were pricked in their hearts and desired to know what they must do to be saved. Peter said,

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

But not everyone received the words of Peter. Those who even had Jesus crucified could have obeyed what the Spirit was directing Peter to say and receive forgiveness. But those who rejected the Spirit’s message would not be forgiven. If they continued to harden their hearts and reject the Spirit’s teaching through inspired Apostles, they would not be forgiven in this world or in the world to come. But, of course, there is no forgiveness anyway in the life after death. Jesus, thus, was just emphatically saying that there is no forgiveness for such a person!

There is then that certain possibility for men to so harden their hearts that nothing can bring them to repentance. Imagine the angry Jews, out of control, gnashing their teeth upon Stephen, whose face was like an angel. He even prayed in their behalf as they put him to death. So even today there are those

who do not care what the Bible says and refuse to obey Jesus. So then there is no way for those with such a hardened attitude to be forgiven because one must listen to and obey the Spirit-given message (Bible) to be forgiven of sins.

Reaching this unpardonable state is possible today. There are those who sit unmoved by the preaching of the precious gospel of Christ. It makes no impression upon those whose hearts are hardened by sin.

But why is it more serious to reject the Holy Spirit than Jesus Christ? Let me just give you a simple illustration. Suppose a car salesman came selling new cars. Some accept, but others reject the offer. Well, the company sends another salesman. Again some accept, but others treat him worse than the first. Then finally, the company sends a third and last salesman. He will make the last offer. If people reject this salesman, they will never have another opportunity of buying cars at the present price. Why is the last salesman the most important of them all? It's because he is the last and final one!

Now, John the Baptist came preaching the Kingdom of God and repentance. But some rejected him and his baptism against themselves (Luke 7:30). Also, Jesus Christ came preaching and performing miracles to convince the people. But again the Pharisees hardened themselves against Him. Now they were the ones who said that Jesus performed the miracles by the power of the devil. Jesus said to them that they could blaspheme Him, but if they rejected the Holy Spirit they would not be forgiven in this world or the world to come.

When the Spirit directed the preaching on the day of Pentecost and the writing of the New Covenant, this was their last and final opportunity to obey!! The Bible teaches that men can reject the truth and so harden their hearts that there is no possibility of renewing them to repentance. Read Hebrews 6:4-6:

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

There is a difference between “falling” and “falling away.” If you are on a ship, you can fall and be lifted up. But if you “fall away,” that means you are beyond rescue. Sometimes preachers say that God will forgive anybody of any sin. But wait a moment. That is not a complete sentence. God will forgive any one, *if that person will repent*. God will not and can not forgive those who refuse to

turn back to Him! God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). It is not a question of God not wanting to forgive, but rather a question of whether the sinner can be touched with the gospel and brought to repentance. If a person cannot be brought to repentance, then he has committed the “unpardonable sin”!

This sin is not some particular sin like *drunkenness* or *fornication* or *murder*. But, **it is a condition of heart or attitude of stubborn rebellion** to the extent that the individual cannot be brought to repentance. Paul wrote to Timothy about those whose conscience was “seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim. 4:2).

In Texas they brand their cattle. The cattle are rounded-up and a hot fire is made. The branding iron is heated and a symbol is branded on the skin of the animal. The skin is burned and thus becomes hardened so even hair will not grow. Now the Holy Spirit used this illustration in describing the hardened condition of sinners' hearts. Man can become that way! He certainly can. All the Bible reading and preaching in the world cannot reach that sort of heart. This is serious indeed!

The Apostle John wrote that “there is a sin unto death” (1 John 5:16-17). That is, there is a sin unto “spiritual” death. We can pray for a brother who has not sinned unto death, but not for the one who has sinned unto death. We can pray for the brother and sister who will confess and repent of sin, but not for the rebellious brother. Because his heart is hardened like unto steel and will not repent (1 John 1:9).

One of the Proverbs talks about “holden by the cords of iniquity” (Prov. 5:22). Let me illustrate. Suppose the strongest man here agrees to being tied in a chair. If I wrap the cord around him only once, he will easily break the cord and arise. But suppose I wrap the cord around him again and again and again! Now he tries but cannot break the cords to get out of the chair! Sin is like that. If one keeps on and on in sin, he will soon get to the point that the most effective presentation of the gospel will not reach him! The impossibility, again I say, is not on God's side, but on man's side.

I have stood at the side of Niagara Falls. Suppose I am traveling down the stream in a small canoe. Someone yells for me to turn around and go back. But I go onward. Later someone warns of the “Great Fall” ahead. But I reject the warning. When the boat starts over the fall, I would then want to turn back. But then it is too late!

Dear Friend, if you are not a Christian, the Bible says that today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). NOW is the time. If you hear His voice, harden not your heart. Come, confessing your

faith and be baptized as the Bible says. Jesus said, “You must be born again” (John 3:3-5). Will you not come tonight?

**QUESTION:** Following the close of the service a question was asked about praying in an unknown tongue). Please read 1 Cor. 14:14. It speaks of praying in an unknown tongue.

**ANSWER:** As I have pointed out, a tongue was a language, a real language. The word unknown is not in the original Greek but was supplied by the translators of our King James Version. It meant a “language unknown to the speaker.” At times in the audiences at Corinth there were those who probably spoke different languages, so there was the need of speaking (as a miraculous gift of the Spirit) in some foreign language. At other times there would be no need to speak in a different language. If no one was there to understand that language or not having it translated, it would do no good.

If one should lead a prayer in what we call a foreign language we would get no meaning out of what was said if the prayer was not translated. This is in harmony with the context (verses 13-19). How can one say “amen” to a prayer if he didn’t understand a word that was said? So, to pray “in an unknown tongue” was to pray in the church assembly in some “foreign language.”

When I first went to Bangkok, Thailand, to preach, the service began, the songs were announced in both English and Thai. When the time came for the prayer, two men came to the pulpit, one led the prayer in Thai by saying a few words and then pausing and letting the other man give the translation. This continued until the end of the prayer. In this way I understood what was said; otherwise, not knowing the Thai language, I would not have known a thing that was said in the prayer. Then when it came my time to speak, a young Thai man came to the pulpit with me and gave the translation; I said a few words and waited for him to translate. If there had been no interpreter, then I should have remained silent as those not knowing English would not have received anything from my lesson. But in our singing, praying, and preaching, we were all able to understand in our own language. There is not anything hard to understand about the use of “tongue” in 1 Corinthians 14.

On pages 44-56 is the tract brother Cotham wrote on:

### **The Holy Spirit In Conversion**

# **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVERSION**

*Perry C. Cotham*

*The Spirit always operates upon the sinner’s heart through the Word and only through the Word. The Bible does not teach a direct, mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion.*

To become a citizen of the kingdom of God (a member of the church) one must be spiritually regenerated — born of the Spirit. In his conversation with Nicodemus Jesus emphasized the necessity of one’s being “born again” to enter the kingdom of heaven: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

All admit that an influence is exerted by the Spirit in conversion (the new birth); but, the question is, **How** is this influence exerted? Is it **direct** or **indirect**? The issue is not what the Holy Spirit “can” do, but “how” he does his work according to the teaching of the Bible.

In this study it shall be shown that the Scriptures clearly teach that *the Spirit always operates upon the sinner’s heart through the Word and only through the Word. The Bible does not teach a direct, mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion.*

## **I. THE SPIRIT AND HIS INSTRUMENT**

The Bible plainly teaches that the Holy Spirit is a divine person and not a mystical influence. He is a person of the Godhead. He is one with the Father and the Son. He is a personal, intelligent and divine being. Things are said of him that could only be said of a personality. (See Acts 17:29; John 14:16; John 16:7-14; John 4:24; Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 4:30; I Timothy 4:1; Acts 20:23; Acts 21:11).

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would, when he is come, convict the world in respect of sin (John 16:8, ASV [American Standard Version]). But **how** does the Spirit convict of sin? “...By the law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20; cf. Rom. 7:7). The Holy Spirit, as a person, uses “law” as an instrument to convict of sin. The *medium* through which the Holy Spirit accomplishes his mission is the *Word of God*. There is no other way to convict of sin.

One should keep in mind the distinction between the “Spirit”

and the “words of the Spirit.” The Spirit is a person, the *word* (his word, the Scriptures) is an *instrument*. People are not converted by the Word only, nor by the Spirit only; but by the Spirit acting through the Word. The Word of God is the instrument employed by the Holy Spirit in dealing with the hearts of men.

Note the following example: “Private Doe kills with the sword.” Doe kills; the sword kills. Doe, the man, exerts his power indirectly through an instrument to kill. Now, apply this to the Holy Scriptures. The word is the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17). In conversion, the Spirit pierces the heart. But, does the Spirit, the person, pierce without his sword? No. The conversion of those on the day of Pentecost is a good example of his work (Acts 2). On that day hearts were “pierced,” people were convicted, and three thousand turned to the Lord. The Gospel was the power that converted these individuals. The Spirit influenced them by his words. The Holy Spirit did the work, but not in a direct manner — he used his sword. It was the word of God, preached by the Spirit through the apostle Peter, that “pricked” these people in their hearts. The Bible says, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles. Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, does not say, “When they *felt* this...” but “When they *heard* this...” By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter preached Christ as the Son of God. The Spirit, by the words of Peter, made believers — convinced them that they had taken the Christ and killed him, and assured them that God had raised him from the dead. In his sermon, Peter used the Spirit’s sword, the Word of God.

The baptism of the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) came not to the sinners, but to the apostles, and its purpose was to guide them into all truth (John 16:13). Peter did not tell his hearers they needed “Holy Ghost baptism;” nor, that they should remain passive to the will of God. Instead, after they had believed in Christ, he told them to “repent, and be baptized... for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:36-38). All who complied — obeyed the commands of the Spirit — were saved and added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47). Therefore, by this example it can be clearly seen *how* the Holy Spirit operates upon the sinner in conversion. One learns “how” the Spirit works in regeneration by a study of the examples of rebirth in the Book of Acts of the Apostles.

One may ask, “Were the three thousand born of water and of the Spirit?” All agree that they were. But how? A Spirit-filled man, directly endowed, preached the word; people received the word; they believed the word; and they were baptized. The events of this day may well be summarized as follows:

- (1) The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, fulfilling the promise made in John 16:7-15.
- (2) The apostles, filled with the Spirit, preached the truth to the people, and through this means the Spirit convicted the great multitude of sin, of righteousness, and of the judgment.
- (3) The preaching wrought (worked) on the spirits of the hearers, changed their convictions and feelings, and brought them to believe in Jesus as Lord and Christ.
- (4) Then, they were taught to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins.
- (5) As many as were quickened, (made alive) by the Spirit of God through the words of the apostles, were baptized (born of water and of the Spirit). These were admitted into the kingdom of God.

Thus,

- (1) The Holy Spirit is the agent.
- (2) The Gospel is the instrument employed by the Spirit.
- (3) The Gospel is proclaimed by men.
- (4) The word of God is received by the sinner.

These four facts are always found operating together in the work of *regeneration*. No one is “born again” in unbelief. There is no example in the Bible of anyone being “born anew” until he humbly submitted his will to God. When individuals *hear*, *believe*, and *obey* the Gospel (the message given by the Spirit), they are born from above — born again by the Holy Spirit. Hence, when believing penitents are immersed in water in obedience to apostolic precept (words), they are acting under the guidance, direction, and influence of the Holy Spirit.

## A. THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD

The Gospel is the instrument which the Spirit always uses in his work of conversion:

**1. Life of every kind is preceded by birth.** Jesus says that a man must be “born again” before he can see the kingdom of God. But in order for one to be born again, one must be “begotten.” Now, *how* is a person begotten? The Bible says it is by the Word of God. “Of his own will *begat* [begotten] he us with the *word of truth*” (James 1:18). “For in Christ Jesus I have *begotten* you through *the gospel*” (1 Cor. 4:15). Peter declares that all Christians have been born again by the Word: “Being *born again*, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by *the word of God*, which liveth and abideth forever” (1 Peter 1:23).

Is one born again by the Spirit? Yes, but not by the direct



operation of the Holy Spirit. Rather, the new birth is affected (brought about) through the truth — that is, by hearing and obeying the inspired message, the Gospel of Christ. When an act is said to have been performed by a person and by a certain instrument, it is clearly understood that the person did the act, but used the instrument as a *means* of accomplishing it.

2. **One must be quickened.** But “how” is a sinner quickened (made alive)? He is quickened by the Word. “This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me” (Psalms 119:50). “I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me” (Psalms 119:93). “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1).

The Bible says the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6). But “how” does the Spirit give life? Jesus said concerning his teaching: “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). So, the Spirit gives life through “words.”

3. **One must be converted.** But “how” does conversion occur? One is converted by the perfect law, God’s Word. “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Psalms 19:7).

4. **One must be saved.** But “how” is salvation wrought? One is saved by the Word. “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). Cornelius was told to send for Peter “...who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14).

5. **One must be enlightened.** But “how” does enlightenment come? It is through the Word. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105). “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple” (Psalms 119:130; cf. 73:24). “The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes” (Psalms 19:8).

6. **In order to be saved one must have faith.** But “how” does faith come? The Bible says it is by the Word. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30-31). “And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them. Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should ‘hear’ the word of the gospel, and believe” (Acts 15:7).

7. **One must be made free.** But “how” does freedom come?

Jesus taught that it is through the truth, which is the Word. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

8. **One must be called.** But “how” is a person called? He is called by the gospel. “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 2:14).

9. **One must be drawn.** But “how” are people drawn to the Lord? They are drawn by the teaching of the Word. The man who hears and learns comes to the Lord; but he cannot come unless he is drawn. God draws him by teaching. “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets. And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath *heard*, and hath *learned* of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45).

10. **One must be cleansed.** But “how” is an individual cleansed? He is cleansed by the Word. “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (John 15:3). “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word” (Psalms 119:9).

11. **One must be sanctified.** But “how”? One is sanctified (set apart) by the Word. The Bible also teaches that a person is sanctified by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:11). The Spirit sanctifies through the Word, and never apart from it. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

12. **One must be purified in soul.** But “how” is it done? One’s soul is purified by obeying the truth. “Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently” (1 Peter 1:22).

13. **After one becomes a child of God he needs food that he may grow and become strong in the Lord’s family.** But “how” do Christians grow? Children of God grow by feeding upon his Word. “As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow there by” (1 Peter 2:2; of. Acts 20:32; Job 23:12). “...Give attendance to reading... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them...” (1 Timothy 4:13,15). “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

14. **At the day of final reckoning all people will be judged.** But “how” will man be judged? He will be judged by the Word. Speaking of the judgment, Jesus said: “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48; cf. Revelation 20:12).

## B. THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

The Lord has given to man in his Word “*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:3). The Bible emphasizes that the Holy Scriptures are the all-sufficient guide to man in all of his religious duties. **There is not anything that people need in being saved that is not supplied by the Word of God.** There is not a single step that a person is called upon to take from the time he leaves the world of sin until at last he enters heaven, the eternal home of the soul, that is not affected either directly or indirectly by the Word of God. *All that man needs*, therefore, for his soul’s salvation is furnished in the Holy Scriptures — God’s only divinely-given rule of faith and practice.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

## C. THE POWER OF GOD IN SALVATION

The Bible very plainly affirms that the Lord, in saving men, exerts his power through the word; the Gospel is God’s power to save all who believe. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

In this passage of Scripture, two facts are clearly stated:

- (1) The complete efficacy of the Gospel to save, and
- (2) The universality of the Gospel power in reaching all who will believe, without any distinction in race or nationality.

Truly, the world needs to learn that the power by which God saves is his Gospel — this message is the only hope for salvation. The Gospel, when preached in its purity and simplicity, is the most potent force in all the world. It is more powerful than atomic bombs. They can abolish cities, but they cannot save souls. Neither the opinions of men nor the wisdom of philosophers can save the souls of men. The Gospel is the power by which God saves and makes people his children.

Some, however, think that in conversion there must be a power in *addition to* and *distinct from God’s Word*. This is not true. The Bible does not mention any additional power in conversion. Of a truth, the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation. Inspired men never prescribed anything else except the power of God for saving the lost. When people pray for God to send down “converting power,” they thereby deny that the Gospel

is the power of God unto salvation. But, since the Gospel is God’s power to save, and the word, the Bible, is that Gospel, praying for God to send down “converting power” is useless. What further power is needed? Remember, the means of conviction is the Scriptures, “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17). The Holy Spirit, therefore, does not need to act in addition to the Word upon the heart of a sinner. The Bible does not teach that sinners will receive the Spirit miraculously, nor that they “feel” any direct impact of the Spirit. The sinner need not wait to hear a “still, small voice” or experience a miraculous conversion “better felt than told.” An unsaved person must *hear* the Gospel, *believe* it, and *obey* it.

Furthermore, regardless of the extent of a man’s degradation, he can be transformed into a Christian by obeying the Gospel. The power of the Gospel to save the worst sinners is clearly evidenced in the record of Paul’s preaching at Corinth, a city of drunkards, extortioners, and libertines. The converts were generally humble people who had sunk in iniquity. “Behold your calling, brethren,” wrote Paul to them afterwards, “how that not many wise after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.” Then, after naming the vices which were common to the Corinthians — idolatry, adultery, sodomy, drunkenness, and thieving — Paul said significantly, “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11). If the Gospel could save the Corinthians from sin, it can save anybody from sin (who will accept it). Describing their conversion, the Book of Acts says, “Many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). The New Testament describes several conversions, but that of the Corinthians suffices to demonstrate the power of the Gospel to save.

The Bible says the Word of God is “able to save” souls, regardless of their sinful condition (James 1:21). Then, why do some say that the Word requires additional power to save? The Gospel, as it is, is able to save man as he is, when he obeys it. God’s written word as contained in the Bible is powerful enough to accomplish all the Lord intended for it to accomplish. It is not, therefore, a weak and powerless thing. Today, God’s power to save the lost is where it has always been: *in his word*; the Gospel is the power, the only power, used by Jehovah in conversion.

Because of what God’s Word does, Paul solemnly charged Timothy to “preach the word” at all times (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

## D. THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM

The Parable of the Sower teaches the absolute necessity of the word of God, the spiritual seed, for conversion (Luke 8:4-15; Mark 4:1-20; Matthew 13:3-23). Neither in the natural realm, nor in the spiritual realm, can there be life without seed. Seed is essential for making Christians. The “word” is the seed of the kingdom. Christ said: “The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11). The word of God is to the spiritual kingdom what the grain of wheat is to the natural kingdom: it contains the germ of life. If no seed is planted, there is no harvest. If no Gospel is preached, there are no Christians. The human heart is the soil, and the seed (Gospel) enters it when man “hears.”

Why does Satan try to immediately remove the “word” from the minds of those who have heard it? He knows its power. The seed will bring forth new life. The Bible says that all the saved are “begotten again” by this seed (1 Peter 1:23). This passage says that the “word of God” is the means by which a new life is created within the heart; and it also says that the seed of the kingdom possesses a vitality that can never decay or be destroyed. Unlike the seeds of the physical world, which are corruptible, God’s word lives and abides forever. And Peter adds, “This is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Peter 1:25).

This Gospel, preached by the apostles, is life-begetting and indestructible. This disproves the pernicious idea that the word of God is utterly powerless until the Holy Spirit operates upon the sinner in some mysterious manner. The quickening power which the Spirit originally imparted to the Gospel is still retained. The Holy Spirit imparts life through the Gospel — the living, life-giving seed. Thus, Satan is never more successful than when he persuades men that the Bible is a dead letter. When he does this, he robs man of his means of salvation.

The transmission of life is somewhat mysterious to the human mind. The farmer may not know all about the beginning of life in the vegetable kingdom, but he sows his seed anyway, knowing that life is transmitted through it. This is true in the realm of grace. The Gospel must first be preached. Without this seed, there can be no conversion. “How” spiritual life is transmitted through the word is not the point. The point is that Christians cannot be made without it. The importance of this issue is not “how” the seed gets into the heart, but the “result” it produces. Satan knows how people are converted; so, whenever it is possible, he steals “the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved” (Luke 8:12). In view of these facts, the Great Commission given by the Savior to his apostles assumes

vast importance: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16).

What is it one believes? It is the Gospel, “for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). What is it that will damn him if he does not believe? It is his disobedience to the Gospel.

## II. NO DIRECT OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Bible does not recount anyone having been reborn by a vague, unexplainable influence of the Spirit. Nor is there an example of any sinner experiencing a direct impact of the Spirit during his conversion. Moreover, no inspired man ever taught that such an operation was necessary. No inspired man of God ever taught sinners to come to the altar and “pray for pardon.” None mentioned “instantaneous conversion,” or “getting religion,” or “having an experience of grace.” Such phrases are of modern-day origin. They indicate a misunderstanding of Biblical teaching. People mentioned in Bible accounts of conversion were converted by the power of God’s Word. In every example, the Gospel was preached. Although the sinner did not regenerate himself, he was regenerated by hearing and obeying the Gospel, the Spirit’s message.

If the Holy Spirit converts in a *direct way*, separate from the word, why are not all people converted? Why are the heathen not converted by the thousands? Christians are not found where the Gospel has never been preached/heard. Hence, missionaries are sent to preach the word to the lost in order that they may believe it and be saved. If the theory of the *direct operation* of the Holy Spirit in conversion were true, why send men into all the world to preach the Gospel? Men who hold the position that the Holy Spirit converts in a direct way cannot answer these questions.

If a *direct operation* of the Spirit is necessary in conversion, then God is showing partiality when he does not convert all. If the Lord withholds his converting power from some and sends it to others, he is a respecter of persons. However, the Bible plainly says that “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; 1 Peter 1:17). The theory of the special operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion eliminates all human responsibility. If true, this theory makes God wholly responsible when the sinner is damned at the Judgment.

Eve was influenced to sin by the *words of Satan* (Genesis 3:1-6, 13). Man today is influenced to righteousness by the *Word of*

*God.* Are Satan's words more powerful than the word of God? According to the direct operation theory, God is not able, by his word alone, to reach the hearts of sinners. Furthermore, if the Holy Spirit exerts a direct influence in conversion, apart from the word, the Gospel is not God's power to save (Romans 1:16).

As already observed, in the beginning of the Christian era the Spirit came to the apostles; and, they spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance. When the people heard the apostles, they heard the Spirit speaking. The "new birth" was produced when they believed and obeyed what they heard. Today, when people hear the Gospel, they hear the voice of the Spirit. This is the only manner by which one hears the Spirit's voice. Although inspired men are not living today, their writings exist. The Holy Scriptures are inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In the apostolic age, many were not converted. But it was not because some special power was withheld; their own wills decided the matter (cf. Acts 24:25; 26:28). However, those who were saved, *heard* the Gospel, *believed* it, *repented* of their sins, and, following a *confession* of their faith in Christ as God's Son, were *baptized* in water; thereby, they entered into the kingdom of God (Acts 2).

*The Scriptures plainly teach that the Holy Spirit works only through the written Word of God in the Christian life, as well as in conversion* (cf. Ephesians 3:3-5,17; 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16). The Holy Spirit does not operate either on aliens or Christians except through the instrumentality of revealed truth (the Bible). The Spirit *leads, guides, and directs* the child of God through the word — the scriptures.

### III. GOD'S POWERFUL WORD

Note some further facts about the power of God's Word.

The Scriptures assert that the world was created by the Word of God. In all ages, scientists and philosophers have speculated about the beginning of things. The Bible says that in the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1). The "means" used in this process was the Word. "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth ... he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalms 33:6,9).

The Creator spoke the universe into existence — a truth that all must accept by faith since no one is capable of telling, by observation, how the world began: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear"

(Hebrews 11:3).

While Christ was upon the earth, his words were powerful. All of the miracles wrought by Christ were by the Word of his power (cf. Matthew 8:26-32; 14:19; Luke 7:1-15; John 11:43). He had but to speak the word and the deed was done. Surely, God's Word is no less powerful when written, than when spoken.

Through Isaiah God declared that his Word would not return unto him void, but would accomplish the purpose whereunto it was sent (Isaiah 55:10-11). Again, through Jeremiah, God said: "Is not my word like as a fire? ... and like a hammer that breaketh the rocks in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

The Bible declares that no word of God is void of power (Luke 1:37, ASV). God's Word has always been powerful. Like its Author, God's Word is eternal; it shall never pass away. Jesus said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). The Bible is not dead as some say; rather it is alive, active, and powerful. It abounds with the energy of spiritual life. "For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful [active, energetic], and sharper than any two-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12).

The word (in the heart, not on the printed page) *saves, quickens, and converts*. There is no power in paper and ink; the power lies within the words. The Bible is God's revealed thoughts.

### IV. THE NATURE OF MAN

Many have a false view of the nature of man. They think people are totally depraved from birth, and that a direct operation of the Spirit is necessary for conversion. The Bible, however, does not teach *hereditary depravity*. "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Sin is committed by a person; it is an act; it cannot be inherited. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son" (Ezekiel 18:20).

Infants are not born in sin. They cannot inherit the acts of their parents. Sins are not transmitted from parent to child (cf. Matthew 18:1-3; 19:14). Again, concerning sin the Scripture says: "And you did he make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins ... and were by nature children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:1,3, ASV).

Notice, this verse does not say "dead by inheritance," nor "born dead," but "dead through your trespasses and sins." The word "born" does not appear in this passage. "By nature" in verse 3 means (as in 1 Corinthians 11:14): "custom," "practice," or

“second nature.” The expression is used to describe the Ephesians’ conduct before they obeyed the Gospel. They were dead in sin because of their own trespasses (see also verse 5). It is true that physical death comes to all mankind because of Adam’s sin (1 Corinthians 15:22), but it is not true that all people are born in sin because of Adam’s transgression. It is man’s sins that separate him from God. “...Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2; cf. Colossians 1:21).

When the Gospel is preached, the Spirit operates through the “word” on those who hear. They can obey the teaching and be saved; or they can reject it and be lost (Acts 28:27). One “resists the Spirit” when he rejects the “words of the Spirit.” An individual has the moral freedom to “obey” or “not obey” the Gospel (Acts 7:51; Nehemiah 9:30). Jesus said, “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:40). He did not say, “Ye cannot come,” but “ye will not come.”

There is no power in all the universe that will save sinners when they refuse to obey the Gospel. God will not force anyone to obey him. If the sinner rejects the message of salvation and is eternally lost, the fault is his own. He could have been saved. God would have been delighted to save his soul, rather than damn him for his disobedience. “The Lord is not...willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9; cf. Ezekiel 18:23,32; 13:11; Acts 24:25; 28:23-28).

The rich man in torment is the only one recorded in the Bible who ever asked God for help beyond his inspired Word. His request was denied (Luke 16:19-31). The rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead and warn his five brothers on earth to repent that they might escape the terrible place where he then was. Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.” If the rich man, then in torment, had given heed to the law and the prophets, he would not have been where he was. The same plight could be avoided by his brethren if they would only hearken to the teachings of the Sacred Scriptures. Today, people have both the Old and New Testaments (Moses and the prophets, Christ and the apostles). This is all that God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit will ever send to produce repentance. No miracle will be performed. The Scriptures are sufficient for the accomplishment of that which God intended — namely, the salvation of the souls of men and women. All should take heed, therefore, “how” they hear (Luke 8:18), and “what” they hear (Mark 4:24).

## V. CONCLUSION

In this study it has been learned that in the regeneration of a sinner, the Holy Spirit always works “through the Word.” He never works in some direct, mysterious manner.

The truth of God is the medium through which the Holy Spirit *begets*, *quicken*s, and *converts* the sinner. He who *repents* of his sins, after being taught the Gospel, *confesses* his faith in Christ and is *baptized* in water, becomes a Christian and may enjoy all the promises of God. If he is *faithful until death*, he shall receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

<b>THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS WORD</b>		
<b>What is Done</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit</b>	<b>The Spirit’s Word</b>
Instructs / Teaches	1 Cor. 2:13	2 Tim. 3:14-17
Begets / Begotten	1 John 5:1	James 1:18
Born again	John 3:5	1 Peter 1:23
Convicts of sin	John 16:7-8	Titus 1:9
Comforts	Acts 9:31	1 Thess. 4:18
Love of God (agape)	Rom. 5:5	1 John 2:5
Sanctifies	1 Peter 1:2	John 17:17
Justifies	1 Cor. 6:11	Gal. 3:8
Converts	John 16:7-8	Psalms 19:7
Saves	1 Cor. 6:11	Acts 11:14
Washes	1 Cor. 6:11	Eph. 5:26
Cleanses	1 Cor. 6:11	John 15:3
Leads	Rom. 8:14	Psalms 119:105
Makes us Free	Rom. 8:2	John 8:32
Strengthens	Eph. 3:16	Acts 20:32
Witnesses	1 John 5:6-8	Heb. 10:15-16
Produces Fruit	Gal. 5:22-23	Col. 1:5-6
Dwells in us	Eph. 5:18-19	Col. 3:16
Power of the Spirit	Rom. 15:13	Heb. 1:3

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. A PERSON (DEITY) – Acts 5:3-4; John 16:13 “He”
2. COMMUNICATED GOD’S WILL TO MAN – WORDS  
2 Peter 1:21; 2 Sam. 23:2; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 2:10-13;  
John 14:26; John 16:13; Matt. 10:19; Eph. 3:3-5
3. INSPIRED WORD COMPLETE  
2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Jude 3
4. LEADS BY WORD – Rom. 8:14; Psalm 119:105
5. INDWELLS BY WORD —  
1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16  
As God – 1 John 4:12-16  
As Christ – Col 1:27; Eph. 3:17  
Literally? NO! Personally? NO! Bodily? NO!  
Abstractly? NO! Immediately? NO! Gal. 3:2  
Not Incarnation!
6. INTERCEDES FOR US – (not IN us) – Rom. 8:26-27
7. IF THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS DIRECTLY AND LITERALLY IN THE CHRISTIAN, WHAT DOES HE DO THAT THE WORD DOES NOT DO?

(The chart on page 56 shows that what the Spirit does, He does through His Word)

## MEASURES OF THE SPIRIT

John 3:34

Varying amounts of POWER which the Holy Spirit has exercised

Christ – “without measure” (John 3:34)

Others:

### 1. BAPTISM

- Apostles (Acts 1:4-5; Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4)
- Cornelius (Acts 10; 11:1-18)
- “All Flesh” (Joel 2:28-29)
- Jew and Gentile

### 2. Miraculous GIFTS

- Early Christians (Some)
- Bestowed by Apostles’ hands  
(Acts 8:14-19; Acts 19:6; 2 Tim. 1:6)

### 3. Ordinary (Non-Miraculous)

- By obedience to the word
- To all Christians (1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16)  
Bring “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)

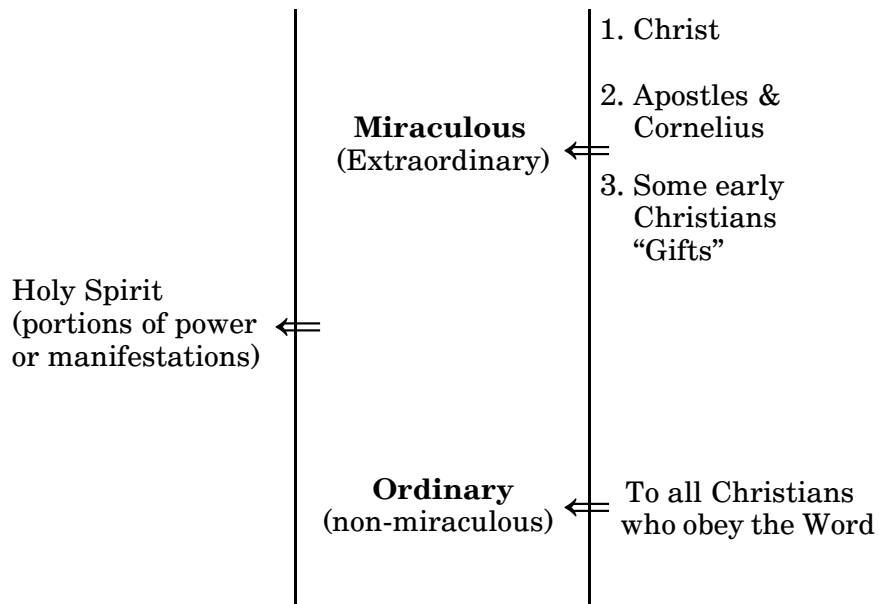
**ALL REFERENCES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE NOT REFERRING TO HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM!**

The apostles preached the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit “sent down from heaven” (1 Peter 1:12)

No one but an apostle was ever authorized to bestow the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands

# MEASURES OF THE SPIRIT

John 3:34



Today, all influence of the Holy Spirit on the human mind for “conversion” and “sanctification” is done only through the word of God.

# MEASURES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 3:34

BAPTISMAL MEASURE	MIRACULOUS GIFTS MEASURE	ORDINARY MEASURE
1. To Apostles & Cornelius (Acts chapters 2, 10, 11)	Some disciples (Acts 8:12-18; 19:6)	All Christians (Rom. 8:9-11; Acts 2:38)
2. Christ Administrator (Matt. 3:11; John 1:33)	By Apostles (2 Tim. 1:6)	When obey gospel & live by the Word (Gal. 3:2; Col. 3:16).
3. To Reveal & Confirm Truth (John 16:13; 14:26; Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4)	Help till New Testament Written (Eph. 4:11-13). Not needed now.	Gives no miraculous power. No baptism of the Spirit.
4. Not to save (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21)	Not to save (Acts chapters 8 & 19)	Dwells in the church (1 Cor. 3:16)
5. Ceased, A.D. 64 (Eph. 4:5)	Ceased, A.D. 96 (1 Cor.13:10)	Continues today (Gal. 4:6)
<p>The miraculous gifts “measure” of the Spirit could only be conferred (bestowed upon another) by an Apostle. When the last Apostle died, they ceased to be conferred on others; when the last person on whom apostolic hands had been laid died, they ceased in the church altogether.</p>		

## PENTECOSTALISM:

Miracles — Tongue Speaking — Healing

**True? False?**

1. Not a question of miracles **once** done.
2. Not a question of God’s **power**, but **plan**.
3. Not a question of **praying** for the sick.
4. Not a question of **Testimonies**.
5. Question is: **Are Miracles Done Today?**
6. Or is it Emotionalism? Feeling?  
Deception is possible.  
Example: Simon (Acts 8:9-13).  
Warning (2 Thess. 2:9-11; Matt. 7:15)
7. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH? (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Peter 4:11)  
Miracles once — **not now**. Tongue speaking once — **not now**  
Miraculous healing once — **not now**. Inspired men once — **not now**  
Example: the Foreword of the United Pentecostal Church Manuel 1914, revealed “oneness” doctrine

**THERE ARE NO LATTER-DAY REVELATIONS!**

## **SIGNS OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZED MEN**

(Apostles)

1. Peter had power of death (Acts 5:1-6)
2. Peter raised Dorcas from the Dead (Acts 9:36-42)
3. Peter and John conferred (bestowed) Miraculous gifts (power) by the laying on of their hands (Acts 8:17-18)
4. Paul made a man blind (Acts 13:9-12)
5. Paul raised Eutychus from dead (Acts 20:9-10)
6. Paul bitten by a snake — no harm came to him (Acts 28:5)
7. “Many wonders and signs done by the apostles” (Acts 2:43)

**WHERE ARE THESE SIGNS BEING DONE TODAY?**

**THEY CANNOT DEMONSTRATE!** (1 John 4:1; Rev. 2:2)

**THERE ARE NO APOSTLES TODAY!**

Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 9:1; 2 Cor. 12:12

“Signs were wrought among you”

“Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain” (Prov. 25:14)

## **SIGNS FOLLOWING BELIEVERS**

Mark 16:17-18

“Demons – Tongues – Serpents – Poison – Sick”

**Do These Signs Follow Today?**

Miraculous gifts of the Spirit today? (1 Cor. 12:1-11)

1. **HOW FOLLOW (GIVEN)? – By hands of Apostles**  
Stephen (Acts 6:6, 8); Philip (Acts 6:5; 8:6, 13)  
Samaritans (Acts 8:14-21)  
Ephesians (Acts 19:6)  
Timothy (2 Tim. 1:6)  
Romans (Rom. 1:11)  
Not by “Praying”!  
**NO APOSTLES LIVING TODAY TO IMPART GIFTS!**  
No one on whom the Apostles laid hands could impart gifts to others.
2. **WHY FOLLOW? – To Reveal, Confirm, Record Word**  
(Eph. 3:3-5)
3. **HOW LONG FOLLOW?**  
Not **Permanent, Gifts** were to cease  
(1 Cor. 13:8-10; James 1:25)  
Until the Perfect revelation of God’s will  
Inspired men **TILL** the unity of “the faith” (New Testament)  
(Eph. 4:11-13; Jude 3)  
The Word was confirmed (Heb. 2:3-4; Mark 16:20)

**NO NEED FOR INSPIRED MEN TODAY!  
ALL MIRACLES HAVE CEASED!**



## THE END OF MIRACLES

When “that” which is Perfect comes (1 Cor. 13:10)

Tongues, etc. Faith, Hope, Love



“That” which is perfect is...  
Not heaven  
Not Second Coming of Christ

It is the Perfect law of liberty (James 1:25)  
(the word of God — the completed New Testament)

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Unity of “the Faith” (Eph. 4:8-13)

Prophets, etc. till Complete Word



to Reveal, Confirm Now Read – Eph. 3:3-5  
2 Tim. 2:15  
Record Will — 2 Peter 1:3 Recorded miracles  
John 20:30-31

We have the complete Word of God Now  
The New Testament (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

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### Is More Truth Being Given Today?

It either is **in** the Bible or it **contradicts** the Bible  
(Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19; 2 Tim. 4:1-6)

### Where are the Miracles to confirm the word?

Does the Holy Spirit confirm **contradictory** Doctrines?  
Does the Holy Spirit confirm **false** doctrines?  
Are all of those who claim the Holy Spirit today  
**guided by the Spirit?** NO!

## WHAT IS THE ONE BAPTISM TODAY?

Ephesians 4:5

Holy Spirit Baptism	vs	Water Baptism
1. A Promise (Acts 1:5)		1. A Command (Acts 10:48)
2. Administered only by Christ (Matt. 3:11)		2. Administered by men (Matt. 28:19)
3. Not into the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit		3. Into the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19)
4. Not for Remission of Sins (John 16:13)		4. For Remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21)
5. Ended before A.D. 62		5. To the end of the world (Matt. 28:20)
6. Only two Holy Spirit baptisms (Acts 2 & Acts 10)		6. Many recorded (Acts chapters 2, 8, 16, 18)
7. Figurative (Acts 1:5; Luke 24:49; Acts 10:44-45)		7. Literal (Acts 8:38; Rom. 6:4)

### THERE ARE NOT TWO BAPTISMS TODAY!

1. There were two Baptisms at Pentecost (Acts 2 – A.D. 30)  
Holy Spirit on the Apostles — Water baptism on the 3,000
2. There were two Baptisms at Caesarea (Acts 10 – A.D. 40)  
Holy Spirit baptism on Cornelius — water baptism on those present
3. There is ONE Baptism today (Eph. 4:5 – A.D. 62)

The events of Pentecost and at the house of Cornelius were never reproduced during the lives of the Apostles, and never since in any land or on any occasion.

## THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:38

### DOES IT MEAN?

- 1) What the Holy Spirit gives? (Example: John 4:10; Eph. 4:7)
- 2) Or, the Holy Spirit as a **gift**? If so, is it
  - (a) **Miraculous**? (Acts 10:45-47; 11:17)  
No Baptism of the Holy Spirit today  
No Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit today  
(There's no one to bestow them)
  - (b) **Ordinary** (non-miraculous) indwelling, with all spiritual blessings, through obedience to the word? This is the only way it could be to Christians today!

### REMEMBER:

1. Take ALL the Bible says on any subject.
2. Statements in the Bible do not contradict.
3. All Statements of the Bible harmonize.

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**WHAT IS THE PROMISE?**

Acts 2:39

1. Not Holy Spirit Baptism. This came direct from God.  
Only two examples in New Testament (Acts 2; Acts 10).
2. Not Miraculous Gifts of Spirit. These were bestowed only by the Apostles (Acts 8:18). No apostles living today.
3. Salvation —  
through Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)  
spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3)  
to ALL who obey, Jew and Gentile (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9)

## SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Mark 16; Acts 2; Acts 10; Acts 19; 1 Cor. 12-14

1. **Meaning?** “Tongues” – languages (Acts 2:4,6,8) (Not jabbering)
2. Apostles spoke in tongues, and it was one of the Spiritual gifts (Acts 19:6; 1 Cor. 12:10, 30)
3. “Unknown” Tongue – Foreign language (1 Cor. 14:2).  
If no translator (interpretation), no understanding by others.
4. Words in public service must be understood (1 Cor. 14:9, 13-19)  
Praying, singing, or no edification  
Sing and pray by inspiration but in a language that can be understood by others
5. Speaking to church (assembly) must be understood or keep silence.  
A few words at a time and one translate (1 Cor. 14:22-28)  
Tongues were a sign to unbelievers
6. Women to keep silence (1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:12). Do they?
7. Not forbidding the use of tongues while they lasted (1 Cor. 14:37-40). But they were to cease, as all spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

### THEY HAVE CEASED!

## ONLY THREE WAYS IN WHICH MEN HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. By **BAPTISM** of the Holy Spirit (No one possesses this today)
2. By **LAYING ON OF APOSTLES' HANDS** (a miraculous gift) (no one possesses this today)
3. By **(through) THE WORD THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN:**
  - a. (This is the only way the Spirit influences man for his salvation)
  - b. Convicts and converts (Psalm 19:7; Rom. 1:16; John 6:63; Psalm 119:50; Eph. 6:17; Acts 2:37)
  - c. Leads, guides, directs (Rom. 8:14; Psalm 119:105)
  - d. Gives spiritual strength (Eph. 3:16; Acts 20:32; 1 Peter 2:2; Matt. 4:4; Col. 2:7)
  - e. Sanctifies (2 Thess. 2:13; John 17:17)
  - f. The Word **saves** (James 1:21)  
The Word **gives faith** (Rom. 10:17)  
The Word **begets** (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:21)  
The Word **calls** (2 Thess. 2:14)

**No Special, Direct Influence of the Holy Spirit today on Any Person for His Salvation and Sanctification!  
The Spirit Convicts and Converts and Guides.  
BUT HOW? Through the Word!**

Illustration:

A person uses an instrument (axe) to cut down a tree.  
"By faith" (John 3:16)  
Is it "faith only?" NO (James 2:24; Gal. 5:6)

## THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD

Holy Spirit	Action	Word of God
John 6:63 John 3:5,8 1 Cor. 6:11 Romans 8:11	Quickens Born of Sanctification Dwells In	Psalm 119:50 1 Peter 1:23 John 17:17 Col. 3:16

(See the chart on page 56 for more)

**The Holy Spirit and the Word of God are never separate in Conversion and Sanctification**

<b>MAN NEEDS:</b>		
Begotten	HOW?	James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; John 6:63
Quickened	HOW?	Psalm 119:50, 93; Eph. 2:1
Converted	HOW?	Psalm 19:7; Rom. 1:16
Saved	HOW?	James 1:21; Acts 11:14
Faith	HOW?	Rom. 10:17; Acts 15:7
Called	HOW?	2 Thess. 2:14
Sanctified	HOW?	John 17:17
Food	HOW?	1 Peter 2:2; Acts 20:32; Matt. 4:4
Light	HOW?	Psalm 119:105, 130
Comfort	HOW?	1 Thess. 4:18; Rom. 15:4

There is no operation of the Holy Spirit in Conversion independent (separate and apart) from God's Word

"Preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2)

Whatever is necessary for man to understand and obey that is essential to his salvation, has been clearly revealed in language that may be easily understood in the Scriptures.

## GOD'S POWERFUL WORD

<p><b>Power for Salvation</b> Rom. 1:16</p> <p><b>Full of Power</b> Gen. 1:3 Psalm 33:6-9 Matt. 8 Luke 4:36 Luke 1:37 Isa. 55:11</p> <p><b>As Fire, Hammer</b> Jer. 23:29</p> <p><b>Seed of Kingdom</b> Luke 8:11</p> <p><b>Sword of Spirit</b> Eph. 6:17 Heb. 4:12</p> <p><b>Is Eternal</b> Isa. 40:8 1 Peter 1:25 Matt. 24:35</p>	<p><b>All man needs:</b></p> <p><b>Begotten</b> James 1:18 1 Cor. 4:15 1 Peter 1:22-23</p> <p><b>Quickened</b> Psalm 119:50, 93 Eph. 2:1</p> <p><b>Quickened by the Spirit</b> John 6:63 Acts 2:37</p> <p><b>Receive Faith</b> Rom 10:17 John 20:31</p> <p><b>Converted</b> Psalm 19:7</p> <p><b>Saved</b> James 1:21 Acts 11:14</p> <p><b>Sanctified</b> John 17:17</p> <p><b>Called</b> 2 Thess. 2:14</p>	<p><b>Drawing Power</b> John 6:44-45</p> <p><b>Makes Free</b> John 8:32</p> <p><b>Gives Light</b> Psalm 119:105 Psalm 119:30</p> <p><b>Grow by Word</b> 1 Peter 2:2 Matt. 4:4</p> <p><b>Will Judge Us</b> John 12:48 Rev. 20:12</p> <p><b>No Miracle Needed</b> Luke 16:31 Matt. 13:15</p> <p><b>Man can Reject</b> Acts 7:51 John 5:40</p>
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## THE WITNESS OF THE TWO SPIRITS

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,  
that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16)

(There is Agreement between the two)

GOD'S SPIRIT SAYS:	MAN'S SPIRIT SAYS:
<p><b>Hear</b> Mark 12:29; Acts 3:22-23 Acts 15:7; John 6:45</p> <p><b>Believe</b> John 8:24; Rom. 10:10</p> <p><b>Repent</b> Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38 Acts 17:30</p> <p><b>Confess Christ</b> Rom. 10:9-10 Acts 8:36-38</p> <p><b>Be Baptized</b> Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16 Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21</p> <p><b>Be Faithful</b> Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58</p> <p><b>Continue steadfastly, add graces</b> 2 Peter 1:5-11</p>	<p>I have heard the Gospel</p> <p>I have (do) Believe</p> <p>I have Repented 1 Tim. 6:12-13</p> <p>I have confessed Christ 1 Tim. 6:12-13</p> <p>I have been baptized for remission of sins, buried, raised</p> <p>I am adding graces, continuing, growing, etc. – Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7</p>
<p><b>The Message to Us</b> – John 14:16-17; John 16:13; Acts 1:16; 2 Sam. 23:2; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:7 Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 10:15; Jeremiah 1:4</p> <p><b>Holy Spirit Says</b> – Acts 20:23; Nehemiah 9:30</p> <p><b>Witness With Our Spirit</b> – 1 Cor. 2:10-13</p> <p><b>Not What I Think</b> – Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12</p>	

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

(A general survey)

1. **A divine Being** – third Person of the Godhead
  - a. One God, in three personalities (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 17:29)
  - b. Bible refers to Holy Spirit as “he” not “it.”
2. **Holy Spirit had a part in creation**, universe and man (Gen. 1:26)
3. **Holy Spirit guided Old Testament prophets in speaking and writing** (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Sam. 23:2; Neh. 9:30; Acts 1:16; 28:25)
4. **Christ Promised the Holy Spirit to Guide the Apostles** (John 14; 15; 16; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4)
5. **Different Measures of the Holy Spirit** (Portions of the power of the Holy Spirit)
  - a. Christ possessed the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).
  - b. Baptismal measure of the power of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles on Pentecost
    - 1) To guide them into all truth (John 16:13; 14:26; 15:26,27)
    - 2) To proclaim his gospel to the whole world and establish his kingdom (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; 2 Cor. 5:20; Eph. 3:3-5 – inspiration)
    - 4) Holy Spirit revealed, confirmed (by miracles), recorded the whole truth of the New Testament (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3; Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4)
    - 5) Apostles spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4, 6, 11). These were real languages unlearned by the speaker. (Original manuscripts do not say “**unknown** tongues”). They bridged the language gulf.  
Baptismal measure of the Holy Spirit to that Gentiles at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10; 11:1-18). Exactly similar to what occurred on Pentecost; completed fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:17); to convince Jews that Gentiles were eligible for obedience to Gospel.
  - c. The laying on of hands measure of the Holy Spirit (also called the miraculous gifts of the Spirit) – only by the Apostles (Acts 8:18)
    - 1) Same gift not possessed by all members (1 Cor. 12:8,10)
    - 2) Gifts were temporary (1 Cor. 13:8-10; Eph. 4:11-13)
    - 3) To help the Apostles and edify the infant church (1 Cor. 14:26; 12:7, 28-30)
    - 4) A sign to unbelievers (1 Cor. 14:22)
    - 5) Speaking different languages (tongues) and interpretation of tongues were two different gifts (1 Cor. 12:10)
    - 6) These gifts ceased with the completion of the New Testament (James 1:25). No Apostle living to bestow any gift; no longer needed. Gifts are like scaffolding in construction.  
(Christ, Apostles, Cornelius, and some early Christians all possessed the miraculous measures of the Spirit)
  - d. **The indwelling measure of the Spirit** (also called the ordinary, non-miraculous measure of the H.S.).
    - 1) Dwells in the Christian through obedience to the word (Rom. 8:11; Gal. 3:2); not directly, personally, but as God the Father and Christ the Son dwell in Christians. The Spirit leads, guides the Christian through the word; not in a special, direct way.
    - 2) In obedience to the word, Christians bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in their lives (Gal. 5:22-23; cf. 2 Cor. 6:16; Col. 1:27).
6. Mankind today has all the truth in the Bible – given and confirmed by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. They may read and understand God’s will (Eph. 3:4). God’s mind has been communicated to man’s mind by “words” through men guided by the Holy Spirit. In conviction and conversion, the Holy Spirit operates on man “only through the word” in leading and directing the Christian in his life of service. The Holy Spirit does this “only through the word” (the Gospel) (Rom. 1:16; Psalm 19:7; 119:105; Rev. 2:7).
7. There are no new present-day revelations of the Holy Spirit.

**Preach the word!**