

**River of Life Fellowship**

**Pastor Rick Carlson**

**January 4, 2023 (Week #1)**

- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

- For week #1 we will introduce the Holy Spirit and let you see who He is, what He does, and how He works in our lives!

**Opening Statement**

- In today's church and the world around us, the Holy Spirit is watching and waiting for us to listen to Him as we live in an ever increasingly difficult world. We live in a time in history in which the individual Churches and believers that want to be in line with God's plan and blessings will need to be in obedience of the Word, led by the Holy Spirit, engaged with ministry of some sort, and involved in world harvest! In the world today, believers have become accustomed to a "Holy-Spiritless-Christianity". As believers, we must be on a continual discovery of the deep and necessary work of the Spirit within each one of us. We have knowledge to gain of Jesus Christ in order for Holy Ghost power to be released. God will require obedience in order for us to see God's hand at work and for us to witness true "This is That" in the church and in our lives today!

**Introduction of the Holy Spirit!**

- The picture of the Spirit in the Bible is an \_\_\_\_\_ picture, coming into clear focus only when seen through Jesus Christ, and as revealed and explained in the works and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospels and Paul's Epistles.

In the earliest portions of Scripture, the Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_ and, at times, unpredictable power who personifies God's movements within all creation and works amongst the \_\_\_\_\_ to develop Israel as a nation and lead the Children of God through many tumultuous times. In the Old Testament of the Bible, the Holy Spirit seldom appears as a \_\_\_\_\_ at all, but rather as a powerful force—like a mighty wind.

In the latter Books of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit begins to function in a role of \_\_\_\_\_ prophetic speech amongst the many Prophets and Patriarchs. The Holy Spirit reveals to us through the Scriptures of the characteristic of Jesus' ministry and the coming new covenant in its entirety.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is given for many purposes. A few are to be a helper to all believers for daily \_\_\_\_\_, reassurance of the believer's \_\_\_\_\_, to reveal who Jesus is, and to bring complete comfort in difficult times.

## The Holy Spirit From The Very Beginning!

- Immediate introduction to the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity at \_\_\_\_\_.

: Genesis 1:1,2 The Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ with God's Creative attributes.

: He worked at creation in cooperation with God the \_\_\_\_\_

(Acts 4:24) and God the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:3).

a) Isaiah 40:12,13 = Here \_\_\_\_\_ is given by God to the Spirit.

**NOTE:** So we see that the entire Bible reveals a cooperative work of the 3 Person's of the Godhead!

## The Spirit With The Patriarchs

- After the \_\_\_\_\_ of languages at Babel, the Bible changes focus from referring to people in general, to focusing on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

: Either for or against God.

: Asked man to "Choose you this day whom you will serve" Joshua 24:14,15

**NOTE:** God began to speak to His Children in order to lead them in His ways. They now had \_\_\_\_\_ and God needed better communication with mankind.

- Gideon heard from the "Angel" and "Spirit of God" and "the Lord". Judges 6:11,34,36, 7:2

: What's the difference?...Any?

"Angel of God" = This is the word for God's Spirit but is used in the Hebrew to show He is giving inspiration, revelation, or a message to the \_\_\_\_\_!

"Spirit of God" = This is the word used when God's Spirit is spoken of and used in the Hebrew for the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ is being required or implied on the part of the listener.

"The Lord" = This is the Unspoken Name of God \_\_\_\_\_ to be the highest name the Jews would know as God, but would not say in a sentence, only for worship.

**NOTE:** Throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit is never presented as a mere influence coming from a far-away God. God Himself is always present personally, and in the power of revelation by and through His Spirit. To some He also came as "the Spirit of Wisdom".

### • 3 important Facts For This "School of the Spirit"

- 1) The Holy Spirit is regarded as God in Bible record. So when we read "the Holy Spirit spoke..." we understand that the Holy Spirit, God, and the Lord Jesus Christ are one in the same.

2) The Holy Spirit is God, distinguished from the Father, and the Son by \_\_\_\_\_.

3) The Deity of the Holy Spirit does not infringe upon the divine unity of the Trinity. He does not work \_\_\_\_\_, or contrary to the will and purposes of the Father or Son.

- **Most Importantly**

- We must settle it in our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that the Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_, He has:

: Intelligence = **Romans 8:27 / Isaiah 11:2**

: Feelings = **Ephesians 4:30 / Isaiah 63:10**

: Will = **I Corinthians 12:11 / Acts 13:3-4**

: Unending knowledge of the Father and the Son and He reveals it = **John 16:13-15**

- **Old Testament** people knew Him in a semi-\_\_\_\_\_ way. Judges, Kings, Prophets, Old Testament Patriarchs never said "*I think He's working in this situation...*". They knew it was Him!

: Gideon = **Judges 6:34** : Samson = **Judges 14:6** :

- **New Testament** believers must know Him \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

: He dwells with and within each believer = **John 14:16-20**

: He filled them and fills us = **Acts 2:4, 4:31**

: He \_\_\_\_\_ them = **Acts 9:31**

: He connected Himself to believers while leading them = **Romans 8:14**

: God \_\_\_\_\_ the hidden mysteries of God, and their meaning to believers through the Holy Spirit. **I Corinthians 2:1-11**

- **Acts 19:1-6**

: Appolos had gone to Corinth. Paul encouraged the Disciples there, and found they had \_\_\_\_\_ heard of the Holy Spirit. But were only baptized into the baptism of " \_\_\_\_\_ ", or \_\_\_\_\_.

- Believers must have the \_\_\_\_\_ resources and \_\_\_\_\_ provided to us by Christ.  
: without it we cannot face up to the issues of \_\_\_\_\_.
- If we cannot maintain inner \_\_\_\_\_ we are sunk!
- BUT by faith we \_\_\_\_\_ to hear His voice and operate with “God in us”, we become unsinkable!
- Don’t Shy away.  
: The Holy Spirit will not make us into \_\_\_\_\_ believers.  
: You get the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit as was in Christ! **Romans 8:11**

- **Overcoming A Major Issue**

“The Holy Spirit and His Gifts are not for today”. “The Holy Spirit and His Gifts went away when the last apostle died (John).”

- 1) If Jesus went to such effort to inform us and educate us on the coming of the Holy Spirit, wouldn’t it require then that He also inform and educate us that this power would one day end? **John 14:16** (see the word “forever”)
- 2) In **John 16:7-15** Jesus gave us the reason for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Part of this reasoning is to reveal Jesus and give Him glory.
- 3) Peter said in **Acts 2:37-47** under the unction of the Holy Spirit that everyone gathered there “shall receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, because the promise was for them, their children and to ALL afar off as many as the Lord will call”. Doesn’t sound like the Holy Spirit is going anywhere.
- 4) In **1 Corinthians 13:8-10** proponents of the end of the Holy Spirit and His Gifts, use this to conclude that prophecy, tongues, and knowledge (speaks for all the Gifts) will vanish away. Further they state “that when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.” That which was perfect could only be Christ, and He had already “Come” at the time of this rendering of Scripture. So it couldn’t be the 1<sup>st</sup> coming, but Paul was looking to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**Pastor's Conclusion:** In no way am I trying to divide the body of Christ, but reveal truth so the people God has entrusted me with will walk in truth. I teach from a place of prayer, and teaching from my heart and God has raised me up to speak His Word into the hearts of people. I believe He has revealed this to me and to many many thousands of other preachers, believers, and people who are also led of the Holy Spirit. I write this summary with all respect for people of other beliefs. Here is a small rendering of what I see in Scriptures regarding the topic.

- 1) Jesus taught significantly on the coming of the Holy Spirit. But not ONCE did He even give any indication that there would be an end to the Holy Spirit's Fruit for the new believer and His Gifts for every believer to be blessed by. Certainly the Holy Spirit's presence and mission on earth and in the lives of believers everywhere has not ended. In fact Jesus and Peter stated the Holy Spirit would be with mankind "forever". This is proved out as there were thousands of people in the Book of Acts that were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- 2) When John (the last living apostle) died, did all the people still alive that had been saved in the Book of Acts all lose their Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit? Did they suddenly cease speaking in tongues and prophesying? Did people no longer get saved? Are we not really saved then either?
- 3) Yes we still need the Holy Spirit and His revelation of sin, righteous and judgment. We still need the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word of God, who Jesus is, how to pray, to empower the preacher to preach the Gospel and the listeners to receive the preaching! And of course, we still need the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit to be a blessing to the Body of Christ.
- 4) The Fruit of the Spirit are for the individual believer to live by and for the Holy Spirit to set the standard of living for the believer. The Gifts of the Spirit are for the "profit" of all in the Body of Christ. Certainly God wouldn't give those Gifts and Fruit only to the few thousands of people who were saved during the upstart of the Church!

