

The Holy Spirit

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The Person of the Holy Spirit

There is more to the gospel than turning to the Lord. The truth is more than that Christ Jesus died for us. We can put it this way: whenever any of us come and yield ourselves to Him in order that we might be saved, certain things follow. The Bible speaks of us as being the adopted children of God, and this is what we are now in this world. "Beloved now are we the sons of God." Because we are the children of God, God would have us built together in a body, the Church, which is to be a witness to God. Activities of God's people together as a unit are intended to be such that God should be praised and that other people might be called to Him and be saved. Also this gathering of the Christians together into one body is that they might comfort and strengthen each other and in this fashion do the will of God. All of these things follow when we turn ourselves over to Him in faith. Another way of expressing the benefits or the results of having turned to God is this: we are born again and have been raised into the newness of life. We belong to Him because He died for us and we have come to Him.

We soon learn that even though we have turned to God and have been received by Him, in ourselves we are not able to do what God would have us do. We are not strong enough or good enough to do His will. So the truth includes more than what we have been talking about. Just as we could not make ourselves right and just before God, neither can we do what is necessary in order for us to be fruitful in the service of God.

The weakness and the limitations of any human being, despite belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, are brought out in the book of Romans chapter 7. The Apostle Paul describes his own condition, even though he is a believer and has turned to God. We read in verse 15, "That which I do, [what I actually practice day in and day out], I allow not [I don't approve it, I'm not in favor of it]: for what I would [what I really want to do], that do I not [I don't practice it. I don't actually carry out what I really want to do]; but what I hate [what I am really against], that do I." Then Paul goes on to say, "If I actually practiced things I don't want to do, in my heart and in my whole thinking, I am acknowledging that the Word of God is true, that the law of God is right and I am not. It isn't my intention to be wrong or to disobey God, but sin is there in my human nature and is misleading me as I go along." And we read that Paul says, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) [in my human nature], dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me [a Christian who has turned to God, believes in the Lord Jesus Christ and wants to do God's will, call actually intend to do the right thing]; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would [what I really want to do that is good], I do not: but the evil which I would not [the very things that I myself do not want to do], that I do. Now if I do that I would not [if I actually practice the things that I don't want to approve], it is no more I that do it [it is not really my intention], but sin that dwelleth in me."

What hope is there then? That is what we are going to be studying about in this series.

Actually, in Romans eight you'll see what our hope and expectation is. The truth is that God has provided for this very situation where as a Christian you feel your own weakness and you're simply not, accomplishing what you want to do in the will of God. Now comes the truth that God has provided for this very thing by sending forth His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit within us as believers in Christ actually enables us to do the will of God.

In Romans 8, beginning at verse 9, Paul emphasizes this very thing I am talking about. He says, "But ye are not in the flesh, [you are no longer left in your human nature as such], but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his [if you are a real Christian you will have the Holy Spirit in your heart]. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin [Paul readily admits that is always true]; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness [while you may in your own human nature have the motions of death because of sin you will have,

because of the Holy Spirit that is in you, the strength of life]."

Now look in Romans 8:11: "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." God has arranged and provided that the Holy Spirit shall come within the heart of the believer and make alive his mortal body, making it responsive to God. He will arouse it so that he will do the things that are the will of God. Look at verse 13: "But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

In verses 26 and 27 something further of the work of the Spirit is shown. We read, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities." That is what I meant in speaking about the fact that even though you have turned to God and claimed the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, in your human nature you still won't have any more strength than you had before. "For we know not what we should pray for as we ought." Not only would the Holy Spirit help you in all the other things that you would want to do in the way of service – giving to the poor, obeying those who are over you, being considerate of other people, being reverent toward God – but even in the matter of praying "the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

When the Lord Jesus Christ was here on earth, He helped His disciples. He strengthened them, encouraged and watched over them. Now that He is gone away He has sent to us another Comforter, the One that is called the Holy Spirit. The believer will never be alone because the Holy Spirit within us will show us the things of Christ and make us conscious of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and of God the Father in our very souls. Furthermore the believer will be guided by this Holy Spirit who will bring to our minds what we need to know in deciding what we are going to do. Then the believer will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in that He will move us to do His will. Also, the believer will be kept: that is, the Holy Spirit acts like someone who holds us by the hand and keeps us in the will of God.

The truth in Christian living is not so much that we have been given a map which we can follow and find our way home to God: we have actually been given *the* guide. We have someone riding along with us who knows the road. Again, we haven't been given a pattern of what we are to produce, but we have actually been given fellowship with the architect, the one who does the planning himself. As Christians, we were never meant to go it alone.

For you, it was never expected that you were to live alone in the sight of God. You were never expected to produce a record by yourself that would be good in the sight of God. It was God's plan that you should be helped. He planned to give you, first of all, the Lord Jesus Christ who would come to save you and die for you that your sins might be forgiven. Then, the Holy Spirit would be coming to live in you that you might be lifted up into the will of God and that you might obey Him.

In this series of study we begin with the belief that the truth about the Holy Spirit is to be found in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is not something that you can see, touch or sense in any way, shape or form. The Holy Spirit is a spirit. Yet it is true, as the Bible tells us, what the eye cannot see, and the ear cannot hear and no human being can ever think about, has been revealed to us by His Spirit in the Scriptures (I Cor. 2:9, 10).

In this first study, we might recognize, when we think of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, that this truth of the Holy Spirit is in a sense even harder to grasp than what we are taught about either God the Father or God the Son. If you think that God the Father, Creator of the heavens and the earth, was also the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that can be grasped, even though it is strange and wonderful. Concerning God the Son, we have many marvelous and wonderful facts. We think of how the Son of God came into this world by the Virgin Birth, even though a good many people have trouble about that. We think of how He was filled with the Holy Spirit at all times, and He did always the things on earth to please His Father. After He died on Calvary's cross for our sins, He was raised from the dead. And after having been seen alive by many infallible proofs for the space of 40 days, He was then taken up into

heaven in full view of them all, and He is now at the right hand of God the Father, seated in the heavenly places. All of that is marvelous and wonderful but we can somehow follow it through. If anyone were to ask where the Son of God is now, we would reply that He is seated at the right hand of God. Now when we come to the matter of God the Holy Spirit, where do the Scriptures teach us that the Holy Spirit is? And the answer would be – in our hearts as believers.

If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is in you. The Holy Spirit's dwelling place right now is in the Church of the Living God. That is hard for us to grasp. We can think of God the Father in heaven, and God the Son at the right hand of the Father. But God the Holy Spirit in the believer – we feel almost like saying, "Oh, no!"

There is another aspect we need to keep in mind: the Holy Spirit is spoken of as a person. This means to say that He can think, He can feel and He can will. We read concerning the Holy Spirit that He knows our limitations and He knows the mind of God. The Holy Spirit is grieved with us when we sin. Also, He chooses whom He will and sends them where He will. Now we shall be studying about this whole truth in order that we might cooperate with the truth of God and yield ourselves to Him in what we know about the Holy Spirit of God.

Receiving the Spirit

Doubtless many of us have the impression that when a person decides to accept Jesus Christ the matter is settled about his becoming a Christian. In any given community there are people who are Christians and there are people who are not Christians. This does not particularly refer to what kind of people they are, but we mean in the true sense of the word that there are some people who are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the promises of God in the Bible. And then there are other people who are living their lives the best they know how according to the good sense and judgment they have, but honestly and sincerely they do not claim to be Christian.

Some persons do become Christians. A human being can hear the gospel, receive it and become a Christian. Usually this particular incident or experience is spelled out in a direct invitation to accept Jesus Christ and there is a response on the part of the individual. Sometimes the individual overcomes his rebellious spirit. Sometimes the individual overcomes his own indifference. Sometimes he overcomes his personal pride. A good many people would, I think, say right away that such a person became a Christian.

Yet there is a very important aspect of truth that could be easily overlooked. Suppose a person wanted to have a garden. You know that there are people who have gardens and others who don't. Obviously, gardens do not come from doing nothing. A person doesn't wake up one morning and see a garden in his back yard. If you are going to have a garden you will have to make up your mind and take the necessary steps. If you never do another thing the back yard will stay in weeds just as it is now.

The same would be true with reference to two young people who have thought of marriage. They may have talked about the possibility of marriage and the time comes when the young man actually proposes to the girl. He asks her to accept him as her future husband and to promise to marry him. Let us say that she says, "Yes, I will." Now are they married? You know better than that. Even if the time were to come when they go through the wedding ceremony and are pronounced husband and wife, that isn't all there is to it. A married life begins in that way, but marriage is much more.

The matter of being a Christian is not so much different from that. I have given these illustrations so that you can see the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life. In becoming a Christian, the first thing one does is to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. But there is more to receive.

This is not in relation to sin: when Christ Jesus died on Calvary's cross, He said, "It is finished." That is the end so far as the believer's sin is concerned. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ cleanses you from all sin. What I want to emphasize to you now is that for a Christian life you go beyond forgiveness. There is more.

Now let us see what the Scriptures say to us. Let me turn your attention first to the book of Galatians 4:4-6. I want you to see something that God has done: "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. [Note that!] And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Look at this carefully. God sent forth His Son to redeem them that were under the law. Thank God! And because through faith *you are a son*, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Now these two sentences are in parallel construction. God sent forth His Son to save. God sent forth His Holy Spirit into the hearts of the Christian believers in order that they might be lifted toward God.

Let me ask you a question. Do you need to receive Christ? Is it not true that Christ Jesus died on Calvary's cross for all men? Wouldn't you say that? I certainly would. And I would get up any day in the week and tell anybody anywhere that Christ Jesus died for all men on Calvary's cross. The Bible says, "Whosoever will may come." But now, since Christ has already died for them, does that mean all men

are saved? No, the Bible wouldn't say that. The Bible says, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." Christ Jesus, on His part, has made salvation available to everybody. But on man's part, some receive it and some don't.

Now look at the sentence, "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." A great many people miss out on much blessing because it never occurs to them to receive the Holy Spirit who has been sent into their hearts. Hold that thought in your mind – to receive the Holy Spirit who has been sent into your hearts. I think this is included in the word "received." Let us suppose that there is a young mother who is expecting a visitor. She is in the kitchen doing her housework. Her little girl comes running in from the front room and says to her mother in an excited way, "Mrs. Jones is here!" The mother is immediately excited about it and says "Where is she?" "She is in the front room." The mother says, "Now listen, she couldn't be in the front room, because she couldn't get in. I locked the door." "But I unlocked it and let her in," answers the child. What must the young woman do? She needs to go to the front room of the house and receive the guest who is already there. That means she will welcome her, expressing appreciation for her coming. Something like that needs to be done when the Holy Spirit is put into our hearts by Almighty God. The Holy Spirit is sent into the heart of everybody who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But, of course, the Holy Spirit is a spirit. You can't see Him. You can't hear Him. You don't taste Him. You don't touch Him. You don't feel Him. But, the Scriptures tells you that He is there. When you read it in the Bible and you see that it is true, then it is possible for you to believe. If you have received Christ Jesus as your Savior, "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

Now some will say that God will do all this Himself. But consider again. God sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to seek and to save the lost. That does not mean that every lost person is going to be saved. It is "as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." And so it is with reference to the Holy Spirit. If you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him as your Savior, God has given His Holy Spirit into your heart. Now the thing for you to do is to receive Him as you would receive a guest who is already in the living room of your house. Make Him welcome. This is what Christians could very well do to their great benefit and profit.

Now in the gospel according to John, chapter 14, I want to draw your attention to something about this matter of receiving the Holy Spirit. In verses 16 and 17 the Lord Jesus, speaking to His disciples, says, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him." For a long time I thought that the reason why the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit is because the world is wicked. Then it suddenly dawned on me that if a sinner couldn't receive the Holy Spirit I could never have received Him. After I was saved I was still a sinner because I was still a man. But I was a *saved* sinner. I certainly am by no means a person who has a perfect record, for "there is none righteous, no, not one." Apparently the Holy Spirit will come into the heart of anybody who will receive Him, because that person believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, and so it is sinners who receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

But the world cannot receive him. What disqualifies the world? The Bible tells you right here: ". . . the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not." That word "see" is like the word "understand," The world doesn't understand Him. The world has never troubled to find out the truth about the Holy Spirit. "Neither knoweth him." This word "know" is to *recognize*, to *appreciate*. So the world doesn't understand and doesn't appreciate the Holy Spirit. That's the reason why the world cannot receive Him.

That brings it right back to me. If I do not understand about the Holy Spirit, and I do not respect and reverence the Holy Spirit, if I do not know Him as God, then I will be disqualified so that I will not be able to receive Him. What actually disqualifies the world then is ignorance and indifference so far as the Holy Spirit is concerned.

Now I want to draw your attention to the 19th chapter in the Book of Acts. In the first seven verses is an amazing passage. As you read it you will find that the Apostle Paul came to the city of Ephesus in his missionary journeys and there he found certain disciples. We read that when he found these disciples he asked them a question. In verse 2 he asked them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" Some versions have it, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" You might very well wonder what would it be about that group of disciples that would make the Apostle Paul wonder whether or not they had received the Holy Spirit? I think that there was something about their manner and conduct. Here are persons who were believers. They were properly called disciples. They believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, but they had not received the Holy Spirit of God. And the Apostle Paul, having visited among them, raised this question, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered him, "We had not heard that the Holy Spirit was available. We didn't know that there was any Holy Spirit to receive." Then Paul asked them, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" That is to say, when you accepted Christ, when you turned your heart to God, what did you think that you were getting? And they said, "Unto John's baptism." And then Paul said to them, "John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

This brings to mind something very interesting and very profound. It was possible for these people to have received the preaching of John the Baptist, to have responded to him and turned to God according to his preaching, and yet not have received the Holy Spirit of God. So let me ask you again – what then did John the Baptist preach? And you will remember he preached repentance. That means he preached to the people that if you want to get right with God you will need really and sincerely to repudiate your sins. In the presence of God you'll have to judge yourself as a sinner, and you'll have to come into the presence of God willing and prepared to turn your back on the wrong things that you have been doing. You will actually judge yourself as you are, unworthy in the sight of God. You'll forsake your sins.

As I was saying to you at the beginning, a good many people would ask, "Well, that's all there is to it, isn't it?" And I am drawing to your attention – no, that's not all there is to it. That's all there is to sin – turn away from it. That's all there is to your sinful nature – repent. That's all there is with reference to yourself as you were in the natural world – change your mind and turn to God. But having turned to God, having repented and turned your back on your sins, now what? Receive the Holy Spirit of God. Receive the presence of God into your heart.

There is actually something in Christian experience that is beyond repentance. With reference to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ you are to believe and receive. You repudiate the things that are sin, but you receive the things that are of God. You are to receive the Holy Spirit. This may very well be what the Bible means when it speaks about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You receive the Holy Spirit into your heart, so that you personally receive what God has prepared for you in the Holy Spirit.

I want you to be thinking about this and to take these passages of Scripture we have had here, read them and turn them over in your mind. Ask yourself deep down in your own heart – do you understand about the Holy Spirit? Have you received the Holy Spirit in your own consciousness? Are you aware that He is there, and do you reverence Him and recognize Him as such?

The Work of the Spirit

Anybody that has ever heard anything about the gospel will recognize that Christian preachers tell the world that God will save and God will bless you. Now what is not so well understood, perhaps because it isn't so often said, is that God blesses men through Himself and that He saves men by Himself. The work which God does on behalf of the sinner is a personal work and it is His personal presence in the sinner that makes the difference.

In the parable of the vine and the branches our Lord Jesus emphasized that the branches bear fruit only because the strength of the vine is in them. Actually, practically, it is the inner juice of the vine in the branches that enables the branch to live and to bear fruit. Our Lord Jesus Christ emphasized the spiritual truth with a simple statement – "Without me ye can do nothing." That is like saying – if you take a branch and separate it from the vine the branch itself will wither and die. Our Lord meant to emphasize that it is exactly that way with us.

We could say, a home is not the house that you're living in. It's the people living in that house that make it a home. Your automobile does not run because of the engine. You'd think it was that, wouldn't you? And yet you know perfectly well that a car can be sitting on the side of the road but you will not be able to drive it at all. And, yet it has an engine. It has all the machinery. What really makes the automobile run is the explosion of the gasoline in the cylinder of the engine. If you had no explosions in that engine, there wouldn't be anything happening.

It's like this in spiritual things. It isn't just what a person knows; it's what God is doing in you that makes the difference. Now what a person knows is like the machinery – very, very important. You must know the truth. But it is God that makes the truth alive and operative in you.

Ask yourself what it would be like to have a football team with no coach? Well that is exactly what it would be like to try to have a congregation of people trying to function without having the Holy Spirit operative in them. What do you think it would be like to have a schoolroom full of children and no teacher? It would be like having a church service and no Holy Spirit.

This is to emphasize in our minds right now the simple idea that there is no such thing as being a Christian without Christ in you. There isn't any such thing as your having Christian experience without your having the living God Himself operating in you. God does not instruct us where or when to go, but He takes us by the hand and leads us. We go with Him. God does not show or tell us which door to enter. He goes along with us, opens the door and we go in with Him. God does not especially exhort us to try real hard to be just as good as we can and do everything we possibly can. The way the Bible puts it is ". . . casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." God Himself is the One who actually will save you. Putting it another way, there is no salvation apart from God in Christ Jesus. This is something of what Peter had in mind when he said, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The only kind of salvation we know is the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ; He can and does save only those with whom He personally has fellowship and in whom He personally is working. Salvation is not something you or I do. Salvation is what God does. And God doesn't do it away up in the stars. God does this in you. "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

There is a wonderful truth that we may have in mind. The Lord Jesus expressed it when He said, "I will come unto you." His promise is expressed again in a wonderful way when He said, "I will not leave you comfortless." A better or more literal translation would be, "I will not leave you to be orphans." And there is a wonderful prediction repeated several times in the Bible: "I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." These are promises that point up the very thing

we are talking about.

In the Old Testament when the children of Israel lived as travelers in the wilderness – and for a time in the land of Canaan – they lived in tents. In those days they had one big tent they called the tabernacle. The tabernacle was put in the exact center of the camp. The twelve tribes were organized around the tabernacle with three tribes camping to the north, three tribes to the east, three tribes to the south and three tribes to the west. This was a way of picturing to the children of Israel that God would dwell in the midst of them and would bless them from there. When they completed building the tabernacle and everything about it was made and prepared just the way it was supposed to be with the ark of the covenant placed in the holy of holies, then we read that God blessed the tabernacle by filling it with His glory. God showed His presence with a cloud of fire that filled the tabernacle with glory. Later the children of Israel settled in the land permanently. Instead of living in tents they built themselves houses of stone. At that time, David was moved to build a temple, and he went ahead and made arrangements and his son, Solomon, built the temple. Again, when the temple had been built, all preparations and sacrifices had been properly made, and the ark of the covenant had been placed in the holy of holies, the temple was filled with the glory of the Lord. The priests could not go in because of the brightness of the light that was shining in the temple.

This points up the significance of what happened on the day of Pentecost. The disciples were gathered together in one place. They had been brought together by God and kept by Him until this very moment. Now they apparently had done everything they were supposed to have done. Doubtless they had repented and they had trusted themselves to the Lord. They were waiting before God. "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." This was something like the glory that came upon the tabernacle and afterwards upon the temple. All of this emphasized that the presence of God in the midst of His people is very, very important.

Now I want to draw your attention to a passage of Scripture that in many ways can be one of the most amazing passages that you will read. It is John 16:7-15. In verse 7 the Lord Jesus is saying to His disciples, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." From what we read earlier we note that by the Comforter He refers to the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus is saying to His disciples that "it will be a good thing for you if I take my body away, because if I don't take my body out of your presence, the Holy Spirit will not come to dwell in your hearts. You'd be better off with the Holy Spirit in your hearts than you would be in the presence of my body, in my personal presence." This is an amazing thing because it says to you and to me that – although we did not have the privilege of being here with the Lord Jesus Christ on earth, we were not in the crowd listening to Him when He talked, we did not hear His voice nor see Him – the amazing truth is that with the Holy Spirit in our heart we are better off than they were, This is because the Holy Spirit in our hearts will be able to show us the inner meaning of those things better than the Lord Jesus could have taught us if we had been looking at Him.

In vs. 8 the Lord Jesus says of the Holy Spirit, " And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." This word "reprove" can also mean *convince*. The Holy Spirit, operating in the persons involved, will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment to come. Now look at that for a moment. Here you see that the consciousness of sin is a mark of the Holy Spirit working within the heart. Longing to be holy, to be righteous, is a mark of being blessed by the Holy Spirit of God. He also gives the consciousness of judgment to come and the expectation that things will be judged of God and that the individual who has sinned will be condemned by God. In other words, guilt because of sin is a mark of the inward working of the Holy Spirit of God. Now if you have people in church, attending the Bible classes or reading their Bibles and they do not show any increasing sense of sin, they have no particular yearning to be holy and they have no idea that some day they will be

judged, frankly you are looking at people that show no evidence that the Holy Spirit is working among them. And, by the way, you can test any of us who preach. Are the people who hear us conscious of sin? Do they really want to be holy? Do they feel guilty about having done wrong? And if those things are not true you have reason to doubt that the Holy Spirit has been working.

In verse 13 we read, "He will guide you into all truth . . . he will show you things to come." This is a way of saying that when you are growing in your understanding of the Bible, when you grow in an understanding of spiritual things, you have evidence that the Holy Spirit is present in your hearts. Look at verse 14, "He shall glorify me." When consciousness of the glory of Christ and appreciation of the person of Christ is manifested, then the Holy Spirit is operative by His presence in the soul. I am saying that anybody who reads the Bible, goes to church, or in some way hears God's Word, if he is conscious of the glory of Christ and appreciates the person of Jesus Christ, that person is being blessed by the work of the Holy Spirit.

This will be experienced in various ways. With reference to sin there will be a sense of forgiveness. With reference to sinfulness there will be a feeling of being cleansed. With reference to guidance there will be a feeling and an assurance that you will be guided. With reference to strength you will have an assurance that you will have strength for the day. And so far as comfort is concerned you can be assured that God will wipe away all tears from your eyes. Joy will be realized. These things will follow when the Holy Spirit is working in you.

Not only will the inward feelings be aroused, but there will be results in thinking. The heart will be filled with thoughts of Christ Jesus, the Lord. The Christian will have a feeling about the Lord the way a bride has about her bridegroom. A young woman who is just married is bound to be thinking about the man she married. Well, that's the figure that the Bible uses. It calls the Church "the bride of Christ." When the Holy Spirit is active in the heart and soul, the individual is thinking about the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are having that experience, you can thank God for the working of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

Also, there will be an understanding of God's will. If you have the Holy Spirit in your heart, you will trust God. If your plans seem to go wrong, you'll trust God because you'll believe in God. The Holy Spirit will encourage you. Your praying will come naturally. You will want to pray when the Holy Spirit is operative in you. Witnessing will be a joy. You'd like to tell people about the Lord. You only wish you could have a chance to tell people about coming to the Lord. Teaching will be clear and effective, and preaching will be powerful.

The personal presence of God in the soul is God's way of working in us. When God Himself is in us doing these things, that's the way in which we are drawn to Him.

The Function of the Spirit

Saving men is God's idea, and being saved is not a human achievement. It is something that God does. Yet how many times does it happen that we go out and try, one way or another, the best we know how, to make sure that we'll be saved by the things that we do. And should it be possible for us finally to have the feeling that we really have worked ourselves into a position of being right with God, I wonder how many times we actually feel a little proud about it, as though we had achieved something. And I wonder whether we fully understand how mistaken we are in the matter.

God works salvation just as much as He worked creation. There wasn't anybody here at the time God created the world, and there isn't anybody in your soul that prompts God to do it when God saves your soul. Now the goal of salvation is to produce children of God. God actually wants to produce from sinners (for that's all He has to work with in this world) people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, whom in Bible language we will call *saved people*. God has saved them out of the natural into the spiritual by His grace, that they might become children of God in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. The world would call them *Christian*.

But when we adopt the term the world uses, we must not also take on the procedure the world by error identifies with being a Christian. It isn't a case of your quitting some of the bad things, training yourself in some of the good things, changing your ways in some of the questionable things, and turning out to be a real nice person that would make you a Christian. I certainly could wish that as a Christian all that were true about me. I wish I were improved. I wish I were disciplined. I wish I were nice. I wish I were good. But let me tell you quietly and honestly – I am not a Christian because of being "good enough." I am a Christian because Christ Jesus died for me and God called me to Himself. I came to Him as I was, put my trust in Him, and God started to work in me to will and to do of His good pleasure. He works in me through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is because He works in me through the Lord Jesus Christ that I will accept the name *Christian*.

God's work is performed by all three persons of the Godhead. God, the Father, cares for us. He loves us. He provides for us. He sends help to us, and He saves us. God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the atoning mediator. He is the one who undertook to step in for us and bear in His own body our sins, so that we might be forgiven and set free. He is the Savior for us. He is my Lord. I may be a poor servant. I may be a poor follower, but He is my Lord and Master. It is to Him I give my tribute and my homage. God the Holy Spirit is working in the heart of believers to make the will of the living God operative. You actually find something moving in you, urging you, leading you to do the will of God.

This is what it means to be *being saved*. In this way we are being saved from guilt by the death of Christ. We are saved from doom because we believe in Him. We are saved from death because He was raised from the dead. We are also saved in our weakness. We have the weakness, but He has the strength. We have the waywardness, but He has the faithfulness. We may even be inwardly diseased, but He is healthy, well and strong. Our hope is in Him. We shall also say that we are saved to His life in us. We are called to this high calling that we should yield ourselves to God and let God work in us.

A good illustration of this whole matter could be seen if you think about a woman who goes to a store to purchase a cooking vessel. She chooses a kettle that belongs to the hardware man. She pays for it and now it is hers. It may have something in it – paper, straw – any kind of thing may be in this kettle. The first thing she does before she uses it is to empty it. And she cleanses it. She washes it. She Sterilizes it. She makes it clean and then she uses it. That's what she bought it for. She didn't buy it just to show off to the neighbors. Kettles are bought for cooking.

Our experience is like that. We are the purchased possession. This is what Jesus Christ died for,

and we have been bought with a price – the precious blood of the Lamb of God. And He will cleanse us by His Spirit. In His grace He will wash us cleaner and whiter than snow. Then we will be used. His Holy Spirit will actually work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. The whole work of salvation develops this way in a sort of an inter-relationship.

The whole gospel of Jesus Christ is grounded in the reality of the spiritual world. This physical world that you can see, hear, smell, taste and touch is not all. There is another world that is real. We call it the world of the spirit. It's not material; so that it doesn't appear in space and time. It isn't just so big and it doesn't last just so long. It's infinite and it lasts forever. And that spiritual world is real right now; so that in the creation of God there is a natural world limited to time and space and there is a spiritual world that is not limited to time and space.

In the Old Testament we find the story of Jacob's vision. Perhaps you are familiar with the song, "Jacob's Ladder." Actually, it isn't such a good translation to call it a ladder. It would be better to call it a stairway. In the vision Jacob had there were steps reaching between earth and heaven. The bottom is on earth but the top is in heaven. The profound truth in that vision is that heaven is just as real as the earth is real. If the bottom of the ladder is sitting on earth and the top is in heaven, then heaven and earth are connected. And they are all under God who made both.

Now the thing that I am stressing is that we are saved by the power of the spiritual. I could word it again one more time like this – we are not saved by doing the things of this world better than we did them before. What saves us is the fact that we get into a relationship with the spiritual world in which God is. We open our hearts to receive from Him the grace of God that comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Think of yourself holding a knife in your hand. If you let go of the knife what would happen? You know the knife would fall. Why? Because the knife doesn't have any strength of its own to stay up. It would fall down just as far as it could go. You can lift the knife. Now the knife will go up. You can swing it over to the right, over to the left, around in circles, and the knife will move around anyway you want it to. That knife can't move and yet it's moving. Why? Because you hold it in your hand. Now picture yourself in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your soul is just like that knife. Your soul is in His Hand. Can you see how He can lift you up? How He can move you over here, move you over there? How He can do this with you and do that with you? This is what we mean when we talk about Christ Jesus being Lord. He owns you. He holds you. He moves you.

Another illustration that I often think about is with fire and water. So far as fire is concerned, it goes up. And you probably agree right away that water goes down. In this, fire and water are exact opposites. Interestingly enough, we usually think of water as cool; fire is hot. And more than that, the two can't stand each other. If you bring the fire over to the water the water will evaporate. If you bring the water over to the fire, you put the fire out. The two are not going to stay in the same place at the same time. And yet if you took the water, put it in a pan and set the pan over the fire, the water will act just like the fire. It will go straight up in steam. Why does the water go up in steam? Was it in the water? No, the power that lifted the water up was in the fire. When the power of the fire got into the water, the water became steam and went up. That water will stay up just as long as the power of the fire – the heat – is in it. If for any reason the power of the fire, which is the heat, gets out of that steam, the moisture will form little drops of water and then it will fall like rain to the ground as water all over again.

That will explain what happens to many people. Many people who have made a profession of faith in Christ and really were moved of the Lord sometime later will go back and do all the things they used to do before. God will seem to have no power in their lives at all. I'd say they got too far away from the fire.

That's the way it is with me. In my natural condition I may be selfish. I have my own ideas about things. But if the Lord Jesus Christ is active in me and I am conscious of Him and yielded to Him, He will work in me. He will move me in such a way that I will find myself moved into the will of God. I'll do the things that will be pleasing to Him and that will be a great benefit to everybody else. But if I get too far

away from the Lord and for any reason neglect the things of the Lord, then my heart returns back to its own nature and I become selfish again. People will say that it didn't really make a difference to me. Well it didn't change me in that sense. But you see, when the fire died out and the water cooled off, then the water fell to the ground. And so it is with the soul.

Let me give you one more illustration about how the Holy Spirit affects the believer. Consider a garden and think of the soil of the garden. If I were to ask you what makes the flowers grow, you might tell me the soil is rich; it has certain chemicals in it. When the flower begins to grow, it can take food and water out of the soil. But suppose it is wintertime and the soil is frozen hard. Can you raise flowers then? The answer is no. Well, isn't the soil good soil? Yes, it is rich soil. Isn't your flower a good flower? Yes. Then why not put the good flower out there in that soil and let it grow? But it's winter time. And what does that mean? That means that it is cold. And when it is so cold then that soil cannot be used. The soil is rich soil but it is frozen hard, and the plant can get nothing out of it. When the spring of the year comes and the sun's rays warm the soil, then you put out the plants and they will grow.

Just like the soil when you have the sun working on it, so it is with your soul. If you have the Holy Spirit working, you will become open to the things of God. Such work of God in the soul is necessary, partly because of our sinful human natures. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." "Ye must be born again." Because of our limited understanding, we don't even know what to do if we wanted to do it. "We know not what we should pray for as we ought." We need guidance. Because of God's glorious grace, God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." God has made it possible for us to be helped and strengthened.

This is the function of the Holy Spirit: He comes into our hearts just like the sun comes on the soil. The Holy Spirit will work upon you and make you so that you will do the will of God. Just like the heat of the fire that will get into the water, the Holy Spirit, coming into your life, will lift you up into the will of God. May the Lord Himself work on us and in us according to His will by His Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit in the New Covenant

Perhaps by now you will have had the feeling that if you receive the Holy Spirit into your heart there will be a different kind of living. That's true. This does not mean that there will be different standards or different requirements. These come from the very nature of God. God in Himself doesn't change. He doesn't require any less now than He ever did. There is no suggestion that He tried something one time and then lowered His standards to do it in a different way. There is a sense in which you can feel deep down in your heart that the holiness, justice and truth of God is eternal and unchangeable.

But the gospel does offer a new procedure, a different way of going at it. Suppose you are going to travel from one section of a large city to another. One way of getting over there would be to walk. Well, another way would be to ride in a car. You can see that riding in the car is different from walking. The same is true about climbing stairs. You can climb up ten flights of stairs if you want to, but you can ride an elevator. The office you want to get to is on the 10th floor, and that doesn't change. But when you get a chance to ride up in an elevator, that's an experience that's different from climbing the stairs.

When we talk about living by the Holy Spirit of God, we are talking about a different way of doing things. The Bible points out that there are two ways. It speaks of one as the first and calls it the old. It also speaks of it as the natural way, the way you are born into this world as a baby and live in the flesh. Here the law prevails: "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." In this, sin appears and you do things that are not in the will of God. Death occurs.

Now there is a second way of doing things. The Bible speaks of this as the new. It is new only in the sense that it came after the old. It is spiritual as compared to that which is natural. In the first, man acts naturally. In the second, man acts spiritually. In the first, law prevails. In the second, grace prevails. That is to say, in the first you get what you earn. You get what you deserve. In the second, you get what God gives you. You get what God is gracious to share with you. In the second, righteousness is given to you as a gift from God.

This same idea is brought out when we remember that there are two honorable ways of getting any thing. One way is to earn it. Another way is to receive it as a gift. They are not exactly the same. Yet, one will get it for you just as well as the other. In fact, if you get it as a gift, you are liable to get more.

This whole line of truth is seen in the Bible when it speaks of the two covenants. It would appear that God operates with man on the basis of a first covenant and then a second covenant. In the first covenant, God expects man to obey Him. In the second, God expects man to believe in Him. In the first, if man will do the will of God, he will be blessed. In the second, if man will receive the grace of God, He will be blessed. Thus we say that man is born once in the flesh and needs to be born again in the Spirit. The new nature, which we receive when we believe in Christ Jesus as our Savior, has in it the disposition that it wants to yield to God. God pours out His Holy Spirit into the hearts of the believers who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A covenant itself is an arrangement, an agreement, very much like marriage. In the new covenant God does for the believer like a bridegroom does for his bride. Any bride, from the moment that she is married, has all that the bridegroom has. The bride does not live in her own strength. The single woman depends on herself. Any of us in the natural world and under the first covenant are on our own before God. But everyone of us who believes 'in the Lord Jesus Christ, and! is therefore in the new covenant, has the Lord Jesus with him.

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we now have the life of God in us. This is not to say that God repaired us, that He made us better and then set us down again to do as well as we could. He comes in never to leave us again. We will never again be alone. If you know anything about a rowboat you will

know that you get across a lake because you row. And you know what it would be like if you put a motor on that boat. You wouldn't have to row any more. The motor would take you across. Part of our victory in Christ is that we are no longer limited to ourselves.

Something of what is promised in having the Holy Spirit working in us according to the new covenant is seen in a vision that is recorded in the Old Testament. Open your Bible to the book of Ezekiel, chapter 37. There I want you to read the first 14 verses. This is the report of a vision that was given to Ezekiel. Let me go over it with you. Ezekiel saw dry bones. It looked as though all life was gone. He was told to preach the Word of God to these bones – the promises that God would bring them alive. This preaching of the Word of God instructed the bones. It informed them and brought them together. There was a great noise and the bones all came into place. But there was yet no life. Then there was prayer, prophesying unto the wind, calling upon God to send the Holy Spirit. And He quickened them and made them alive.

You have there a pattern that should strengthen you and encourage you concerning revival in any church. Can you think of any person or any group of people about whom you would say they are just dead? Well, don't give up. God can raise the dead. But the Word of God will need to be preached to bring them together. And then there must be prayer – preaching and prayer.

This points to the plan of God in giving us the Holy Spirit. Now we can better understand God's different procedure. With the Holy Spirit operative, the prospect is entirely different. It is said of God in Romans 4:17 that He is a God who "calleth those things which be not as though they were." That's exactly the way God did with me. When I became a Christian, I was not yet everything God wanted me to be. I had not yet served Him as He would want me to serve Him. But when He looked down on me and fore-saw the Holy Spirit in my heart and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself working out His will in me, He could call me His son. When God knows the Holy Spirit will activate His will in the believer, He can bless the believer just as if the believer had already done His will. The Holy Spirit operates by making the presence of Christ effective in us.

We are affected by the people we are with. And so, God arranges to be with us. Then we are affected by Him. Every now and again you come across somebody who feels he wouldn't be affected by people. He is just himself. Now I ask you to suppose that one night you have been away from your home. You locked the place up and, so far as you knew, there was nobody in. Then later in the evening you came home. When you have been home for 3 or 4 minutes, suddenly you hear footsteps in the next room. Would it affect you? Well, if I have told it to you clearly and it wouldn't affect you, I'll tell you right now you'd be sick. Certainly you would be affected.

Can you think of the difference there would be in a school room between having forty children in there alone and then the principal of that school walks in? He wouldn't have to say a word, would he? Just his presence would make that difference. By the way do you drive a car? Out on the open highway? Are you the same as I am? Does it have any effect on you when you see a police car coming up behind you? If it does, it means you are healthy and well. Have you ever had sickness in your home? You know what it is like when you have sent for the doctor and you waited and waited. Now when the doctor comes into the house, does it make a difference to you? God knows this. He knows you need Him. You need Him to live with you.

The great truth of the new covenant is that the situation in the heart is changed. We sing "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart." That's the way in which it's changed. God gives us the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit can take the things of the Lord Jesus Christ and show them unto us. This entirely changes our inner experience.

Being Filled With the Spirit

God has sent the Holy Spirit to help us live in His will. I am referring to Christians of course, because I think we ought to remind ourselves again and again that while God calls all men to Himself, He puts His Holy Spirit into the heart only of the believing person. You and I do have some part in this matter of receiving the Holy Spirit of God. There is a response on the part of man, and even if God moves him to do it, yet he must do it.

For example in the Old Testament you will remember the story of Noah and the flood. It was God that saved Noah. But Noah had to build the ark and go into the ark, didn't he? We read with reference to the work of Paul that Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. Certainly God gives the increase. But do I need to press the point that Paul must plant and Apollos must water? That is what all our evangelistic efforts are about. With all the preaching and the teaching that goes on all over the country (and should go on even more than it does), we are constantly calling people to give themselves over to the Lord and yield themselves to Him. We encourage them to come, because we know there must be some response on their part.

There is something like this with the Holy Spirit. God does send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of believers, but I don't know any place in the Bible where you get the impression that God is going to push Himself, arbitrarily, on anybody. He may offer Himself and call upon people to trust in Him and yield to Him, but in the final analysis it calls for a response on our part.

There is a little incident that happened in our own family life I want to tell you about because it brings to my mind something about the proper attitude on our part toward the Holy Spirit. But first, may I repeat, with reference to the Holy Spirit, that we never see Him. The Holy Spirit is a spirit and doesn't have a body such as we have. In fact we will not, humanly speaking, ever see any evidence that He is there. How do we know then? We read it in the Word of God. And we have learned to believe the promises of God.

Now, this is the story I want to tell you. Many years ago when our children were small, we lived in Dallas, Texas. One night, in what you would call the dead of night, as I lay in bed sound asleep, I was awakened to feel little hands stealing across my face. I reached out quickly and put my arm out in the dark to see who it was, and I pulled our little boy to me. I saw it was the older of our two boys. As I pulled him in close to me, I felt his embarrassment about being there. I reached my arm around him and whispered to him, "What's the matter?" He said to me with a little catch in his voice, "Oh, nothing, Daddy, nothing." I said, "Well what's the matter?" He said, "Nothing, Daddy. You're here." I knew then what had happened. He had had a dream and dreamt I was away. When he woke up he couldn't tell for sure whether it was a dream or whether it was real, but he had gotten up in the night, didn't want to wake anybody, didn't put on the light, had gotten up in the dark, crawled out of his little bed, walked down the hallway to my bedroom and put his hand up on the bed where my face would be if I were home. I walked back in the dark with him and as he was clambering up into his bed, I picked him up, put him down there, patted him on the shoulder and kept telling him, "Your daddy is right here, your daddy is right here. When you wake up in the morning, first thing you know you'll see your daddy." Then I turned around and went to my own room, and there I lay and prayed, "Oh, that God would keep me like that." I want God to keep me depending upon Him and looking for Him. That way I will actually be checking to be sure He is with me all the time. If I just raise up my baby hand of faith, with all the faults and failings that there are in me, and if I want to be sure that the Lord has not forsaken me, that He has not gone away, that He is there; I can reach up to see if I might some way have it certified. And then I know for sure that the Lord is there.

In the book of Ephesians in chapter 5, verse 18, we have this admonition: "Be not drunk with wine

. . . but be filled with the Spirit." The translation is not the best. It could have been translated this way: "Be getting filled with the Spirit." You will see that the believer has some privilege and some responsibility to achieve this condition of being filled. By the way, I think you would agree that wine generally is used as a stimulant. If a man were doing something that is tiring and needed to be refreshed that he might complete his task, and if he could drink some wine. he would feel stronger. Now, the apostle is saying, "Don't use wine to stimulate your flesh, but use the Spirit to stimulate your spirit." You could be just as deliberate about arranging to be filled with the Spirit as you would about arranging to have wine to drink. The imperative is the same in each case, and that implies that there is something that we can do to achieve this happy condition of being filled with the Spirit.

In this we have the problem that the Spirit is not something like water. So we will have to say that being filled with the Spirit is a good deal like when you would say that the house is full of light or the whole church is filled with the music.

Now how would you be filled with the Spirit? That would be when the reality of the Holy Spirit extends to all the parts of your consciousness. What is this reality of the Holy Spirit? The Lord Jesus said, "He shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." Apparently a man is being filled with the Spirit if his consciousness is aware of the Lord Jesus Christ at all times and in every place. If a man were fully and totally aware of the fact that Christ Jesus died for him, Christ Jesus arose from the dead for him, Christ Jesus right now is interceding on his behalf, and He has His eye on him for good, He is watching over him and will work all things to bless him, the Holy Spirit would be filling his soul with light. When the Holy Spirit is in our hearts, we will be reminded again and again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are several stages in this. One of them is that the Holy Spirit is given, is sent forth. Apparently this has been done for each believer in Christ. This isn't something you have to do. As a believer, He was actually given to you. But, next, the believer must receive the Spirit. That is, he must understand about the Spirit and recognize Him. Now, this matter of being filled with the Spirit suggests a matter of degree. You could receive the Holy Spirit, yet not be filled with the Spirit.

That's like having a guest in the house but limiting the number of rooms he could go to. If you wanted to have the house be, as it were, actually filled with the guest, it would be a case of giving to the guest a master key that would open every part of the house from the basement to the attic. Every closet in the house would be opened to this guest. In that sense the guest would actually be living in the whole house. Apparently this is not automatic. You have to put your mind to it. Nor is it permanent. It doesn't stay that way. You can be filled with the Spirit now and two weeks from now have another situation when you might need again to be filled with the Spirit. But the believer has the responsibility to achieve and to maintain this state of getting filled with the Spirit.

If we turn to the book of Acts, we will find that there are a number of cases there where people were filled with the Holy Spirit. Let me remind you again that the Spirit never speaks of Himself. But you can know that your heart and mind is being affected by the Holy Spirit *if you are conscious of the Lord Jesus Christ*. No one is ever filled in his thinking with the consciousness of the Holy Spirit. It isn't that you see the Holy Spirit everywhere, and you think of the Holy Spirit at all times; but you can be filled so that the fact of the living Lord Jesus Christ is included in everything you think, in any direction you look. The Holy Spirit is also given for witnessing service, to enable you to witness to the fullest; so that whatever you say or do, the public at large may witness another proof that this is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself doing this particular thing. We could say in this connection that the Holy Spirit is never given for personal enjoyment. I do not receive the Holy Spirit in order that I'll feel good. I receive the Holy Spirit in order that I may be able to serve God. Now when I am serving God and obeying Him, it will follow that I will be rejoicing in the Lord. But the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts is never given except for service.

So we read in Acts 2:4 that at the time of Pentecost. "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost" and witnessed with power. And so when Peter was before the council, in Acts 4:8, we read that he was

filled with the Holy Ghost and the members of the council marvelled at his boldness. He was bold because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. In the same chapter (4:31) we see that the early Church, when facing the peril of punishment, committed themselves to God that they should serve Him, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." When we read the story of Stephen (you will remember they were preparing to put Stephen to death for what he was saying), we read he was "full of faith and power." Being full of the Spirit he looked up into heaven and "Saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." The same is true with Saul. Ananias came to baptize him that he might receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost. When he was filled with the Holy Spirit, right away he went into Damascus, preaching that Jesus is the Christ. So also we read in Acts 13, that the disciples on mission service were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. It seems to follow that when a believer is being filled with the Spirit, there needs to be a vision of opportunity to witness for the Lord. When you can see how you can witness for Jesus Christ and you have yielded yourself to Him for service, you can expect to be filled with the Spirit.

Gifts of the Spirit

Does the Holy Spirit affect us to make any actual change in us? Not only does He lead us well, guide us wisely, comfort and strengthen us, but does He give us anything that makes us different than we were before? This seems to be the case. I am turning to Scripture, and at I Corinthians I am going to be reading in chapter 12, 13 and 14. In this portion of Paul's letter, I will be thinking with you concerning what we call the gifts of the Spirit.

We know from the Bible that the Corinthian church was rich in certain gifts. Certain things had happened to them and certain abilities had been given to them by the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. They were rich in capacities that they did not have before and that other people did not have to the same extent. These benefits given in this way are called gifts. Turning to I Corinthians 12:1, we read, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." These gifts are certain enablements. That's a big word but I don't know another word that is good. You are enabled to do certain things that you would not have been able to do before. Incidentally, they all have to do with spiritual matters. In Ephesians chapter 4 we read that the Lord Jesus gave gifts to the members of His body and that these gifts were given so that they would be able to serve Him.

Now again in I Corinthians 12 it's a wonderful thing to read verse 3: "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." If you have the Holy Spirit in your heart, you will be inclined to think that the Lord Jesus Christ is ruler and director so far as you are concerned.

Now look at verse 4: "Now there are diversities of gifts [everybody doesn't have the same gift and all gifts 'are not alike], but the same Spirit." The Spirit is the one Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God. But He gives different gifts to different people. "And there are differences of administrations." That is to say one person may have a gift that he will use every day. Another person will have a gift that he will use only at certain times. Another person will have a gift that he will use only when he is called on. "There are differences of administrations, but the same Lord." The man who exercises his gift every day is doing it unto the Lord. The man who exercises his gift only every Sunday is doing it as unto the Lord. The man who exercises his gift only when he is called upon is doing it as unto the Lord. They do not all act the same, even though they have purposes that are similar. "And there are diversities of operation." God doesn't work everything in the same way. Sometimes He may work things one way, sometimes He will work them another way. There is a variety in the way in which God does things. "But it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." When you read "the manifestation of the Spirit" that is referring to this very idea of the gift. That is to say, whatever change occurs in me because I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, whatever way in which He affects me so that I do differently than I used to do before, that change in me is on behalf of other people. His gifts are "to profit withal." If I have certain ways of doing things that are different now than they used to be and if I claim they are from the Holy Spirit of God, you should be able to see how other people are beneficially affected by them.

This is a little different from what you will sometimes find. Sometimes people have an idea that they are being led of the Lord; but if you watch closely, you will see that they are being led away from other people. They are being led off to themselves or in such a way as to make something big of themselves. They don't want to be involved with other people. You have a reason to wonder whether or not that is actually what the Lord would do, because "the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." All the members of the church would be blessed.

In verses 8 to 10 you have a listing of these gifts. I want you to notice what they are and the order

in which they are given. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom." One man is given the capacity to say the right word at the right time in a wise way. "To another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit." Now when you speak of the word *wisdom*, it's pretty hard to identify. We know some people are wiser than others. The word *knowledge* is also hard to evaluate. Some people know more than others. Here is a person who knows a great deal. By the way, notice that a person could know a great deal and still not have real good sense. Wisdom would be having real good sense. Knowledge would be that you know a lot. There are some people, even Christians, who know a lot, but they don't always have good sense in using their knowledge.

"To another faith by the same Spirit." I don't think that we would count this the kind of faith that saves a soul, because these are all believers who are being led by the Holy Spirit of God. Here, the Holy Spirit of God actually gives faith to some people – to perform specific works. "To another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit." Some people actually can be used of God to heal other people. I wonder how many have ever seen or had experience with any of this. There are people who can pray to God and get answers to prayer in a very marked way. Some other Christian doesn't do that. Well, some people have a gift of faith. They may have a divine enablement that enables them to accomplish things in answer to prayer that do not come to other people. "To another the gift of healing by the same Spirit." Not everybody has the gift of healing, but some might have.

I remember so well some years ago there was a man in Winnipeg, Canada, who went about his ministry and service in a very practical, take-it-for-granted way. As a matter of fact, he left you with the impression that he was very much like a regular business man. He told us all publicly that God had given this gift of healing for a time. During this time that he had it he was perfectly willing to share it with other people. He rented an office in the Manitoba Hotel building, and prepared to help people as they would come to him. And he did help many of them. He used to say that he couldn't guarantee that people would be healed and that he would have to pray when the individual would come. He had not always been able to do this, and he didn't expect always to be able to do it in the future.

Verse 10 says, "To another the working of miracles." There are some people who by their faith can bring things to pass that are actually of a miraculous nature . . . not everybody, but some people can. "To another prophecy ." That is preaching . . . with unusual ability to declare the Word of God. "To another discerning of spirits." We give very little attention to that today, and yet, every now and again, we come across some person who seems to have a capacity to do this. "To another divers kinds of tongues." This is the kind of tongues that we commonly associate with the modern tongues movement. I'll have something more to say about that in a moment. "To another the interpretation of tongues," because these tongues as they are ordinarily practiced and as they were practiced apparently in the Corinthian church, would not be understood by other people. So if a person wanted to be kept in the company, they would need someone who would interpret to the group as a whole what he was saying when he was speaking in tongues. "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

The thing that you are to notice from this list is that these gifts are varied and they are occasional. One time you find them, another time you don't. In that connection you can think of the other churches like Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians, and you won't find those epistles referring to this sort of thing. We would have to deduce that these gifts are occasional. It happens in one church and doesn't happen in others. Some Christians receive them, while others do not. They are not exactly like the manifestation of the Spirit in the second chapter or in the nineteenth chapter of the book of Acts. In the second chapter of the book of Acts the people were astonished because they heard the gospel preached in their own language. There isn't anyone now who claims to have that sort of thing happen. We do have the speaking in tongues going on and in the Corinthian church they had speaking in tongues. Although this gift is different from that in the book of Acts, both are apparently real.

We saw that the purpose of these gifts is to help the Church as a whole. As you look through the

rest of the twelfth chapter you will see Paul saying that while the gifts are different and make the members different, they all belong to the one body, they all belong to the one Lord. They should not be looking down on each other because one has this gift, another has that gift, and another one doesn't have any gift at all. You shouldn't have that.

Finally, as you come down 10 verse 28 you will see a whole listing of these again, differently worded. Again tongues comes at the very last. Then notice verses 29-31. "Are all apostles?" The very way in which it is phrased implies, "Why, no." "Are all prophets?" "Why, no." "Are all teachers are all workers of miracles? have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" And the answer to all these questions is, "Why, no." "But covet earnestly the best gifts. And yet show I unto you a more excellent way." When he says "covet earnestly the best gifts," then the gifts differ in values. Some are better, and some are best. And so they are different from each other .

Then in chapter 13 he says he is going to show you a more excellent way than gifts. There you have this wonderful chapter concerning love. When we study the fruits of the Spirit we will come back to this. When you get into chapter 14 you find that everything in the Church is to be done for the edification of the Church, to help build up the Church. There, regarding speaking with tongues. he says in verse 5, "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues."

Paul concludes in verse 19. "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." This is not to disparage the matter of speaking with tongues, but to bring out the idea that even though the speaking with tongues may be prompted by the presence of the Holy Spirit, it is some, thing that should be under control. It is not always necessary to practice it and should be practiced only when it will be helpful so far as the group as a whole and so far as other people are concerned. In other words, considering the administration of the gifts, if I had the capacity to heal, for example, I don't have to try and work it on everybody. If I have the capacity for working miracles I don't have to work them on every person. The same thing is true with reference to this. The actual exercise of the gifts is to be under control so that they will be for the benefit of the people in the Church.

What I have said so far has largely been with the idea. of recognizing that there are such manifestations as the gifts, and then to understand that they are to be received as from the Lord and used only for His glory.

Fruits of the Spirit

As one of the three persons in the Godhead the Holy Spirit is eternal. The Holy Spirit actually was operative when the world was created. He has been at work throughout history. But His work is special with reference to the Christian Church. The Holy Spirit actually comes to dwell in the hearts of persons who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as an extension of the work of Christ in their lives. These people will never be alone. God has given the Holy Spirit to believers to help and guide them so that the things they will do and will want to do will be under the influence of and affected by God Himself.

In the New Testament we find the phrase, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Now that doesn't mean anything different than the Holy Spirit being in you. The Holy Spirit and Christ are two different persons, that's true. But the Holy Spirit, when He is in you, does not speak of Himself. He makes Christ vivid to your mind. Paul in writing to the Ephesians prayed that they might be "strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." So when we say "Christ in you" we are referring to the fact that the Holy Spirit has so affected the Christian that he actually receives the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ into his personal affairs.

And then there is the matter of fellowship. This makes us sensitive to one another's feelings and reactions. For instance, every time I have mentioned the fact that God is ever present with us I could just feel that you rejoiced in the idea that we are never alone. And generally the matter of having the Holy Spirit in our hearts is a matter of fellowship. You know the apostolic benediction when the minister closes the service, and he pronounces "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." The Spirit is so strong in the matter of communion. And this is a matter of joy.

If a person receives the Holy Spirit what is likely to follow? What would happen to him? One thing I know, his heart will be filled with love and with joy and with peace, because the Holy Spirit will remind him of the promises of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because the Lord Jesus loved us, we will love Him. And because He died for us and gave himself for us, we will rejoice in the liberty wherewith we have been set free. Because He protects and watches over us, we will have peace. Love, joy and peace I know are sure to be there when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need to realize however that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not only a matter of fellowship and communion but in a certain sense it is a matter of performance. There are certain things that follow in actual action, because the Holy Spirit is making that which is of Christ real in you. The Apostle Paul wrote about this in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." We are so accustomed to just quoting that, I don't know whether we stop to look at what he actually says – "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." I don't live according to my judgment. I don't live according to my reason. I don't live according to my wishes and choices. I don't live according to my ideas. I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

During these past months while I have been thinking about Bible material, studying it and sharing it with you, certain ideas have grown in my own heart and brought great blessing to me. Here is one idea that has become very, very strong to me. The word *Christian* has the same relation to the word *man* as the word *wife* has to the word *woman*. There would never be such a thing as a wife unless she was a woman. But not all women are wives. Being a wife is more than just being a woman. A wife is a woman married to a man, and that's the way it is with the Christian. A Christian is far more than just a man. A Christian is a man who has become inseparably united with the Lord Jesus Christ. This relationship with God that we

have in Christ Jesus when we receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts is a practical relationship. We are being guided and directed in what we do.

There is another way of thinking about this. Can you picture a person sitting down to play the piano? That person might be a fair pianist and would play the piano according to his skill. Now if it were possible to have a master pianist, an exceptional musician, sitting inside that man; so that the master's hands would be over the hands of the pianist and guide his fingers as he wanted them to, then this individual that you know would suddenly be able to play the piano in a remarkable way, because he would be indwelt by this master pianist.

Something like that happens with a Christian. The Holy Spirit of God moves the Christian to want to do what the Lord Jesus Christ wants to have done. In this situation as a Christian when I am dealing with people, it is the Lord Jesus Christ guiding me and directing me in the things that I should do. And when I let Him have His way in guiding me I enjoy far more blessing than I ever would know any other way.

This idea is brought out in the fifteenth chapter of John when the Lord Jesus, speaking to His disciples, said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." You will remember we have talked about that before. Not only are the branches in the vine, which is a matter of their organization or structure, but the vine is in the branches. As the branch lives on the vine, the life and vigor of the vine will come out in the branch. That's just how it is with the Lord Jesus Christ, when Jesus Christ lives in you by the Holy Spirit.

Now we might pause here for a moment. How long does the branch live in the vine in order to produce the grapes? That branch was on that vine all year around, but it produced grapes only at one season. So our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ must be without break. You may not every day in every moment be able to manifest some result that will give evidence that you are obeying His will. But you will need to be in Him, and yielded to Him, if you are going to do this. In the cultivating of a vineyard, it isn't simply a matter of your putting the seeds or vines in the ground today, and tomorrow you go out there and see sticks standing up with grapes on them. You put the seed in the ground and the plants grow. They live for some time before they produce any grapes. Then they live through a whole year before they may produce again. That's what living is like. As a believer abiding in Christ and having Christ in you, you may well have days and days when you just do the regular routine things. Your having the Holy Spirit of God in you doesn't mean that every minute you will be doing something that will show manifestly to the glory of God.

We read in Galatians 5:22, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance [self-control]." I suggest to you that this fruit of the Spirit is actually the by-product of living in the Spirit. You do not come to the Lord Jesus Christ in order to have peace. You do not come to the Lord Jesus Christ in order to have joy. You come to the Lord Jesus Christ in order that you might belong to Him – that He might save your soul – that you might be forgiven. You put your trust in Him. Many results of your belonging to the Lord will come out from time to time but not always in some specific way that you would count as fruit. So far as love is concerned, as a fruit of the Spirit love would be in you but wouldn't show up all the time. The grapes appear on the branches once a year, but the life is there all the time. That's why I said that belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in Him is an all time proposition. And what are you trusting for? You are trusting Him to forgive your sins. You are trusting Him to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. You are trusting Him to watch over you and keep you every day. Because you are yielded to Him, and He is in you, certain consequences follow.

Your life as you live it from day to day is largely set up for you in the course of events. You probably work for a living, or someone in your family works for the living that you have. And that work is pretty well cut out. Just because you are a Christian doesn't change that. You live with people in your neighborhood and downtown. Your being a Christian doesn't change the people you have to deal with

each day. And you depend on God. Day in and day out you depend on God, just like those other people do (whether they recognize it or not). As you live, however, you learn certain right ways of doing things. You feel in your heart reverence toward God, and once in a while it shows up. You don't take His name in vain. You read His Word. You respect His day. You respect His Church as you go to the public worship of His name. You live along in the Lord Jesus Christ in this fashion, and you keep certain rules; you keep those rules all the time as a regular thing. You do assignments that are brought to you. You respect authority. You consider other people. You help the poor. All these things are right ways that you learn and want to do.

All the while you have yourself to deal with. As a human being you'll be tempted to pride; you'll have to remember about the Lord Jesus Christ. You will have to think about how He gave Himself for you. You'll be tempted to self indulgence unless you think about how the Lord Jesus Christ suffered on your behalf. You'll be tempted to self will unless you think about how the Lord Jesus was obedient to His Father in all things.

Now, while you are learning the ways of God and are conscious of the fact that your own temptations are to act differently in all this, Christ will help you. He will face all your daily problems and He will carry all your daily load and you can put your trust in Him. When He is carrying your load and guiding you, you will produce certain results. And there you will find love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control, as Paul has listed them. They come as the by-products of your living in the Spirit.

When you actually become a Christian, you yield yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ and you receive the Holy Spirit. You don't do that because of the fruit you are going to bear. It isn't because you are suddenly going to be a wonderfully valuable person for God to have. No, when you receive Him it is that He may bless you. You turn to Him because you are alone and you want to be with Him, and you come to Him. You'll find things that you could do to help other people and to bless other people, because you want to be well pleasing in His sight. You will be more and more conscious of the fact that He has given Himself for you, that you belong to Him and that He belongs to you. These are the ways, the conditions, under which the fruit of the Spirit is produced.

The biggest thought that I want to share with you is that this fruit will come out just as naturally as grapes come out of grape vines, apples come out of apple trees and oranges come out of orange trees. You have certain fruits just coming out in you, because God works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.