

THE SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

******EIGHT VITAL LESSONS ON CULTIVATING THE
COMPANIONSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT******

Heartland Correspondence Bible Institute
And Theological Seminary
P.O. Box 211
Piedmont, MO 63957
(573) 223-2787 Email: andytully@show-me.net

INTRODUCTION

The following pages were not originally designed for writing. Each CHAPTER was a SERMON preached at Faith Bible Baptist Church in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, where I served as Pastor during the 1980's. As a result, although slightly edited for reading, the reader will notice some adlibbing, a lot of referring to members in the audience, etc.. The style used herein is a preaching style, rather than a writing style.

Some people are under the mistaken impression that the busier that one is in Christian service, the more SPIRITUAL one is. My precious friend, nothing could be farther from the truth. Busy-ness of activity does not make one SPIRITUAL. Now, a SPIRITUAL Christian will be a busy Christian. However, constant activity, even in Christian service, does not make one SPIRITUAL.

As you will study herein, a SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN is a Christian who has a right relationship with the Holy Spirit. As you read these messages, it is my sincere prayer that God the Holy Spirit will become more precious and more real to you than ever before. It is also my prayer, that the Biblical truths taught herein will become a standard of living -- yea, even a standard of life --to the reader.

Dr. Andy Tully, Evangelist

TABLE OF CONTENTS

7 MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	1
1. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.....	3
a. LOVE.....	4
b. JOY.....	4
c. PEACE.....	4
d. LONGSUFFERING.....	5
e. GENTLENESS.....	5
f. GOODNESS.....	6
g. FAITH.....	6
h. MEEKNESS.....	6
i. TEMPERANCE.....	7
2. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES CHRISTIAN SERVICE.....	8
3. THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES.....	10
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMOTES PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.....	11
5. THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS.....	12
6. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES WITH OUR SPIRIT.....	13
7. THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY.....	14
7 MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	21
1. THE HOLY SPIRIT RESTRAINS.....	25
2. THE HOLY SPIRIT REPROVES.....	28
3. THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES.....	30
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES UP RESIDENCE.....	31
5. THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZES.....	33
6. THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS.....	34
7. THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS.....	35
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE.....	38
1. IT IS NOT EXPERIENCED BY THE UNSAVED.....	45
2. IT IS NOT SELECTIVE.....	45
3. IT ABHORS THE EVIL WORLD SYSTEM.....	46
4. THIS LOVE IS THE TEST OF YOUR SALVATION.....	47
5. THIS LOVE IS WITHOUT END.....	48
6. THIS LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL.....	48
QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	54
GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	69
(1) FACE IT HONESTLY.....	81
(2) CONFESS IT SINCERELY.....	82
(3) CLAIM FORGIVENESS AND CLEANSING.....	83
(4) ISOLATE THAT SIN.....	83
(5) NEVER ASK FORGIVENESS FOR THAT SIN AGAIN.....	83
(6) FORGIVE YOURSELF.....	84
(7) CLAIM DAILY VICTORY.....	85
WALKING IN THE SPIRIT.....	86
CONFESSION AND CLEANSING.....	101

HOW TO CULTIVATE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMPANIONSHIP	118
1. BE THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON	119
A. HE CAN BE GRIEVED.....	120
B. HE CAN BE LIED TO.....	121
C. HE CAN STRIVE.....	121
D. HE CAN TEACH.....	121
E. HE GUIDES	121
F. HE GLORIFIES GOD.....	121
G. HE COMFORTS	122
H. PERSONAL PRONOUNS USED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	122
2. BE ENGROSSED WITH JESUS CHRIST	123
3. WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS	126
4. MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS A CLEAN SANCTUARY.	127
5. SEEK TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORD OF GOD	129
6. THE CULTIVATE THE ART OF RECOGNIZING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EVERYWHERE.....	130
7. REALIZE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU IS JUST LIKE JESUS ON EARTH.....	131

7 MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

John 16:7-15

(Prayer)

I am preaching tonight on THE SEVEN MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. I have said this many times before, and you will hear it many times yet to come: The closest friend you have on earth is the Holy Spirit. I repeat: THE CLOSEST FRIEND, THE MOST INTIMATE FRIEND THAT YOU CAN POSSIBLY HAVE ON EARTH, IS THE HOLY SPIRIT; I mean, as opposed to God the Father and God the Son in this sense.

When you talk about the Holy Spirit you are really talking about all three. When you talk about the Son you are talking about all three. When you talk about the Father, you are also talking about all three. The reason is, they are all Omnipresent.

However, God the Father is everywhere in His Omnipresence; but He is in Heaven in His local presence -- His headquarters presence -- seated on His throne. And God the Son is everywhere in His Omnipresence; but He is seated on the right hand of the Father in His local, headquarter presence. The Holy Spirit is everywhere in His Omnipresence, but HE IS IN YOUR BODY IN HIS LOCAL, HEADQUARTER PRESENCE.

Did it dawn on you when you were eating breakfast this morning, that the Holy Spirit was eating breakfast with you? Did it dawn on you that when you got on your bus to go on the bus route this morning that the Holy Spirit was with you -- in you -- on that bus? Did it dawn on you this afternoon when you were doing whatever you do in the afternoons, that the Holy Spirit was there doing whatever you were doing this afternoon? Will it dawn on you tomorrow morning as you get up and go to work the Holy Spirit goes with you.

I'm not talking about some kind of a ghost, or a force or an influence; I am talking about a real Person, an infinitely holy Person lives inside of you. And God has ordained that you and I should live every moment of our lives with the Holy Spirit. From the moment you were saved on, your life was and always will be a vital union with a Spirit Who is infinitely holy -- an infinite union between you and One Who is infinitely holy.

I wish it were possible for us to grasp that. That's about as close that I can come to it with words to explaining the fact that the Holy Spirit -- God Himself -- lives inside of you. And He is your closest, precious Friend!

May I say that EVERYBODY who is saved has the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 ***“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”***

The Nazarenes and the Pentecostals and the Charismatic crowd may be very sincere, but when it comes to this business of the Holy Spirit -- based on the authority of THIS BOOK (the Bible) -- they are SINCERELY WRONG! The Bible teaches that the instant you get saved, God the Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ; and you have the Holy Spirit living in you. Immediately, since the resurrection day, everybody who has ever placed their faith and trust in Christ has the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9, ***“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, (and that's not the spirit that Christ exemplified, His attitude; that's the Holy Spirit) he in none of, his.”***

Now, the MINISTRIES of the Holy Spirit, to be studied in a subsequent chapter, are INTANGIBLE ministries: restraining, reproving, regenerating, taking up residence, baptizing, sealing, and filling. Those are the MINISTRIES of the Holy Spirit.

Now we are going to study in this chapter THE MANIFESTATIONS of the Holy Spirit. These manifestations are ministries, but they go beyond just being a ministry TO you. They are a ministry to

EVERY BELIEVER whereby He manifests Himself. These are the things that you can look at and you can say, ***“I know the Holy Spirit is living in me, not merely because it says in the Bible, but also I see His manifestations in my life!”***

Neighbor, the Holy Spirit is a spirit -- He has no flesh and bones, but your flesh and bones. The Holy Spirit has no mouth but your mouth. The Holy Spirit has no eyes but your eyes. The Holy Spirit has no hands but your hands. The Holy Spirit has no feet but your feet. He is a SPIRIT, not a HUMAN being. You cannot see Him, but He lives within you if you are saved. You cannot feel Him with the sense of touch -- you cannot hear Him with your physical ears -- therefore, you must depend not only on the promises of God, but any manifestation that He gives you that He is with you.

Now, we are going to give you those seven manifestations that the Holy Spirit gives. They are ministries TO you -- they are ministries THROUGH you -- that give evidence that He is present WITH you.

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

There is something wrong with the fellow who says, *“I’m saved,”* and yet he has no desire ever to produce any Christian character! The Holy Spirit produces Christian character. You don’t learn it out of a “How to Make Men/Women” book. You don’t learn it out of a seminar. You don’t get it from Gothard or Hyles, as good as those seminars are -- the Holy Spirit is the only One who can produce Christian character in you.

I’m not talking about human character; I am talking about Godly character. Here is the character I am talking about. Look at Galatians 5:22. You will notice that it lists ONE fruit -- “fruit” is a collective word. A bowl of fruit is not a bowl of fruits — unless it is San Franciscans — it is a bowl of fruit (singular). The word is used collectively, a singular word. It is like a “herd” of cattle, a “crowd” of people, a “bunch” of bananas, “gobs” of girls, “bunches” of boys. It is a singular word that means a collective number.

It’s like saying, ***“Look at all the fish,”*** when you are looking at ten fish, but they are all the same kind -- so you don’t say ***“fishes,”*** you say ***“fish.”*** It’s like looking at a bowl of twenty—five different kinds of fruit, ten of each kind, two-hundred-and-fifty pieces of fruit. You don’t say, ***“Look at the fruits.”*** You say, ***“Look at all the fruit!”***

And the same is used here. Galatians 5:22 says, “*The FRUIT of, the Spirit is...*” -- and then He lists nine character traits. The first one is LOVE:

a. LOVE

That’s not “*eros*.” That’s lust. That’s not “*phileo*.” That’s family, or brotherly, love. This is “**AGAPE**” love. This is the love that is demonstrated and described in I Corinthians 13. This is the love that Romans 5:5 says “*...in shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which in given unto us.*”

By the way, you cannot work up this love. The unsaved cannot love this love. This is the love that only God can love through a human instrument. God IS love. God is not eros. God is not phileo. God IS AGAPE.

Character trait number one is LOVE.

b. JOY

Character trait number two: JOY. Do you know that everybody has joy within them. Every moment of the day, since you have been born again, you have joy within you.

Now, sometimes it doesn’t show on the outside. Sometimes it is in your spirit (that is where the Holy Spirit is), but you have not allowed it to seep through to your soul so you can enjoy it. Some have allowed it to seep through to their soul where they enjoy it, but they haven’t allowed it to seep through to their body where others can see it and enjoy it, too!

These things are all within you -- they are always within you -- but sometimes we confine them to our spirit. Sometimes we confine them to our soul. Seldom do we ever let all of these nine character traits get on the outside, but they are all there.

c. PEACE

The next word is “*peace*.” That is the Greek word *eirene*. It means “a settled state of security and safety.” It’s not some kind of a goose-bump feeling you get once in a while when a special song is sung. It is a settled condition -- a settled, permanent condition of security and safety.

I know some people whose security is money in the bank. They don't spend much on themselves, but they've got it in the bank. And they won't spend it on themselves, but they have a lot in the bank: that is their security. If they didn't have that money in the bank, they would be as insecure as a cat on a hot tin roof!

I know some people whose security is crowds of people. They've got to have crowds of people around them all the time. It is like Alcoholics Anonymous. That is what they teach: surround yourself with others -- you be the life of the party. That is their philosophy. And to some people, that is their security.

Some people's security is busy-ness in Christian service. Now, everybody ought to be busy in Christian service, but with some people, that is their security.

But this is not talking about some outward form of pacification. This is an inward condition of security and safety. Peace: all that happens when the war is over. Can you imagine in a fox hole somewhere in some foreign country; and you've been there for days and nights. Disease is rampant; rats are running everywhere. You can smell the stench of dead flesh all around you, burning flesh, and blood everywhere. You are just about to give up -- and all of a sudden news comes over the radio, "***THE JAPANESE HAVE SURRENDERED!! THE WAR IS OVER!!***"

Well, if you can imagine what might happen in the fox hole -- if you can picture the holy commotion that might break out at that point -- that is what the word PEACE means. It is all that happens when the war is over: a settled state of security and safety. That is a character trait.

d. LONGSUFFERING

And then there is: LONGSUFFERING. What does that mean? It means to suffer a long time. Wasn't that a deep definition? That is what it means.

Someone rubs you the wrong way, suffer them a long time. It has to do with others.

e. GENTLENESS

Then there is GENTLENESS. Gentleness is a Christian character trait.

Some folks think they are not spiritual unless they are stepping on somebody. Some think they are not spiritual unless they are knocking somebody else down! Some people think they are not spiritual unless they are purposely making somebody else mad at them with some kind of an obtrusive witness that uses no tact and no wisdom at all.

Neighbor, the Bible says that one of the spiritual character traits that the Holy Spirit has, and that He can show through us if we will let him, is GENTLENESS! GENTLENESS like a mother with a newborn baby. GENTLENESS like a diamond collector with a most precious jewel. GENTLENESS like the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

f. GOODNESS

The next Christian character trait listed is GOODNESS. Do you know what goodness is? That's a hard one: it is BEING GOOD. That is not so much behaving yourself -- being good within yourself, although it starts there. It is being good to others! It is digging in your pocket to meet somebody else's need. It is denying yourself your own pleasure and your own comfort and your own ease, that someone else might have comfort -- that someone else might have pleasure -- that someone else might have ease.

It is GOOD—ness. How else can you define it? It is BEING GOOD to someone else. The Bible says that we are supposed to be good to ALL people, *“especially the household of faith.”*

g. FAITH

The next trait is FAITH. That is trust. That is faithfulness. That is trustworthiness. That is FAITH.

h. MEEKNESS

The next character trait is MEEKNESS. Now, meekness is not WEAKness. Meekness is a humility of mind that allows others to get their way and exemplifies the personality of Christ.

The Lord Jesus was certainly not weak -- but He was MEEK. Moses was certainly not weak -- but he was meek.

I think of Jesus when He approached the Temple in Jerusalem. And the money-changers were out there changing foreign coins and selling

sacrificial animals so that all who came in could give a sacrifice, or give an animal, or give an offering of money. And when Jesus came in He saw them cheating in the Temple. He came in and got a Roman cat-o-nine tails, the same whip that Paul had laid on his back thirty-nine times. The same whip that Jesus had taken to His back, when the vision of Him was so marred that you would not be able to tell that He was a living human being.

He took the Roman cat-o-nine tails, turned over the tables of the money changers, and as they scrambled across the steps to pick up the coins and gather the animals, our Savior chased them all out of the Temple with the whip! And by the way, you will notice that the only animals that Jesus did not let loose were the birds in the cage. Why? They wouldn't get those back. You see, He wasn't out to destroy anybody. Even when He had to be harsh, He had some compassion.

And He took off after them, and the Bible says that He got angry at them! He was angry! That wasn't some kind of a boiling anger that suddenly came up and then subsided. It was a settled state of boiling anger within Him that is aroused under certain conditions. In other words, He did not become angry at the situation; He was already angry at sin, and was just now time to let it out!

And then the Apostles looked at Him and said, "***Now we understand what the Bible meant in the Psalms when it said that 'the zeal of mine house hath eaten me up?'***" Jesus certainly wasn't weak, was He. But He was MEEK – He was submissive to His Father's will.

i. TEMPERANCE

And then there is TEMPERANCE. That is SELF CONTROL. Jesus was under perfect control when He got angry. He was under perfect control: he had already settled ahead of time what He would do under certain circumstances. He was under perfect control!

"... Against such there is no law."

Now, notice those. They are IN every believer, because they are the FRUIT of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is like a tree inside of you, and He bears these nine different kinds of fruit all the time.

Now, where does the Holy Spirit live? He lives in your body, but what PART of your body? He lives in your soul, but what part of your soul? He lives IN YOUR SPIRIT.

Your spirit is the inner circle. That is the God-consciousness. That is the part you relate to God with. That is the part that is dead to God before you are saved.

And then outside of that circle is your soul – the spirit is inside the soul. The Bible teaches this. This is the part that you relate to yourself with. It is the self-consciousness, the seat of emotions, affections, and the will.

Outside of that is your body. That's the part that you relate to others with. You don't relate to God with your soul, nor with your body; you relate to God with your spirit. You relate to self with your soul. You relate to others with your body.

Now, neighbor, wait a minute! Where is the Holy Spirit? HE IS IN YOUR SPIRIT! Why is then that if He is in my spirit, and He has joy, sometimes I don't feel joy? It is because you have Him confined in there. You won't let Him out!

Why is it that sometimes, if He is in there, and if His fruit is LOVE (agape) – why is it that sometimes I don't even feel, let alone express, love? It is because you have Him confined in there. You've got Him either grieved by some known sin, or you have Him quenched by an unwillingness to do the revealed will of God.

Look, dear friend, when you let the Holy Spirit get out of your spirit into your soul, then YOU will be blessed. When you let Him get out into and through your body, then OTHERS can be blessed. These nine character traits are not produced by human efforts. They are the fruit of the Spirit. They are produced automatically by a right relationship to the Holy Spirit, and they are SINGULAR, every Christian has the potential of every one of these all the time! They are the fruit of the Spirit and the Spirit is within you.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Holy Spirit also produces Christian SERVICE. Let's look in John chapter seven. Verse 37 says, *“In the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If, any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow RIVERS OF LIVING WATER...”*

What is He talking about? The fullness of the Holy Spirit? That is part of it, but it is not only that, because not every Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit. He said that EVERYBODY who is saved, ***“He that believeth on me....”*** That is All the saved!! ***“He that believeth on me, out of, his BELLY shall flow rivers of, living water...”***

Your “belly” is your innermost being. “He that BELIEVES... out of His innermost being, let him drink RIVERS of living water.” Well now, water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. A river indicates a lot of it, and a continual flow. By the way, do you know what produces electrical energy oftentimes? Rivers, a flow of water; you would be surprised to know how much energy we get from the flow of water, how many different types of energy.

Have you ever been in flash flood, where water came down and moved everything in sight: buses and cars and trucks and buildings -- EVERYTHING was gone! That’s energy: POWER!! Jesus said, ***“...RIVERS of living water!!”*** RIVERS!! RIVERS OF LIVING WATER -- NOT WATER THAT BRINGS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. WATER THAT BRINGS LIFE!! What am I talking about? Christian service, powerful Christian service. Verse 39 gives us the Holy Spirit’s interpretation of Jesus’ words, ***“But this spake He of, the Holy Spirit...”***

I taught a series when I pastored in Hamburg, PA, on the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT. The gifts of the Spirit are not give to you for you to sit back and gloat in and enjoy. They are given to you to serve others. In I Corinthians 12, beginning with v. 4, the Bible describes some of those gifts. ***“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit (that is, in the gifts) is given to every man to profit withal.”***

Then the Apostle Paul lists some of the gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, languages, discerning of spirits, interpretation of languages, etc.. In verse 11 it say, ***“...all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.”***

Verse 12, ***“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”***

What is He talking about? He is talking about the spiritual gifts. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift. Nearly everybody, if not EVERYBODY, has at least two or three.

Those spiritual gifts were not give simply for you to enjoy. They were given for you to use in ministering to the body of Christ, the Church. They were given for Christian service. And the talen, the ability, and the gifts for Christian service were given, not for you to sit back on your dead orthodoxy and say “Amen,” but for you to get up and go and do!

Nobody has a right -- NOBODY -- to call themselves a Christian who refuses to get Involved in Christian service! NOBODY, NOBODY, NOBODY has a right to call themselves a Christian who doesn't become a servant. And I'm talking about local church Christian service. Those gifts are given for service. You are saved for service.

Paul said “...*we Me created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS...*” That's Christian service -- CHRISTIAN SERVICE. What are YOU doing for Christian service?

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES

Then, the Holy Spirit also TEACHES. We read that in John 16, verse number 12, “*Howbeit when He, the spirit of TRUTH (the Holy Spirit is directly connected with Divine Truth) in come, He will GUIDE YOU INTO...*” It is one thing to get UP TO a swimming pool; it is quite another thing to get INTO the swimming pool. It is one thing to come right to the point of something; it is another thing to go INTO that something.

When you sit down and study the Bible, but you do not allow that Bible to reach out and grab ahold of you and pull you down inside and make you what you want to be, and become a part of you and well up into your soul and just baptize you in the truth of God, you are not getting INTO -- you are only coming UP TO. That's not on my notes -- I just got that! That wasn't bad, was it? I might just camp there awhile.

Notice it says that “*the Holy Spirit...will guide you INTO (not UP TO) all truth...he shall not speak of (from) himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.*” I am saying, the Holy Spirit's job is to teach me.

The highest realm of noble truth is revealed in the Word of God. You don't find any higher truth. You talk about “higher education.” You can't get any higher than that. It is the highest it goes. Jesus said, “*I AM the truth...*” The One Who wrote this Book said that. The One Whose self-disclosure the Bible IS said that. He IS the truth! You can't get any higher level of noble truth than what you find in the Word of God.

Listen to what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit teaching us that truth. I Corinthians 1:9 and following says, ***“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear hear, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him”***

The eye hasn’t seen it. The ear has not heard it. ***“BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US...”*** Where? In the Bible. Go down to verse 12, ***“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which in of God...”*** Why did God give you the Holy Spirit? ***“That we might KNOW the things which are freely given to us of God.”*** He is talking about the things in the Bible!

God gave you the Holy Spirit so that you might KNOW the Word of God. By the way, He doesn’t just pour knowledge out of a pitcher, either. There is no “gift of knowledge” in that sense anymore. There is no knowledge that is noble without studying. And there is no deep things of God that are knowable without study and relying on the Holy Spirit. We need human teachers... we need good Christian books... and thank God for them. But the final analysis is, “Did you go to the Holy Ghost of God and get some honey off the bottom of the jar?” You only get that from Him!

This truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit, by the way, not to carnal Christians. You will notice in the same context, but in the next chapter, ***“I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ ... I have fed you with milk, and NOT WITH MEAT: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it ... ye are yet carnal.”***

The Holy Spirit teaches.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMOTES PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

The Holy Spirits praise and thanksgiving. Five times in one chapter in the Psalms it says, ***“O that MEN would praise the Lord... O that MEN would praise the Lord... O that MEN would praise the Lord... O that MEN would praise the Lord... O that MEN would praise the Lord!!!”***

I don’t care if the charismatics have ruined it for the rest of us! What’s wrong with praising the Lord? What’s wrong with “hallelujah?” What’s wrong with “glory?” We’re so afraid that old sister so-and-so down at the fingerbowl church will think we’ve lost our marbles that we’re afraid to show any emotion. Can you think of anything that is more emotional than going to Heaven and escaping Hell? I mean, having a vital union with infinite

Holiness... What on earth has happened? Have our emotions died to spiritual things?

Psalms 50:23, *“Whoso offereth praise glorifies me.”* God said that. And it is one thing to have praise in the heart, and it is another thing to offer it. It’s one thing to have a sheep in the pen, and it is another thing to offer it. It is one thing to have cattle out in the field, it is another to slay that cattle and offer it. It is one thing to have a dollar in your pocket, and it is another thing to offer it. It is one thing to have praise in your heart, and it is another thing to OFFER it!

Now, where does that spirit of praise come from? It comes from the Holy Spirit. Look at Ephesians chapter five, beginning with verse eighteen, *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT;* (and that’s not the end of the sentence -- the sentence does not end until after verse 22) *....Speaking to yourselves* (Oh, that’s a part of being filled with the Holy Spirit: talking to yourself) *in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God...”*

He didn’t say just to HAVE thanks -- not just BEING thankful -- GIVING thanks for all things always unto God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. I know that this is probably one of the most misused areas by the carnal charismatic crowd. Somebody from this church was talking to me just the other day about a friend of theirs who got “slain in the spirit.” Isn’t it funny that every time someone gets “slain in the spirit” there is somebody right behind them ready to catch them? Isn’t that strange?

If I took hold of your head like Oral Roberts takes hold of the head of his people and slapped you like that, you’d get “slain in the spirit” too! But, neighbor, just because a bunch of fleshly, carnal, superficially emotional people have gone off into some frantic frenzy about this business does not mean that you and I ought to be afraid or scared away from it!

“Be ye filled with the Spirit...Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always....”

I am saying that the Holy Spirit promotes praise and thanksgiving!

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS

He leads! Every step of the way He leads! Do you recognize His leadership? Can you honestly say, *“I am 100% sure that from point A today*

to point B God the Holy Spirit led me? I was not planning on going there, I can look back now and know that I recognized His leadership. I felt the impulse in my heart and from one point to another God the Holy Spirit led me?”

I’m talking about that vital union with the Holy Spirit. If you don’t enjoy that vital union between you and Infinite Holiness you will not recognize His leadership when it comes.

Are you the kind that when you give a testimony you have to look back and say that circumstances led you? No, no! I’m not talking about circumstances... I am talking about inner impulses. I’m talking about the Holy Spirit of God Who in your heart influences you to do something or go somewhere or speak to someone when you had not planned on it.

Leadership! Romans 8:14, ***“As many as are led by the Spirit of, God, they are the sons of God.”*** And that is a normal Christian experience. If you don’t have that then you are not normal. Some Christians are abnormal. We are so subnormal, some of us, that if we ever became normal, the world would think we were abnormal.

The Holy Spirit produces Christian character. The Holy Spirit produces Christian service. The Holy Spirit teaches. The Holy Spirit promotes praise and thanksgiving. The Holy Spirit leads.

Can you sing, ***“Where He leads me I will follow...”*** What if He were to lead you to quit your job and go out and stand on a street corner somewhere and preach? Boy, it’s getting quite in here!

What if He were to lead you to drop everything and go to your family and say, ***“We’re going to the foreign mission field. God the Holy Spirit has led me and we are going!”*** Would your family have enough confidence in your spirituality to follow? Now I’ve quit preaching, and started meddling!

Would you recognize the leadership of the Holy Spirit, or would you fight it off until it sort of subsides? The Holy Spirit leads.

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES WITH OUR SPIRIT

Not one time does the Bible ever say that your spirit will witness with mine, or my spirit will witness with yours, that we are children of God. The Bible doesn’t say that. I know there is a kinship of spirit among

Christians who are walking together -- not among those who are not -- just among those who are.

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 2:3).

Many Christians are not agreed with the Holy Spirit and are walking apart from Him.

The Holy Spirit witnesses with your spirit. It doesn't say that a Christian's spirit witnesses with your spirit. The spirit of a person does not communicate with the spirit of another person. That's the part that communicates with God. The soul communicates with you; the body communicates with others.

The Holy Spirit witnesses with your spirit. Romans 8:16, ***“The Spirit itself witnesseth with our spirit....”*** He witnesses inside of my spirit; He talks to my spirit. And do you know what He says 24 hours a day? ***“Your saved. Your saved Your saved Your saved Your saved Your saved Your saved Your saved.”*** Twenty-four hours a day He says that to me. The Holy Spirit does that; not somebody else's spirit.

Do you doubt your salvation? Why don't you get on your knees this moment, confess all known sin (asking the Holy Spirit to reveal anything to you that is not pleasing to Him); then reach inside and say, ***“Now, Holy Spirit. am I saved?”***

If he can't tell you are, it is presumptuous for anybody else to tell you are. You are supposed to get your assurance from the Holy Spirit. If you can't get it from Him, you may not have any reason to have any. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit.

So the Holy Spirit produces Christian character. He produces Christian service. He teaches. He promotes praise and thanksgiving. He leads. He witnesses with our spirit. And there is another thing that He does.

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY

Romans 8:26, 27, ***“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: (What infirmities? Our infirmities of a weakness in knowing how to pray.) for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what in the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of, God.”***

Do you know what “intercession” is? It is standing between God and man. Let me illustrate it for you: Let's suppose that Charlie wants

something from me. (I don't have anything to give you, Charlie.) But let's suppose that Charlie wants something for me. but for some reason he doesn't feel close enough, and he is a little afraid to come and talk to me.

So he goes to Don and says, "*Don, you are the Assistant Pastor. You see Pastor Tully more than I do. Why don't you go and talk to him for me?*" Then Don comes and talks to me.

Do you know what Don is doing? He is "interceding." He is interceding for Charlie. He is the go-between Charlie, point A, and me, point B. He is the go-between. That is an intercessor.

When you pray, it can be for yourself or for someone else. But "intercession" is only for others. When you pray for others, you are interceding for them to God.

Now, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit makes intercession with God for me—with God for me—With God for me. Turn to Ephesians chapter two and verse number eighteen. Paul is talking in the first couple of chapters of Ephesians about the Church, the mystery of the Church, which is now being revealed under Paul's ministry -- which is the mystery of Jews and Gentiles being united together in one spiritual body, the Church, the Body of Christ.

And then in the middle of that he talks a little bit about prayer, and he says, "***For. through. him* (Christ) *we both* (Jews and Gentiles alike) *have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*"**

Notice the entire Trinity having a part in your effectual praying: it is through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, unto the Father. The word "access" is a word the French get their word "*entree*" from. And that doesn't mean a bowl of salad or a bunch of beef on a plate—the entrée of a meal.

And "entree" in French is a royal, formal introduction. That is when the servant of the king takes the peasant on the outside of the castle, walks with him past all the guards in the castle, brings him to the throne and says to the king, "***King, thin in peasant Andy Tully. He wants to talk to you. He'd never get to you if, I hadn't of, come with him, so I've gone out there to get him. He has already told me what he wants, and so I'll help him if, he sort of, stutters a, little bit because he is in the presence of, royalty. So I'll help him, so excuse me if I but in. Peasant, go ahead --let her rip. Tell him what you want.***"

And he says, "***Well, king I uh -- I uh -- I uh***"

"Go on Tell him. Tell him."

And he says, "***Well, I...its...I uh....It's cold out and I need a coat.***"

And the king says. *“Give him a, coat -- and make it one with a, lining in it. It in really cold outside.”*

What is he doing? He is interceding for me. And the Bible says the Holy Spirit does that for us. When you pray in the Spirit -- when you pray IN THE SPIRIT -- by Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit then ushers you into the Holy of Holies, and introduces you to the Father every time and says, *“Father, this is Andy, and he has something he want’s to say. He’s a, little nervous.....”* And the Holy Spirit says, *“Give him a, hat, too!”*

ENTREE.

The Bible says in verse 26 of Romans 8 that the Holy Spirit prays WITH ME and verse 27 says He prays FOR ME. So He not only helps me to pray for the things I know to ask, He also prays for me for the things I forget to ask. He helps me with those things.

About two months ago, I can only remember praying it one time, I prayed God would give me a new suit. Shortly after that a dear saint of God came to me and said, *“I’ll buy you two new suit’s.”*

Shortly after that we went up to the Thrift way Store and for twelve bucks a piece got two almost brand new pair of shoes. Do you know what happened? I’ll tell you what happened! I can’t prove it, but I know it’s so: the Holy Spirit said, *“Lord, he could use two suits. Make them a little small; he could stand to lose a little weight and that might be a motivation. And he’s got holes in the bottom of his shoes and they are cracked along the side and cannot be repaired. Give him some new shoes, too!”*

So He did! Here’s what happens when the Holy Spirit intercedes for you. Let me give you eight things about getting the Holy Spirit’s help, in your prayers.

1. I DON’T KNOW WHAT I NEED. Do you know what you need? You know what you want, but you don’t know what you need. You don’t know yourself -- you know SOMEWHAT about yourself, but you don’t really know what you need.

Let me ask you a question: Can anyone here guarantee me that they don’t have a deadly virus in your body? You can’t, can you. You don’t know what you need, do you? Five people in this room might be doomed to die in the next six months with a deadly virus -- and you don’t even know it. You don’t know what you need -- I don’t know what I need.

2. I KNOW ONE WHO DOES KNOW WHAT I NEED -- HIS NAME IS THE HOLY GHOST. The Holy Spirit does know what I need. I don’t know! My mind is not perfect -- no comment. I don’t know

everything about me. I don't know what I need. The Holy Spirit DOES know what I need.

3. SO I ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT WHAT I NEED. I ask Him.

If the channel is clear, all known sin is confessed and forsaken, and it is all right with God based on the promise of God -- the channel is clear -- Isaiah 1:18 has given me a good scrub and a wash, THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS ME WHAT I NEED. (That's number four...)

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS ME WHAT I NEED. I don't know; the Holy Spirit does know what I need. I ask the Holy Spirit what I need -- and He tells me what I need.

Now, since I am carnal and fleshly prone just like you, I might not hear some of the things he says -- like the hat, or the extra suit and the shoes. But He tells me what I need.

5. I MAKE A LIST OF WHAT THE HOLY TELLS ME THAT I NEED. This is a kindergarten lesson on what prayer is.

I write this list on a piece of paper. Why? Because I'm senile like Philip (a teen boy in the church), and I forget too!

6. I GO TO THE FATHER WITH THAT LIST. I take the list with me. When peasantry goes into the presence of royalty, it gets a little nervous and forgets. So I make a list.

When sin goes into the presence of infinite Holiness, even though that sin is blood-covered, it still gets a little nervous -- so I make a list. I take the list to my Father. And Ephesians 2 says the Holy Spirit goes with me. He's the One Who gave me the list.

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT GOES WITH ME. He's the one Who knows that I am short on that list. There are some things I didn't hear Him say when I was making that list. Then I ask the Father.

8. I ASK THE FATHER FOR THOSE THINGS. I get the things that I need.

That's a little kindergarten lesson on prayer.

It's like this ——— *“the groanings which cannot be uttered”* ——— it's when you pray, and your prayer is a little wrong, by the time it gets to the Father the Holy Spirit interprets it to mean what it should.

Let me illustrate that for you: I was saved when I was 10 years old, the second Sunday of June, 1956. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. My Sunday School teacher led me to Christ in the back room of his own home in San Pablo, California.

One of the first things that I remember him teaching me after I got saved was, to pray for my parents. My mother and father didn't go to church, and they would drink once in a while, and the language wasn't always the best, etc.. And you can fill in the blanks yourself. And I didn't think they were saved. They weren't saved as far as I was concerned.

This Sunday School teacher, Jim Bultena, told me, ***"You pray every day for your ,mamma . she'll get saved."***

I didn't know you could pray for Mom and Dad at the same time. I didn't know God's mind was that big, to take in two people at once. I wasn't thinking about the millions of other people in the world that were praying for their relatives too. So I got on my knees and began to pray.

I was as large horizontally as I was vertically. I would never get up and leave the table as long as there was a scrap of food on it -- but I got so burdened for my mother, when I was ten years old, I left the table, went to kneel at the toilet stool -- what a place for an altar. I locked the door.

My mother said, *"Where are you going?"*

I said, *"I'm just not hungry."*

And I wasn't. My body was, but my soul wouldn't let me feel it. I knelt and begged God to save my mother.

I had that condition where you are afraid of closed-in places. I couldn't get in a closet and shut the door. I just couldn't do it. In fact, one time I went in the closet and shut the door. I got on my knees and prayed. The Bible says "closet" so I went in the closet. I thought "closet" meant closet.

So I went into the closet to pray. I pushed the clothes aside and knelt on the shoes. And I started to pray. When it dawned on me where I was, I screamed! My mother had to come to my rescue.

"What are you doing in there?"

I didn't tell her I was praying for her. I prayed, *"Oh, God! Save my mother! God. save my mother! Don't Let her die and go to Hell! Save my momma!!"*

I didn't know how much to pray, but I knew what I wanted. Every time a preacher would come by, whether a new pastor or a guest preacher, I would beg him to go and talk to my momma about her soul. I sent the deacons over there.

They would come to me and say, *"Your momma say's she is a Christian."*

I would say, *"She's not a Christian! She's lying to you. Go and talk to her again!"*

They would, and they would come back and tell me that she said she is a Christian. I would tell them that she's not telling the truth. I know. I lived with her.

When I was seventeen, in high school in 1963, my mother felt a lump on her breast. She went to the doctor, and he said, "*It's alright. It's not malignant.*"

She went in. I went to school that morning. On the way to school, the pastor took me (17 years old now) by to have prayer with Momma. We walked out and he said, "*Go back in there and kiss your mother.*"

He knew the seriousness of it. I didn't know. So I went in and kissed her and said, "*I'm going on to school now.*"

I went to school. About four or five hours later, I got a message to go to the office. They called me out of the office.

I got a telephone call, and it was Janet, my sister. She said, "*Momma's just come out of surgery.*"

I did not realize the seriousness of it then. She had been in surgery four and a half hours. They cut her from the Adam's apple, down to the middle of the chest, all the way around to the shoulder blade on the right side. They took out all the muscles and lymph nodes.

Now, this is her own testimony. When she was coming out of surgery -- out of the anesthetic -- she said, "*I don't know who it was, but I saw the Lord. I don't know who it was -- but I saw Him.*" And she rededicated her life to the Lord -- she had already been saved as a 13-year-old in Liverpool, England.

My first thought was: What a waste. I've been praying for 7 years for Momma to get saved, and she was already saved.

What am I saying? It wasn't a waste. Do you know what happened? I prayed, "*Ok, God! Save my momma. God, save Momma!*"

The Holy Spirit would take it up to the Father. He would intercept it, change it around a little, and take it to the Father and say, "*He said, Cause Momma to get right with you!*"

That's what the Holy Spirit does. That is His job. He's your best Friend. Did you ever put your arms around Him and say, "*Holy Spirit, I Love you!*" Did you ever do it? Did you ever try to give Him a kiss. I mean, verbally. Did you every verbally make love to the Holy Spirit?

In your innermost being, did you ever get alone with Him and just focus on Him and say, "*Holy Spirit, I yield my all to You! If ,there is anything not surrendered, show it to me!*"

“All to Jesus I surrender —- All to Him I freely give —- I will
ever love and trust Him -- In His presence daily live.”

7 MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14, beginning with verse number 15, *“If, ye Love me, keep my commandments.”* That’s pretty simple, isn’t it!

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter...” I remind you that this word *“another”* means *“another of, the same kind.”* And *“Comforter”* is *“Parakletos,”* translated *“Advocate”* about Jesus in I John chapter two.

He said, *“I will send you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”*

Go down to verse 26, *“But the Comforter. (Parakletos), which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all thing’s, and bring all thing’s to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*

Go to chapter fifteen, verse number twenty—six. The first seventeen verses of chapter fifteen and the Vine and the Branches passage. Jesus is the Vine and the Father is the Farmer, and we are the Branches and those we win to Christ are the fruit.

From verse 18 on the Bible talks about the world hating you. I get kind of concerned when somebody doesn’t hate me. I get kind of concerned when somebody isn’t against me. If I’m doing what I ought to do, certainly somebody is not going to like it.

In John 15, verse 26 says, *“When the Comforter (Parakletos) is come, whom. I will send unto you...”*

Jesus said that He was going back to the Father and when He got there He would send the Holy Spirit to us.

“Even the Spirit of, truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness...”

There are two of us witnessing together: me and the Holy Spirit. Now look at chapter 16, beginning with verse number 7, *“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. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin because they believe not on me: Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more: Of judgment, because*

the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and show it unto you."

Look with me at Galatians chapter five. Let's read just three verses, verses 16-18, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of, the. flesh."* We will cover that verse all by itself in a later chapter.

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so the ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."

Notice verse 16, *"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of, the flesh."*

(Prayer)

This is a series of messages on WHAT IS TRUE SPIRITUALITY. It seems like on one hand you have the "deeper life" crowd that thinks spirituality means to drag a Bible out of a closet and study it like a museum piece, and just let the world go to Hell. They think that's spirituality. That's not spirituality: that just plain foolishness, to say the least.

On the other hand, some folks think that if I'll busy myself running hither and yon in active service, burning the candle at both ends, that that constitutes spirituality. Well, certainly, this is a busy day in which we live, and everybody ought to be busy serving the Master to the best of their ability. But, neighbor, business and activity do not constitute spirituality.

We're going to get around soon to describing and defining what "true spirituality" really is.

The first three chapters of this book are actually the foundation of true spirituality. And then chapters four, five, and six will actually be -- if I had my way, I would preach them in one sermon -- and they will actually be one message broken into three. In that message, I will be giving you the three conditions of spirituality. They are all found in the Bible -- in different verses in the Bible.

I'll give them to you abbreviated tonight: One message on GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT. One message on QUENCH NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT. And it is one thing to "grieve" the Spirit, but it is another thing to "quench" Him.

And then an entire message on WALKING IN THE SPIRIT. We will study in detail the words and the language in Galatians 5:16. That will be a real eye-opener for you.

Then, message number seven is sort of the landing strip of the spiritual journey; with message eight being the hangar, the application of all that we say in the others.

Why a series on Spirituality. The key to the Christian life is a right relationship to the Holy Spirit. I'm talking about BEING as opposed to merely DOING.

I said, the key to the Christian life is a right relationship to the Holy Spirit. I think everybody in this room knows that your purpose in life is to be a little Jesus on earth. You are the only sermon most people will ever hear. You are the only Bible most people will ever read. And you are the only Jesus most people will ever -- EVER -- see.

Your Bible says In Romans 8:28, 29, ***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...”***

Our purpose in life is to be like Jesus. And that's not just in the sweet by and by; that is in the. nasty now and now. The Bible says that Jesus has left us an example that we should follow in His steps. The Bible says that we should walk like Jesus walked. Paul said that we have the mind of Christ. And he encouraged us in Philippians 2 to ***“Let (not “set”) this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”***

We are to think the thoughts of Christ. We are to speak the words of Christ. We are to demonstrate, and have, the attitude that Jesus had. We are to walk the walk of Christ. Jesus said, ***“He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also...”*** Now He didn't say ***“the miracles.”*** He said, ***“the works...”***

What I am saying, neighbor, is in this life you and I have a job to do, and that job is to be just like Jesus. Now, the key to being like Jesus is found in the Holy Spirit. You will as much be like Jesus in relation to what your relationship is to the Holy Spirit.

Look at II Corinthians 3:18, ***“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, EVEN AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.”*** We are to be like a mirror image of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we “are changed” into the image of Christ... ***“by the Spirit of, the Lord.”***

If your relationship to the Holy Spirit is small, that is how much you will be like the Lord Jesus. If your relationship to the Holy Spirit is big, that is how much you will be like Jesus. I am saying that it is important for you and I to have a proper relationship to the Holy Spirit, because you will be as much like Jesus in relationship to your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Now, the Holy Spirit, when Jesus spoke the words that John wrote, did not live in human beings. He did not live in human beings until the resurrection of Christ (John 7:37—38; 20:19-21). Prior to that day He would come upon believers and abide for a time WITH believers and then withdraw; then He would come back upon believers for emergencies of service. Now, however, He indwells believers; and Jesus said, “I will send you the Holy Spirit. He is WITH you now. He will be IN you. And when He is IN you He will stay there for ever and for ever and for ever. And He’ll never leave; and even when you get raptured He will go with you.” He said the Holy Spirit will never leave.

Now when Jesus went to Heaven, and I’ve said this before, He went for two reasons. He went back to Heaven, number one, to take up His new work. What was His new work? It was INTERCEDING, praying for us. But He also went to Heaven to give the Holy Spirit the work that He Himself used to do on earth -- He gave that work to the Holy Spirit to come down and do in and through us. So He ascended into Heaven for two reasons: to take up His new work, and to give the Holy Spirit HIS new work.

Now the Holy Spirit is Jesus’ Ascension gift to us. We talk about Birthday gifts. We talk about Valentine’s Day gifts. We talk about Christmas gifts. We talk about Wedding gifts. (You like that don’t you? Did you see the sparkles on these two rows of teenagers when I said “wedding gifts?”) Well, Jesus, when He went away He gave us a going away gift: He’s the One Who went away -- we didn’t; we stayed here. When He went away He gave us the Ascension gift of the Holy Spirit. In fact, Jesus said, ***“I’ll send Him to you.”*** Then He said, ***“The Father will send Him to you.”*** The Holy Spirit was our Ascension gift.

When He went away He said, ***“I will not Leave you alone. I will send you another Comforter -- JUST LIKE ME!!!”*** And He is our “Parakletos.” He is “One called alongside to help” in time of need. He is here! You may not feel Him. You cannot catch Him. You can’t see Him; BUT AS SURE AS YOU KNOW THAT YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED, YOU KNOW THAT HE IS THERE, because Jesus said He was. If He is NOT there, then you are not saved! ***“If any man have not the Spirit of, Christ, he is none. of His.”***

If Jesus did not send the Holy Spirit, and if the Holy Spirit did not come to abide in my body forever, then Jesus is a liar. And if I know anything about Jesus, He not only TELLS the truth, He IS the TRUTH (John 14:6). And He DOES tell the truth.

Spirituality, I said, depends on a right relationship with the Holy Spirit. We will leave the definition there, as far as that is concerned, until we get to message number six. But SPIRITUALITY depends on a right relationship with the Holy Spirit.

“This I say **hen**, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill (fulfill) **the lust of the flesh**” (Galatians 5:16). “The flesh” refers to your body, soul, and spirit -- yourself.

Now we will start in this section to lay a foundation for talking about spirituality. We are going to study here the SEVEN MINISTRIES of the Holy Spirit. Some of the things that we commonly think of as “ministries” are not so much ministries TO us, but rather manifestations THROUGH us -- of the Holy Spirit. That is why I’ve only listed seven here -- we talked about seven MANIFESTATIONS in the previous message. (Does that confuse you? Well, I hope so; I’ve got to do something worthwhile today!)

We’ll study SEVEN MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT RESTRAINS

The Holy Spirit’s first ministry on earth, and major ministry that He carries on with everybody (saved and lost) is the ministry of restraining. Let’s look up some Scripture. Turn to II Thessalonians chapter two. In I Thessalonians Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica to teach them that Jesus would come back again for the saints (this is a church of brand new converts). In chapter four, beginning at verse thirteen, the Apostle said, ***“I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend with a shout...”***

(I received a letter the other day. I have a dear friend for whom I have preached a meeting four or five times in Independence, Iowa. His name is Howard Mace, a great man of God. I preached two or three meetings in one church, and then he went to another town and started another church, and I

preached in that church a couple of times. Every time he writes -- and his wife does the same thing -- they sign their letters, "UNTIL THE SHOUT," and then sign their name. Not "Sincerely," but "Until The Shout!")

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Now, neighbor, you mark it down: the next major event on God's calendar of time is JUST AROUND THE CORNER. I'm not a prophet; and I don't set dates. And I realize that Jesus might not come for another 500 years; but I do know this -- we are 2,000 years closer to the Second Coming of Christ than Paul was, and I can almost see His shadow in what I am hearing on the news broadcasts. It would not surprise me at all if Jesus had one foot under His throne, ready to stand up and come in the clouds of Heaven. It wouldn't surprise me at all! Anyway, that gives me goose bumps. I'd better just move on. I might have a spell in this Unitarian church, and you'll have second thoughts about me. (Actually, Bro. Tully is preaching this in the church he used to pastor: Faith Bible Baptist Church in Hamburg, PA.)

In I Thessalonians he wrote about the Second Coming. After he wrote I Thessalonians, the church at Thessalonica had been duped by a false prophet into thinking that Jesus had already come and left them behind, and they were in the Tribulation Period. That is what they were thinking.

And Paul wrote II Thessalonians to dispel that fear, and to let them know some things have to happen before the Tribulation Period can come. Beginning at verse one, ***"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of, our, Lord Jesus Christ, and by our, gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or, be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from, us,"*** (Some had written letters and signed Paul's name, teaching that Jesus had come and they had been left behind -- bunch of trouble-making liars! We have some like that around today, too!) ***... as that the day of, Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any mean's: for that day*** (the Day of Christ: the Tribulation Period) ***shall not come, except there come a falling away first..."***

Now, the word ***"falling away"*** here is ***"apostasia."*** We get our word "Apostasy" from it, referring to a group of people who have fallen away from the faith they once believed. However, I don't think the word here refers to a falling away from the faith. Of all the times the word ***"apostasia."*** is

found in the New Testament, every time it refers to something physical leaving something physical. Now, what could that be? Try the Rapture on for size. That day, the Tribulation Period, shall not come ***“except there come a falling away*** (apostasia, snatching away, snatching out) ***first...*** Neighbor, what difference does it make which way you fall: up, down, away... I mean, the world is round, isn't it? He said that day shall come until first some of us leave. So you had better be prayed up, paid up, packed up, and ready to go us!

Now, let's read on (verse 3) ***“and that man of sin be revealed.”*** That is the Antichrist, the ***“son of, perdition.”*** By the way, there is only one other person in the Bible called ***“the. son of perdition,”*** and that is Judas Iscariot. When John wrote Revelation, Judas Iscariot had already died. And John said, “The Antichrist will be somebody who lived in my time, but is dead now -- but will live again.” Do I mean that Judas will be the Antichrist? No, I don't. But I know this: the same Devil that possessed Judas Iscariot will possess the Antichrist.

“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself the he is God. remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know WHAT WITHHOLDETH that he might be revealed in his time.” He said: SOMETHING IS RESTRAINING AND WITHHOLDING THE ANTICHRIST FROM BEING REVEALED.

Verse 7, ***“For. the. mystery of, iniquity doth already work, only HE WHO NOW LETTETH*** (hinders)...” Now wait a minute: this Book, the Bible, this King James Bible, is not a “version” of the Bible, but it IS the Word of God for the English speaking world today! That's why I don't flitter around from version to version. There is only one Bible, and I am fully convinced that this Bible right here (the King James Bible) is the Word of God, period, for the English speaking people.

Now, the fact is, that I realize also that the New Testament was not originally written in English. And when it was translated back in the 1600's we speak the same words, but some of them with different meanings than they had.

For instance, the word “suffer.” Do you know what that means? Come here, Phil (a church teen), and I'll show you what it means! Do you know what the word “suffer” means? It means “hurt!”

However, when the Bible was translated, the word “suffer” meant “to let, or allow.” When Jesus said, ***“Suffer the Little children to come unto me,”*** He wasn't saying to slap them on the side of the head as they are coning

and make them “suffer.” He was saying, “Get out of their way and LET them come!” You see, the word “suffer” used to mean “let;” now it means “suffer.”

The word “let” now means “allow.” You Pennsylvania Dutch folks don’t know anything about “leave, left, and let.” “***Just LET it over. there for me....***” You get it all mixed up, but the fact is, the word “let” now means to “allow.” We will LET that person sit on the front row. We will LET you put your tithe in the offering plate. We’ll do more than that -- we might beg you at times.

But when the Bible says “let” it doesn’t mean “allow.” It means “TO HINDER, TO RESTRAIN.” And with a direct reference to the Holy Spirit in believers, the Bible says, “***He that now (hinders) will (hinder).***” The restraining force on the world today, keeping all Hell from breaking loose, is the Holy Spirit in the believer.

Now, when the believer is gone, the Holy Spirit’s headquarters will be gone, but by virtue of the fact that He is omnipresent He will still be here. But right now the Holy Spirit in the believer is the restraining force. Why do you think it is they haven’t stretched this euthenasia to abortion to mercy killing with old people and retarded people? I’ll tell you why it is: BECAUSE WE ARE STILL AROUND -- THAT’S WHY!! And the Holy Spirit within us is the restraining force.

“***He who now (hinders) shall (hinder) until He be taken out of, the way...THEN shall that wicked one be revealed.***” I submit to you, neighbor, that the Holy Spirit is the Restrainer. And He does His restraining through believers. He is the restraining force that will be taken out of the world at the Rapture time as far as His local headquarters presence is concerned.

His first ministry is: RESTRAINING.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT REPROVES

His second ministry is: REPROVING. Both of these are to all the world, but primarily to the unsaved world. And they are continual ministries.

Let’s look at John chapter 16. We commonly use the word “convict” a little bit out of context. We say, “***Dear, God, CONVICT that soul...***” Good night, neighbor, the soul is already convicted. Do you know what convict means? It means “tried and found guilty.” The sinner has not only been tried and found guilty, he has been “***condemned already***” (John 5:24). If a fellow robs a bank, is caught, brought to trial and convicted of his

crime -- that means that he is found guilty, whether he FEELS guilty and sorry for his crime or not!

The Holy Spirit didn't use the word "**convict**" in this passage. He used the word, "**reprove**." "Reproof" is a verbal tongue lashing, so to speak, for the purpose of making one feel guilty for that which they have been convicted of. We would be more correct to pray, "**Dear God, send REPROOF to that individual...**"

In John chapter 16 the Holy Spirit's ministry is "reproving." "**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. And when He is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (THESE THREE THINGS).**"

"**Of sin, because they believe not on me...**" That is the sin of unbelief. It doesn't do any good to get a drug addict to quit his drugs until you get him saved. It doesn't do any good to get a drunk to quit his drinking until you get him saved first. The only thing that the Holy Spirit has promised to reprove an unsaved person of is their unbelief. He does that through the believer, too.

Don't go around criticizing unsaved people- for their sins. God didn't call you to clean up the fish pond; he called you to get the fish out of the fish pond. God didn't call you to clean up the hog pen; he called you to get the prodigals out of the hog pen.

By the way, why in the world would anyone want to make a better life for sinners to live in? Get him saved! The ONLY sin the Holy Spirit promises to reprove an unsaved person of is the sin of UNBELIEF!

"**Of righteousness, and of judgment...**" He enlightens the unsaved sinner with regard to the one sin of unbelief, and he does that through us, the saved. He enlightens the unsaved with respect to righteousness. Now, there are two kinds of righteousness: there is IMPUTED righteousness and PRACTICAL righteousness.

IMPUTED righteousness is this: When you get saved, God clothes you in a white robe. He takes all of your sins, past, present, and future; puts them on Jesus. And He takes all of Christ's righteousness, and charges it to your account. You stand in the eyes of God, as far as your soul is concerned, perfect, spotless, just as if you had never sinned -- because you are justified! That's imputed righteousness.

Then, there is PRACTICAL righteousness. That is the doing of right things. And the Bible says that God sent the Holy Spirit to reprove the world of the sin of unbelief, to reprove them of imputed and practical

righteousness, and to reprove them concerning the divine judgment which, by the way, NOW is already past.

When Jesus died on the cross, Satan was judged. And the Bible says here, *“because the prince of this world (Satan) is judged.”*

Neighbor, what is that? The sin of unbelief, righteousness, and the judgment of sin on Calvary. What is that? That is the plan of salvation. You can’t get it any clearer than that. That is everything a man needs to know about being born again.

God said He will send the Holy Spirit, and through the believer He’ll preach the plan of salvation. Neighbor, don’t get involved with unsaved people about pet doctrines, or theology, or politics. Get them saved! Once you get their hearts right, THEN worry about ironing out the wrinkles in their heads!

The ministry of RESTRAINING and the ministry of REPROVING is to the world. The next five are to the saved. The first four of the next five are once and for all; the last one is continually, over and over again.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT REGENERATES

In John 3, beginning with verse 1, *“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”* He’s a pretty smart Pharisee, isn’t he?

“Jesus ANSWERED...” Wait a minute! Nicodemus hadn’t asked anything! But Jesus knew the question that was in Nicodemus’ heart, so He answered it before he asked. Has He ever done that for you?

“Jesus ANSWERED and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Then Nicodemus demonstrated quite a bit of stupidity for a smart man! *“Nicodemus said unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water AND OF THE SPIRIT (regeneration) he cannot see the kingdom of God. that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.”*

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is BORN OF THE SPIRIT.”

The song writer put it this way, *Born of the Spirit with life from above, Into God’s family divine...*

Here is what happens: A soul winner comes to a sinner, opens the Bible and shows him the Gospel. He takes the reproductive seed of the Word of God, plants it into the heart of the sinner. Whether that heart receives that seed or not depends on the condition of the heart. The good soil. . .the thorny soil..., the rocky soil... It all depends on the condition of the soil.

When the seed goes into the ground, for a large part, the results of that seed planting depends on the condition of the soil. The soul winner plants the Gospel into the hearts of sinners. The Holy Spirit comes along, enters the heart, impregnates that seed, and -- bingo -- new life is born.

Look at the word “regenerated.” The root word is the word “gene.” It means “re-born; born all over again; re-gened.” By your first birth, you became a child of the devil (John 8:44). By your second birth, you become a child of God (John 1:12). The Holy Spirit’s ministry is to take the seed of the Word of God, plant it in the heart of a sinner by a soul winner, impregnate that Word, and bring life.

And, by the way, Jesus IS that life. That life does not begin in the sinner when he gets saved. God already had it -- He just put it in the sinner when he gets born again. He re-genes -- He gives the believing sinner some new genes. That person gets saved: regeneration. That is a ministry of the Holy Spirit, and that happens once-and-for-all. Once you get re-gened, you can’t get un-gened. Did you ever see a baby get ‘un—born’? It just doesn’t happen, does it? Once you get born, you cannot get un-born. You don’t get born again, and again, and again, and again. You get ***“born again.”*** Period. And the Holy Spirit is the One Who does that!

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES UP RESIDENCE

The next ministry of the Holy Spirit is, He TAKES UP RESIDENCE. Do you know what happened 40 years ago? A Sunday School teacher -- I was 10 years old; I used to ride with him in his Pontiac to Sunday School, and his son, Jimmy, was my friend, just two or three years older than me. On the way back from Sunday School one Sunday, Mr. Bultena looked at

me and said, ***“Andy, I want you to come down to the house when you have finished eating and doing what ever you have to do. I have something I want to give you.”***

Well, what ten-year-old boy wouldn't want something given to him? I went in, got changed, and said, *“Momma, Let's eat!”*

She said, *“You must be hungry!”*

I said, *“No. Mr. Bultena has something for me. I don't know what it is, but I sure do want it.”*

I've never eaten a meal so fast in all of my life. I don't eat slow now, but I sure didn't then, either. After eating dinner, I went down to his house and knocked on the door. Gary, his son, was out on the front lawn playing 'splits' with a pocket knife. I noticed in the kitchen window (118 Nancy Drive in Montalvin Manor, San Pablo, California) were Janet and Mrs. Bultena were washing dishes.

When I went in, I saw Jimmy lying on the sofa by the front window. He had injured his knee and was lying down resting. Mr. Bultena was straight ahead, sitting in a big easy chair with his family Bible set on a hassock. He picked the Bible up and laid it on his lap and said, *“Sit down, Andy.”*

I sat down. I only remember him showing me one verse -- just one verse: ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*** (John 3:16).

I don't remember his three points and a poem, or his talk, except at the end he said to me, *“Would you like, to ask Jesus to come into your heart?”* And I said, *“Yes!”*

We marched to the back room. If they haven't changed the floor covering, I think I can probably get real close to pointing out the same two tiles that my knees fell on when I knelt to pray. He led me in a prayer. I asked Jesus to come into my heart and save me -- I received Him.

Do you know what happened, instantly? I'll tell you what happened. When God saw me walking down that hallway, He called Gabriel and Michael over and said, *“I want you to get me the biggest U-Haul you've got.”*

They got a U-Haul. God put all of His furniture in the U-Haul. And when I received Him as my Savior, He backed His U-Haul up to the garage end of my soul -- AND HE MOVED IN!!

God, the Holy Spirit, took up residence! He's not a visitor in my house. He's not a guest at my table. HE IS PERMANENT RESIDENT --HE

LIVES HERE!! And that is the basis upon which He provides every other ministry to you. That is the foundation of all other ministries to you and through you.

I Corinthians 6:19 says, ***“What? Know ye not that your body is the TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are His.”***

Romans 8:9 says, ***“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”***

Everybody who ever got saved has the Holy Spirit living there as a permanent resident. And by the way, He’s not renting, either. He “purchased,” cash -- and He holds the title! And that’s once for all. Once He moves in He is there to stay, like it or lump it with sugar and salt. There isn’t any getting rid of this Resident! He’s there to stay.

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZES

This ministry is also once for all. And this has nothing to do with what we’re going to do to Aaron tonight (10-year-old getting baptized after the service). That’s drowning! It has nothing to do with water.

This is where the Holy Spirit takes you and baptizes you into the body of Christ. The word “baptize” means “immerse.”

Do you want me to tell you why King James changed the word “*baptizo*,” and did not translate it? Because he didn’t believe in immersion -- he believed in sprinkling. So, instead of translating “*baptizo*” he merely transliterated it (changing a few letters) into “baptize.” The word “baptize” means “immerse.”

I Corinthians 12:12, 13, ***“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. FOR BY ONE SPIRIT (that’s capital ‘S’ -- Holy Spirit) ARE WE ALL (That’s not just the spiritual; that is everybody.) BAPTIZED into one body...”*** That’s the body of Christ.

When you got saved, the Holy Spirit took you and immersed you into Jesus Christ, and you became a part of His body.

Jesus said, ***“M sheep hear by voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand,”*** Now, that’s good enough for me; but in the next verse He said, ***“My Father which gave them me is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”***

That's twice good enough for me. But, neighbor, I am not only IN HIS HAND, I AM ONE OF HIS FINGERS -- I AM PART OF HIS BODY!! I have been immersed into His body. For me to lose my salvation, Jesus would have to appear before the Father dismembered. When you cut a finger off, it doesn't grow back again -- I'm sorry! It is gone. And I'm one of His fingers. I have been immersed into His body.

Now, that is not to be confused with Acts 1:5. You will notice in I Corinthians 12:13 the Holy Spirit immerses you into the body of Christ. In Acts 1:5; Luke 3:16; John 1:33 (and a number of other New Testament passages) the Bible talks about Jesus immersing you into the Holy Spirit. That is the fullness of the Holy Spirit -- that is different.

The same word, "**baptize**" is used; but the Agent doing the baptism is different; and that into which you are baptized is different. Look at Acts 1:5, "***For John truly baptized (immersed) you with (Greek: en -- "into") water; but ye shalt be baptized (immersed) with (Greek: en -- "into") the Holy Ghost not many day's hence.***"

Wait a minute! I Corinthians 12:13 is the Holy Spirit baptizing you into Christ. But in Acts 1:5 it is Christ baptizing you into the Holy Spirit. In Luke 3:16, "***John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you WITH (Greek: "into") water but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whos. shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shalt baptize you WITH (Greek: "into") the Holy Ghost and with fire.***"

In the first passage, the Holy Spirit is baptizing you into Jesus. That is once for all -- never again to be repeated. However, in Luke 3:16; John 1:33; and Acts 1:5 it is Jesus taking you and immersing you into the Holy Spirit. And that's being surrounded and overwhelmed with His power! When you are "baptized" into something, or someone, you are surrounded by that thing.

So, don't get it mixed up -- but the Holy Spirit does have a baptizing ministry. And that is once for ever. He baptizes you into the body of Jesus Christ. And the Holy Spirit did that.

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT SEALS

And then there is the SEALING ministry of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:30 it says, "***And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.***"

Now, we usually think of a seal as what happens when you have a flat tire and you put that can on the valve, and it goes, "Pssssssssss!" And

it blows up the tire and at the same time “seals” the hole -- meaning it patches it and covers up the leaks so that no air can escape. But that is not the word here.

A seal in Bible times was similar to our stamp. Did you ever see a seal on a certificate? A notary takes a seal and makes an imprint on that piece of paper, stamping it. Not with ink, but indelibly stamps it with an impression that cannot even be ironed out. The Bible says the Holy Spirit “seals” us.

In Bible times, the Governor would have a ring with his own official insignia on it. And he would seal in wax, the official gubernatorial seal, on documents. They sealed the tomb of Jesus. That is what the seal is.

Do you know what the Holy Spirit is? He is God’s official Stamp, that you belong to Him. He is God’s Notary that you are His. There is the sealing ministry.

By the way, you will notice that it is “until the day of redemption,” the redemption of the body. Neighbor, if that is not “security,” I don’t know what is!

Restraining and reproof are to the world; regeneration, residence, baptizing, and sealing are once and for all. They never happen again. You can only be baptized into Christ once. The Holy Spirit only takes up residence once, because He never moves out. You can only be regenerated once. You are only sealed once -- once and for all. And then there is the last one.

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS

The Holy Spirit FILLS believers. Now, it is true in a very real, technical sense, that it is not so much how much of the Holy Spirit you have. You have all the Holy Spirit you are ever going to have. But it is HOW MUCH OF YOU DOES HE HAVE? That’s a good illustration, I think.

You are made up of three parts: body, soul, and spirit. The body is the outward part -- a large circle. Put inside of that circle a medium sized circle, and inside of THAT circle a small circle. The medium sized circle is the soul -- inside the body -- the real you. But the Bible teaches that the spirit is even deeper than the soul. It is inside the soul ——— that’s the smallest circle -- is the spirit. And that is where God the Holy Spirit dwells -- in your spirit -- not in your soul, except for the fact that the spirit is inside of your soul. Not in your body, except for the fact that your spirit is inside of your soul which is inside of your body.

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is illustrated very well, I think, like this: When you yield to the Holy Spirit and you are filled with the Spirit, He fills your spirit, which is your God-consciousness, and flows out into your soul, which is your self-consciousness. Have you ever been absolutely fully blessed -- but nobody else seemed to catch on? I thought that was happening to me tonight during the singing. I was about to have a spell -- but nobody else seemed to be getting it! I got fully blessed, but I looked Out and it didn't seem like an awful lot of people were catching on.

Do you know what that was? That was the Holy Spirit filling my spirit, and flowing out to my soul -- so that I was blessed. In my spirit He can bless Himself -- in my soul he can bless me. When he gets out to the body, which is the only part you can communicate to others with, he can bless others. And that is the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

What is that? That is the blessing of others, particularly in communicating the Gospel to them. Acts 1:8 says, ***“Ye shall receive POWER after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”***

Acts 2:1, ***“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...”*** Verse four says, ***“They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance...”***

Acts 4:31, ***“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness...”*** And on and on the story goes. Filled with the Holy Spirit -- became effective witnesses: soul winners. That is the ministry of the Holy Spirit through you to others.

Now, you don't get filled with the Holy Spirit once for all, like Jesus did. This crowd that got filled in Acts 4:31 is the same crowd that got filled in chapter 2:4. They had to get filled over again.

The only One who has ever been filled with the Holy Ghost once and for all is the Lord Jesus. The Bible says, ***“God gave the spirit NOT BY MEASURE unto Him...”*** He had no sin, no carnality, to grieve the Holy Spirit away. We do! We need to confess, get cleaned up, and get filled again. And then confess, get cleaned up, and get filled again. And then confess, get cleaned up, and get filled again.

I can tell you this, when the Holy Spirit fills you the first time, it is easier to get filled the second time. It almost seems as though, taking Bible language as our source of information, the FIRST time you are filled with the

Spirit it is called, ***“the baptism WITH the Spirit”*** (Acts 1:5; etc..). After that, it is simply called the filling, fullness, etc..

In the story in Luke 11:1-13, what was it that got the bread for sinners? It wasn't friendship alone, was it. It wasn't yielding alone, was it. So, yielding didn't get it -- not alone, anyway. Relationship didn't get it. Fellowship didn't get it. Intimacy, closeness, didn't get it. What got it? IMPORTUNITY -- BEGGING!!

And Jesus applied that by saying, ***“if ye, then being evil know how to give good gifts unto them which are your children, HOW MUCH MORE shalt your, Heavenly Father GIVE the Holy Spirit to them that ASK HIM”*** (Luke 11:13).

The sad fact is: most of God's children haven't got enough spiritual power to blow a gnat off the end of their nose. Isn't that a sad story. When the Book of Acts is the story of the normal Christian life. He restrains, He reproves, He regenerates, He takes up residence, He baptizes you into Christ, He seals you, and then He fills you.

“And it ‘shall come to pass in the last days, ‘saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon ALL FLESH...” There is not a person in this room - - from Stephanie (about 4 years old) on up -- that can't be filled with the Holy Spirit, not a one. Education doesn't get it. Knowledge doesn't get it. Charisma doesn't get it. Opportunity doesn't get it. Public-ness of work doesn't get it. Begging -- importunity got it in Luke 11, and importunity will be the primary cause of your being filled with the Spirit.

“And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto them? I tell He will avenge them ‘speedily...” (Luke 18:8).

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE

Galatians 5:16, *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”*

We will have a message coming in a few weeks on that particular verse. *“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh – for the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. but if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred...”*

Notice the strand bedfellows that hatred keeps. We don't often think of hatred as being a real gross sin. But it comes right after adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft – then hatred. Right after the occult, comes hatred. You know, God doesn't word these verse in the Bible by accident. It is there for a purpose. Hatred is a terrible sin! In fact, Jesus said that hatred in the heart is as bad as murder on the outside.

He said, *“you say, Thou shalt not kill. But I say unto you, that if you so much as hate your brother, you have murdered him already in your heart.”* He said that in the Sermon on the Mount.

“Variance, emulation, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Don't listen to somebody who says they are saved, but they continue to live in adultery. They are as lost as a goose in a hail storm. God said they *“shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* They are not unsaved because they commit adultery. That is merely a symptom of the sickness in their hearts. You can say the same thing about all of those sins that are listed there. From adultery to fornication to uncleanness to lasciviousness to idolatry to witchcraft to hatred to variance to emulations to wrath to strife to sedition to heresies, envy, murders drunkenness, revelings, and those kinds of sins – God said that they which willfully, continually practice them are not saved.

The word, *“do”* there is in the durative, continual sense; and it means literally to *“willfully, continually practice.”* That does not mean that a Christian will never commit one of these sins. Certainly we should not. But it

does mean that a Christian will now wallow in these sins. A Christian will not willfully, continually practice these particular sins.

Somebody says ***"I'm saved! I'm saved!"*** If they are still living in adultery, or have a heart full of hatred, or some of these sins – you can mark it down that they are lying, or they are very deceived by their own heart, their own conscience. They are as lost as a goose in a hail storm. God said that they which can willfully and continually practice these things, ***"shall not inherit the kingdom of God."***

And then, in contrast to that -- those are the works of the flesh. That is, the works of the human being apart from Jesus Christ. ***"BUT,"*** verse 22 says, ***"THE FRUIT (singular) OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, joy, peace*** (that means, all that happens when the war is over -- it means a settled state of security and safety). ***longsuffering*** (that means just what it says: suffer a long time), ***gentleness, goodness. faith, meekness, temperance*** (self-control); ***against such there is no law."***

Notice that it does not say "weakness." It says ***"meekness."*** There is a difference. Jesus was certainly meek, but He was not weak. Moses was meek, but he was not weak.

(Prayer)

I'm preaching a series of messages on TRUE SPIRITUALITY. There seem to be two extremes as to what SPIRITUALITY really is. On the one hand some folks think that if you make a lot of noise, and you do a lot of running around in Christian service, that that is spirituality. May I say that that is NOT spirituality.

On the other hand, some folks think that if you are real quiet and you sit still all the time, and you sit around the Bible and you review it like a museum piece, and you get what they call "the deeper life," (and it is about 6 feet deep most of the time) -- they think that is spirituality. May I say, neighbor, that is not spirituality.

By the way, what Martha was doing in and of itself is not spirituality. What Mary was doing in and of itself was not spirituality. Some folks think that if you win a lot of souls, and thank God for the souls that are won to Christ -- there's not a person in this room who is right with God if they don't win souls; I don't care what else you do, there is not a person who is right with God unless he wins souls -- however, winning souls is not spirituality. It IS an outgrowth of spirituality, but it does not CONSTITUTE spirituality.

Now, the three conditions of spirituality: Grieve not the Spirit; Quench not the Spirit; and Walk in the Spirit -- I'll preach on those later on in this series. In order for me to be a spiritual Christian, I must not grieve the Spirit, not quench Him, and walk in the Spirit.

I am firmly convinced that the Church of Jesus Christ doesn't need anything any more than it needs to learn how to love one another! I believe that with all of my heart. There is nothing in the world that this church, or any church for that matter, needs any more than it needs to love one another. What we need is an old fashioned baptism of love for one another. What we need is an old fashioned immersing into love.

Now, let me qualify that. The world says, ***"What the world need's now is love, sweet love."*** What they mean is "eros" love. What I mean is "agape" love.

There are two words primarily for love -- three in the Greek language, two of them used in the Bible. The one that is not translated love in the Bible is the word "eros." We get our word "erotic" from it. When we say something is "erotic," we mean it is "sensual, fleshly." That's not really love, in this sense. That is more "lust" than "love."

Somebody. says, "Oh, what a beautiful girl. It must be 'love' at first sight. No such thing. You might have fallen in "eros" at first sight; but you sure didn't fall in "agape" at first sight. You didn't even fall in "phileo" at first sight.

Eros is not really love. It is a purely sensual, fleshly thing. That's all.

Then there is the word "phileo." Phileo is a brotherly love. We get our word "filial" from it, meaning "family." It is a brotherly love; not a bad kind of love, but not the highest either. Phileo-adelphos, Philadelphia, is the "city of brotherly love." Phileo is a kind of a natural love between family members. It is the kind of a love that family members ought to have for another within their own family. It is good love.

It is a brotherly love. I've got two brothers and two sisters. One brother I hadn't seen, until he came out recently, in about 17 years. I have a sister I haven't seen in over twenty years. This is not an eros love, but it is not an "agape" love either. A good love, but not the best. It is the love of parents for children; and natural love. Even the world loves "phileo."

And then there is a third word for love, and that third word is AGAPE. Now, a lot of people will talk about "agape." They think it is some

kind of a swooning, mystic kind of thing -- a charismatic kind of a thing. And that's not it at all.

Agape is a "divine love that only God can produce." The world cannot love with an agape love. It is impossible. You cannot love agape love except as God Himself, without your help or aid, produces it in your heart. It is agape! It is divine love!

The Bible says, "**God is LOVE.**" That does not mean that all love is God. Not all phileo is of God. Most eros is certainly not of God. God is love: the love that only God can love. And He can only love it in and through a believer. He cannot love it in and through an unsaved person.

When we talk about love in this message, I am not referring to eros or phileo love -- I am referring in every single case to agape love, that divine love that only God can love, that is the kind of love that says, "I will love you; I will do what is best for you, whether you will like me for it, or not!" That is agape love.

It is not the kind of love that says, "I will love you if you will love me; but if you quit loving me, Buddy, you had better watch out!" That's not agape.

It is the kind of love that says, "I will love you in spite of yourself. I will love you in spite of what you say to me, in spite of what you do to me. Whatever you say or do will not change in one degree my love for you." That's agape. That is the divine love.

Now, do you realize that that is the kind of love that is proof to the world of our Christianity. Look at John chapter thirteen -- we will come back to Galatians 5 later on, but look at John 13. In verses 34 and 35 Jesus said, "**A new commandment I give unto you...**" You will notice that He did not say, "A new SUGGESTION..." And He did not say, "Some new ADVICE I give unto you..." And He did not say, "This is something I hope you will begin doing." He said, "I am giving you a new COMMANDMENT"

We say, "I would never go out and get drunk!" Why? It is commanded in the Bible not to. We say, "You ought not to lie! You ought not to commit adultery!" Why? It is commanded in the Bible not to!

But what about this commandment? It is just as important! "**A NEW commandment...**" Now, it is not new because it is new with God. It's not new with Him at all. It is new because it is new with us.

He said, "**A new commandment I give unto you, that ye AGAPE one another...**" Now, that is one another of the same kind. We ought to have compassion on the whole world. We ought to love them. But this is talking about the saved loving the saved.

He said, “***A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.,.***” How much are we to love each other? How much am I supposed to love you? How much are you supposed to love me? Jesus said, “***....AS I HAVE LOVED YOU...***”

Now, turn around and look at the others in this room. Can you pick out anyone in here that you love enough to die for, other than your own immediate family? But wait a minute; God said that we are to love each other in that way. The Bible says, “***Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.***” That is agape.

And God commands me that I am to love you that much. God commands us that we are to love each other as much as He loved us! Look at the rest of the passage: “***By THIS shall all men know that you are my disciples.***”

Wait a minute! We know that soul winning is commanded in the Bible. But do you know, neighbor, that God never said in the Bible, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you go soul winning”? I would not play down soul winning. I hope that I will be one of the last to ever downplay soul winning! But God didn’t say that, did He?

As much as I believe in tithing — as much as the Bible teaches it -- not one time did God ever say, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you tithe!”

As much as the Bible commands me to go to church, there is not one place in the Bible where God said, “By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you will stick a big family Bible under your arm and trot off down to the church house.” He didn’t say that!

He said, “***By this shall ALL men know that you are my disciples IF YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER.***” Not tolerate. Not put up with. Not condone. Not be fond of. Agape love one another!!

Now, don’t look at me in that tone of voice. I didn’t write that! God said it! You don’t have any way to prove to that you are genuine and real, and that you belong to God, except as you love one another.

You search your Bible through. That is the only way -- the only thing God ever said that about! “***By this shall all men know that you are mine.***”

Some folks say, “Your’re not right. You’re not real. Come on down to my church. We’re real!” Well, who IS real? How are you going to prove to the world that you are real? You say, “Well, I’m going to take my Bible and show them where they are wrong and I’m right.”

You go right ahead, but you're still not going to prove it to them. You can argue with them; you can prove that you are theologically correct. But, neighbor, Hell is full of people who on earth were theologically correct! How are you going to prove to the lost that you are genuinely Jesus' disciple? There is only one way, and is by **LOVING ONE ANOTHER!!**

That is why I say that what this old world needs to see more than anything else in the universe is the Church of Jesus Christ baptized in love for one another. That's the proof of our reality.

Now, let me show you the opposite -- and we are talking about the Church. Look at I Corinthians chapter three. I want to show you the opposite of "agape." By the way, since agape is involved only with spiritual Christians -- **SPIRITUAL** Christians — that the opposite is demonstrated in carnal Christians.

CARNALITY -- What is the opposite of "spiritual?" Carnal. Spiritual means, basically, Holy Spirit-directed, Holy Spirit-motivated. **CARNAL** means flesh-directed. And when I say "flesh," I don't mean just old nature, I mean body, soul, and spirit.

I Corinthians 3, beginning with verse 1, "***And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual...***" Boy, that's a slap in the face, isn't it? Someone writes you a letter, and he said, "I am writing you a letter; and I am going to talk to you like babies. I can not talk to you like spiritual people, for you are carnal, fleshly!" You would take that as a slap in the face, and that is about what it would be -- true or not!

Well, that is what Paul said. He said, "***I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, EVEN AS UNTO BABES IN CHRIST...***" Why?

He said, "***I have fed you with milk...***" What is the sure sign of carnality? One is, they cannot take the deep things of God. "***I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.***" That is one sign of carnality.

But here's one that is even a little more obvious. "***For ye are not carnal: for where there is among you ENVYING, and STRIFE, and DIVISIONS, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?***"

We think of "carnality" as fornication, adultery, worldliness, drunkenness. But God said that carnality is demonstrated by two things: (1) Not being able to handle the deep things of God. And I don't mean 'theologically deep,' I mean the sure foundation things of God.

And, secondly, (2) by “envy, division, and strife” in the body of Christ. Carnality is the opposite of spirituality; and envy, division, and strife are the opposite of agape love for one another.

Now, that’s the introduction -- that’s just the runway. Let’s put it down in the last gear now, and we’ll begin to take off. I remind you that we are talking about divine love, agape love. Agape love is not in any sense a human love.

A husband may say to his wife, “I love you!” And he may “phileo” her. He may “eros” her. But an unsaved husband cannot “agape” his wife. And an unsaved wife cannot “agape” her husband.

Turn to Romans chapter five (we’re going to look up many passages of Scripture) -- look in Romans 5, beginning with verse 1, ***“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. and not only so, but we glory in tribulations also (do you?); knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope; And hope maketh not ashamed; because THE LOVE (AGAPE) OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS GIVEN UNTO US.”***

Let me ask you a question: Does the Holy Spirit live in the unsaved? Of course not. The Holy Spirit is not in any way in the unsaved. He only dwells in the saved, according to the Bible. If that is the case, then the unsaved cannot agape, because agape is only shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit. It is not worked up; it is not thought up; it is not built up --there is nothing you can do in your own human spirit to will agape love. It has got to be an act of the will of the Holy Spirit, shedding it abroad in your hearts, or you will not have it! It is ONLY shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit. It cannot be produced by the human heart.

Notice, it does not say in Galatians 5, “But the WORKS of the Spirit...”.It says ***“The FRUIT of the Spirit is LOVE...”***

Let me ask you a question: We have two or three trees in our yard. We have apple trees and persimmons trees. I wonder if that apple tree last year decided, “I have to bear some fruit now.” (Grunt!!) And it worked on bearing fruit. Do you think it did that? No, it didn’t! It just happened, didn’t it? Why? Because the tree was yielded to the elements.

And you mark it down, neighbor, you do not work up love -- agape love. By the way, you don’t even pray it down. Now, you can ask for it and God will help you, but you don’t even pray it down. Agape love is

something that is put in the heart by the Holy Spirit. It is a “FRUIT” of the Spirit.

Now, let me give you some characteristics of this divine love

1. IT IS NOT EXPERIENCED BY THE UNSAVED

Let me show you another verse to teach that. John 5:42, Jesus talking to the unsaved Pharisees about the resurrection of Christ -- in chapter six He deals with the Bread of Life. John chapter five finds Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda. And in 5:42 He tells the unsaved, “***But I know you, that ye HAVE NOT THE LOVE (agape) OF GOD IN YOU.***”

Wait a minute: If it’s not IN you, you cannot express it to others, can you. If it’s not IN you, you can’t activate it to others. Jesus said to the unsaved, “You don’t have the agape of God in you.”

I am saying, neighbor, that the agape love of God is not experienced by the unsaved! I don’t care how much he tries, how religious he may be. You hear people say all the time, “Oh, I love the Lord!” And I think that, maybe in a phileo way, they might. At least they THINK they do. And some are sincere -- at least they are trying to. But there is no way that they can ever AGAPE God until they get saved. It is not experienced by the unsaved.

2. IT IS NOT SELECTIVE

It doesn’t say, “I will love this person, but I will hate that one.” It’s not selective.

How do I know? John 3:16 -- have you read that one lately? “***For God so loved (agape) THE WORLD...***” What did God “agape?” The entire world. Was it selective? No.

The Calvinists will tell you, “That is the world of the saved.” Well, to them it sounds alright. The only problem is, it is not in the Bible, and God puts a curse on those who add to the Word of God. It says, “***For God so loved THE WORLD....***”

It is the kind of love that is not selfish, and not selective. It is the kind of love that can reach out to the entire world. And from God’s heart, it does.

Let me give you another characteristic of this agape love.

3. IT ABHORS THE EVIL WORLD SYSTEM

It loves the people IN the world, but it abhors the evil world system. In I John chapter two, beginning in verse 15, ***“LOVE NOT the world...”***

Do you know what the word “love” is in this verse? You guessed it: “agape.” Does that mean that I am not supposed to agape the people in the world? No. The word “world” here is the word “kosmos.” It is the word that we get our word “cosmetics” from. It’s the word that means the outward system, or the philosophy of the world. The world system, the way they do things, their philosophy of life, the activities they partake of -- ***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man AGAPE the world, the AGAPE of God is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”***

Notice that God said if you love the world, the love of God is not in you. How many folks go out to the movie house, smoke their cigarettes, drink their liquor, tell their dirty stories, and they run to the dances, and listen to their hellish rock music -- and they say, “I love the Lord!”

They are lying through their teeth. God said, “If you love the world, the love of God is not in them.” They might “phileo” God, but they don’t “agape” Him. ***“The agape of, God is not in you.”***

You cannot love God and love the world at the same time. But if you love God, the love of God will be shed abroad in your heart, and you will have absolutely no affinity to the world.

I’m saying, that the love of God abhors the present world system. By the way, God loves His children in this manner. Now, God agapes the whole world. There is a sense in which He love the entire world. But he especially agapes only His own.

You might love other people outside of your own family. But you will only call your family “my loved ones.” When we say, “He lost a loved one we mean he lost a family member. We don’t mean he lost a neighbor that he loved or a friend that he loved; we mean he lost a family member.

In Romans 1:7 the Bible calls us (believers), ***“beloved of, God.”*** The root word of “beloved” is, “agape.” It means “loved ones.” You see, we are in His family. We are his loved ones. And just like you can agape someone else, yet you will agape more your loved ones. And in the same

sense God agapes the entire world, but there is a sense in which he especially agapes His own.

And by the way, this is a good place to preach on the Prodigal Son. He agapes us even when we wander. He agapes us even when we stray. There is not a good parent in here that wouldn't love their child equally if they ran away from home and strayed. In fact, your love might be drawn to them more, in pity and compassion. But you would still love them. And so does God.

Who initiated that little hugging and kissing when the prodigal son came over the hill and the father saw him coming, from the porch. I'll tell you who it was: it was the father. You mark it down, neighbor, when a backslider comes back to God -- when a backslidden Jacob comes back to Bethel -- when a backslidden Peter comes back to the upper room -- when a backslider leaves the world behind, and comes back to God, it is God Who initiates the love. It is God Who loves him and meets him at Bethel, at the altar, and brings him back, and throws a big feast, and puts a ring on his finger, shoes on his feet, and a robe on his back, and kills the fatted calf. It's God Who does all that.

I'm saying, God's agape is especially toward His own. In Ephesians 5:25 we are told that He *"loved the Church...."* Who is the Church? It is the saved. He *"loved the Church and gave Himself for it..."*

Do you know that this divine love is not only the thing that proves to the world that you are real, but it's also the divine test of your own salvation.

4. THIS LOVE IS THE TEST OF YOUR SALVATION

Open your heart and turn the searchlight in. Wouldn't it be a sad thing if someone from this crowd slipped off into eternity and went to Hell? I mean, one of our own people. Wouldn't that be a sad thing? It is sad when anybody does, but when you are on the rolls of a fundamental, Bible-believing church, and die and go to Hell, that is a sadder thing yet.

I'll tell you what, neighbor. If I were going to go to Hell, I wouldn't want to go to Hell from a Bible-believing church. I'd want to go to Hell from a church that doesn't preach the Gospel.

Why don't you open your heart tonight, and peek inside, and see if this love is there. Look at I John chapter 3, beginning with verse 14, and

notice the wording, “*We KNOW that we have passed from death unto life...*” What’s that? Saved!

“*We KNOW that we have passed from death unto life, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN...*” God said that you can not only prove to the world that you’re mine by your love to the brethren, but you can also prove to yourself that you’re saved by your love for one another.

Let me ask you a question: When you peeked inside your heart just now, do you agape the brethren? There is something strange about this kind of love for the brethren that absences itself from the times the brethren fellowship together. There is something strange about that. That’s not agape.

God said that we KNOW that we have passed from death unto life -- how do we know that? “*Because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death..*”

Look at verse 16, “*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*”

Verse 17, “*But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*” You see, neighbor, it is one thing to “phileo” somebody and say, “I love you, brother, and I will pray for you in your need.” It’s another thing reach into your pocket and meet his need, isn’t it? It’s another thing to sacrifice yourself, and your own desires, and your own whims and fancies, and your own pleasure, to meet the need of that brother.

5. THIS LOVE IS WITHOUT END

Let me tell you something about this agape love: IT IS WITHOUT END. It just never quits. Jesus said in John 13:1, “*I have loved them TO THE END.*” It never quits.

6. THIS LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL

Let me tell you something else about this love: IT IS SACRIFICIAL. It is demonstrated in II Corinthians 8:9, where the Bible says that Jesus, “*though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor. That we, through His poverty, might be rich.*” That is sacrifice.

He sacrificed all of the riches of Heaven that He might come to a Hell-bent, Hell-bound, Hell-deserving world, take up our poverty upon Himself -- and make us rich by His poverty. That’s sacrifice!

What caused that? *Jesus agapes me, This I know; For the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong...* (and big ones, too).

Look at I Corinthians chapter 13. We will not take the time to look at the entire chapter, but it is important for you to see some things about this agape love.

When we think of “charity” we think of nickels and dimes to the Red Cross. When we hear the word “charity,” that is what we think of. Food for the poor — we think that is charity. But that is not charity; at least that is not the way King James translated it in our Bible. Every single time in your New Testament you see the word “*charity*,” it is the translation of the word “agape.” Now, charity is an outflow of agape, but charity in itself is not agape.

Listen to how the Bible describes “agape,” “*Though I speak with the tongues of, men and of, angels, and HAVE NOT AGAPE, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of, prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge: and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not agape, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor* (that’s martyrdom), *AND HAVE NOT AGAPE, it profiteth me nothing.*”

Verse 4, “*Agape suffereth long....*” ‘I used to like that guy.’ No, no, agape suffers long, not short.

Verse 4 again, “*Agape is kind....*” Agape doesn’t say unkind words.

“*Agape envieth not,...*” Agape doesn’t envy another the riches, position, personality, or the charisma, etc., of another person.

“*Agape....vaunteth not itself,...*” It doesn’t puff itself up.

Verse 5, “*Agape...doth not behave itself, unseemly, seeketh not her own...*” It is not self—seeking

“*Agape...is not easily provoked,...*” ‘That guy gets under my skin. She gets under my skin!’ Well, tighten your skin up! If you would agape that person they wouldn’t. Agape Is not easily provoked.

“*Agape... thinketh no evil....*” If I agape Philip (a faithful teen in the church), I won’t think any evil of him. That’s why I think so much evil of him! (Laughter!!) If I’d agape Philip, I wouldn’t think evil of him. You could come to me with a story about something he has done bad, and I wouldn’t believe it. That is agape.

“*Agape... rejoiceth not in, iniquity...*” Somebody falls into sin, and some brother almost rejoices, “*I told you so! I knew it would happen.*” The Bible says that agape does not rejoice in evil, but rejoices in the truth.

“Agape... beareth all thing’s...” Did you ever have anybody that just kind of rubs you the wrong way. Like two lint brushes facing the opposite direction -- you try to rub them together, and they just won’t rub. Did you ever have anybody who does that to you? The Bible says, agape bears everything.

“Agape... believeth all thing’s, hopeth all thing’s, endureth all thing’s. AGAPE NEVER FAILETH...” Long after soul winning is gone, long after languages have ceased, long after knowledge has ceased, there will still be agape.

Someone says, I wish I could have more faith. Oh, I wish I had more hope, more assurance! Why don’t you forget that for right now, and think about agape. You know, God compared all three of them in verse 13.

He said, **“Now abideth faith, hope and agape, these three; but the greatest of these is agape.”** He said love is greater than faith. He said love is greater than assurance, hope. **“But the greatest of these is agape.”**

The only one of these that you will take to Heaven with you is agape. When you get to Heaven you won’t have faith anymore -- it will all be sight! When you get to Heaven you won’t have hope -- what is there to hope for? You will already be there! But when you get to Heaven, **YOU WILL STILL HAVE LOVE -- AGAPE.**

Well, you say, “Preacher, how in the world do you learn to agape somebody?” Let me give you a couple of practical steps that I think are Scriptural.

In Galatians chapter five, verse twenty-three, the Bible says, **“The fruit of the SPIRIT is love....”** Notice, that is the fruit of the SPIRIT -- it is His fruit! Whose fruit is it? The Holy Spirit’s.

Then how do you grow HIS fruit? By yielding to Him. Just yielding. When was the last time you got on your face before Him in a prayer closet and said, “Holy Spirit of God, I yield my all -- I surrender my all to you!”

You say, “Preacher, what if my will is not willing to surrender?” Well, are you willing that God should make your will willing to surrender?

Are you willing to say to Him, “Dear God, make my will willing to surrender.”

When was the last time you got down and opened recesses of your soul and shined the light of God’s Word inside, and you peeped in every corner and said, “Dear Holy Spirit, anything and everything that is not pleasing to you in my heart and life -- get it out. I surrender!”

*All to Jesus I surrender.
 Alt to Him I freely give.
 I will ever love and trust Him,
 In His presence daily live.*

Surrender, yield to the Holy Spirit! *“The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit...”* (Romans 5:5). But if you don’t yield to Him, He is not going to force His love upon you. He is a gentleman and He is not going to force Himself upon you. So you can yield to Him.

There is another thing you can do. You can ask Him for His love. That alone won’t get it; but you can ask Him for it. If it comes from Him, ask Him for it. *“you have not because you ask not...”*

By the way, there is a sense in which every Christian HAS the fruit of the Spirit. You will notice that Galatians 5:22 doesn’t say “Fruits...”

Although there are nine fruits listed, yet God used the singular, “Fruit” to name them. Do you know why? Because if you have a bowl of fruit on the table, even if it is bananas and apples and oranges, you don’t say, “Look at the bowl of fruits.”

You might look at these guys in San Francisco and say, “Look at that bunch of ‘fruits.’” But you wouldn’t say that about the bowl of fruit. You would use the singular form, because it is a collective word.

Now, about fish: If you looked into the fish bowl and it was all goldfish, you would say, “Look at the fish...” not “Look at the fishes.”

But if there was a gold fish and a guppy and a piranha -- well, if there was a piranha, there wouldn’t be any gold fish and guppies, would there? -- but if there were different kinds of fish, you would say, “Look at the fishes” in the plural. But “fruit” is a collective word that can mean a whole bunch of fruit, even if there are different kinds of fruit in the group.

These qualities in Galatians 5:22 and 23 all come together, by the way. You never get one without the other. If we can experience and extend agape, the others are automatically there. By the way, since it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit -- since He lives in me -- I have the capacity for all of them: Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, faith, temperance, goodness.

If a Christian doesn’t have love it is because he wills not to have it — it’s in there; it is the fruit of the indwelling Spirit. And the same is true of joy, peace, etc.. If you don’t have joy, it is because you choose not to have it. If you don’t have peace, it is because you choose not to have it. The

CAPACITY to have all of these is within every child of God because these are the fruit of the Holy Spirit Who abides within.

Thirdly, try John 15, "**Abide in (Christ)...**" The word "**abide**" is "meno," and it means "to settle down and be at home; to be closely aligned to" something.

Look at John 15, the Abiding chapter, the Vine chapter. It begins in verse one by saying, "***I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.***" And Jesus goes on and talks about "fruit."

In the same context, look at verse 9, "***As the Father hath loved (agape) me, so have I loved (agape) you continue ye in my (AGAPE). If ye keep my commandments, ye 'shalt abide in my agape...***" How do you abide in Jesus? By keeping His commandments. If you will keep His commandments, you will abide in His agape.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you...Greater agape hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." I am saying, if you will abide in Christ, walk with Him, walk IN Him, keep His commandments, you will have His agape love.

Here's another way to learn to agape others: GIVE TO OTHERS. You stop and think of somebody that just "burns" you. They rub you the wrong way, and you have a hard time loving them. Let's face it, we are all of a diverse personality. There are some things about one another that, if we don't watch, will just rub us the wrong way.

Why don't you take some money out of your pocket. Go out and buy that person something, and send it to them anonymously. Don't let them know where it came from.

Somebody came to me and said, "I'm going to be getting a little money, and I would like to give it to you. I want you to put it in a little envelope and give it to _____."

The way to learn to love is to give. Do you know why? Because Matthew 6:21, "***Where your treasure IS*** (present tense), ***there WILL*** (future tense) ***your heart be also...***"

If I pour my treasure into you, my heart will soon be there also. It doesn't say, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be." It says that if you will put your treasure into someone, your heart will follow.

If I can't stand someone, if I will start pouring my treasure into that person, my heart will soon be toward that person also. ***“For God so loved.... that He GAVE....”*** (John 3:16). You learn to love by giving.

So give sacrificially of your time, your self, your talents, your money, etc..

Here is another way to learn to express agape: DIE -- DROP DEAD -- TO SELF. I don't mean where you fall over and we put you in a box and put you under the ground.

I mean “die to self.” Reckon yourself to be dead unto sin. Die to self desires. Die to self interests. Die to selfish attitudes. Die!

Do you know something? If you stick a dead man with a pin, he won't budge. Why? It doesn't hurt. You could take a drill and run it into his back -- and he won't budge. It won't even phase him. He won't hate you. He won't curse you. Do you know why? A dead man doesn't feel anything. He has no pain.

That's what the Bible means when it says we are to “die to self.” Dr. Lee Roberson was pastoring Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee -- this is back before they got the new auditorium. They were meeting in a 3,000 to 4,000 seat auditorium. One lady sat up in the balcony every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. One day somebody else sat in “her seat.” She came up to Dr. Roberson and said, “I want to talk to you. I'm not coming back in this church again!”

He said, “Oh, why not?”

She said, “Because Deacon son-and-so took my seat.”

He said, “What did you do about it?”

She said, “I went to him and told him, ‘That's MY seat. I sit there.’”

He said, “Do you know what your problem is? You need to DIE TO SELF!”

He said that during the next service he looked all over the auditorium and he couldn't find her. Finally, he spotted her in another seat. She had a gleam on her face. Do you know what happened? She learned to die to self. It didn't hurt her anymore.

That's pretty childish, isn't it. But that is a good illustration of dying to self.

In Luke 9:23, Jesus said, ***“If any man will come after me, let him DENY HIMSELF, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”***

The fruit of the Spirit is AGAPE....

QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are in a series of messages on what the Bible teaches about TRUE SPIRITUALITY. Tonight we come to the message on QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT. We will take just a brief time to review, just to help us keep the continuity of thought that goes all the way through this series of messages. Really, what is being said in these eight sermons ought to be said in ONE sermon. I could preach it in one sermon, but you couldn't listen that long. The mind can only absorb what the seat can endure! It is always harder to listen than it is to speak.

I Thessalonians 5:19, “***QUENCH not the Spirit.***” Verses 16 through the end of that chapter is closing remarks after the great dissertation on the Second Coming of Christ. We are getting here some very specific instructions about how to live in “the last days.” The “last days,” according to the Bible, is a period of time that begins with the time of Christ on earth (Hebrews 1:1, 2) and goes on into and through the Millennium (Micah 4:1). We are living in the “last days.”

And the instructions given here to the Thessalonians is good for us also. Verse 16 tells us to “***Rejoice evermore.***” That's good advice.

Verse 17, “***Pray without ceasing.***” Now, it doesn't say to pray without “halting.” It says to pray without “ceasing.” A “halt” is a temporary stopping. When the Sergeant says, “Comapay, Halt!” He means that you are going to go again soon.

However, to “cease” means to quit permanently. So we are told to “***Pray without ceasing.***”

“***In everything give thanks***” (verse 18). Notice that it doesn't say here to give thanks FOR everything, but IN everything.

Verse 17, our text, says, “***QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT.***”

(Prayer)

By way of review, it seems that there are two extremes – as there are in almost any Bible doctrine -- it seems that there are two extremes about what it means to be SPIRITUAL.

There are only two kinds of people in the world: saved and lost. Not Jews and Gentiles -- saved and unsaved. But there are two kinds of saved people: there are the carnal (the flesh oriented, those who live for the flesh,

they live for the needs of the body, soul, and spirit - they do not live by the directions of the Holy Spirit, but rather to satisfy the desires of the flesh).

Then, there is the SPIRITUAL Christian. That is the person that we are trying our best to describe in this series of eight messages on the TRUE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

It seems that there are two extremes when it comes to spirituality. On the one hand you have folks that believe that if you go “deep” in the Word, and study the Bible, and get a lot of theology and Bible knowledge, and learn to spout a lot of pretty little theological phrases, that all of a sudden you are spiritual. You don’t have to win anyone to Christ. You don’t have to oppose iniquity. You just sort of draw into your little shell, almost like an evangelical monastery, if you please. And they think that is spirituality. May I say, neighbor, that that is as far from spirituality as you can get, just about, and still retain your sanity.

Then, on the other hand, we have those who think that if you will be busily active in service for Christ, that that constitutes spirituality. Now, I’ll grant you that if you are spiritual, you will be active in serving the Lord. Nobody -- NOBODY -- is spiritual who does not serve the Lord. But service alone does not make spirituality. There is a balance. There is a balance in every Bible doctrine.

And, may I say this evening, that you are always safe to take the Bible position on any question, on any issue. You are always safe to stick with the plain, naked Word of God. Take it as it is. God always says what He means; and He always means what He says.

Now, we talked about THE SEVEN MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Restraining, Reproving, Regenerating, Residence, Baptizing, Sealing, and Filling.

We also talked about THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE. That passage is Galatians 5:22, 23. In that passage, Paul said to the Galatian Christians, “*The FRUIT of the Spirit is love....*” All of those exhibitions of fruit are outgrowths of the first one, “love,” which is a translation of the Greek “agape.”

We also talked about THE SEVEN MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. We said the difference between a “ministry” and a “manifestation” is, a “manifestation” of the Holy Spirit is a ministry given to the believer that MANIFESTS evidence of His presence in your life. We said that the 7 manifestations of the Holy Spirit are: He produces Christian character, He produces Christian service, He teaches, He promotes praise and

thanksgiving, He leads, He witnesses with our spirit (gives assurance of salvation), and He makes intercession for us, He helps us pray.

Now, there are three conditions of true spirituality. Two of them are negative and one is positive. The positive one is, ***“Walk in the Spirit”*** (Galatians 5:16).

The FIRST condition of true spirituality is found in Ephesians 4:30, ***“And GRIEVE NOT the Holy Spirit of God...”*** We’ll talk about that in a subsequent lesson.

If we let this three-fold principle sink into our hearts and become the guiding-light principle in our lives, it will literally transform our Christian thinking and our Christian living: (1) The believer has been ordained by God to live every moment of the rest of his life with the Holy Spirit. Now, remember, we are not talking about some kind of force or influence. We are talking about One who is commonly called “The Third PERSON of the Godhead.”

Everybody in this room -- ever since you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior -- if you are born again, from that moment on, God has ordained that you should live the rest of your life with the Holy Spirit. That is principle number one.

(2) The second principle is: That means then, that life for me is a vital union with One Who is infinitely holy. Since God has ordained that you should live the rest of your life with the Holy Spirit, if you are saved, then life for YOU is a vital union with One Who is infinitely holy.

Keep in mind that there is a difference between UNION and UNITY. Let me illustrate: You can take two old alley cats that hate each other’s guts, tie their tails together in a knot, and dangle them over a clothesline. You will have union, but you are not going to have much unity!

Everyone who is married has “union,” but the sad fact is that not many married couples have “unity.” Those of us who are saved have a vital UNION with the Holy Spirit of God, but the fact is, ***“except two be agreed,”*** they cannot walk together. There is much of the time not much UNITY.

But God has ordained that you and I should live the rest of our lives in a vital union with One Who is infinitely holy. That is hard to comprehend because we are carnal, depraved, sinful creatures. But nevertheless, it is true.

And then the third principle is: (3) Every person who is saved lives every moment of their lives with either a grieved or an ungrieved Holy Spirit. Right this very moment, while I am preaching, I’m living with in my soul either a grieved or an ungrieved God the Holy Spirit.

That also means that every person in this room who names the name of Christ, you are living within your spiritual bosom this moment either a grieved or an ungrieved Holy Spirit. There is no pacivity. There is no neutral ground. We either live with Infinite Holiness Who is grieved, or Infinite Holiness Who is ungrieved.

Boy, that ought to be a sobering thought. That ought to make us want to live and walk and think in such a manner as to please Him in all things.

Now, I said that there is a three-fold condition in the Bible of true spirituality: Grieve not the Spirit; Quench not the Spirit (those two are negative, and different); and Walk in the Spirit.

In this message we are going to talk about QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT. Grieving the Holy Spirit is when a Christian tolerates known sin in his life. Now, let's face it: Most of us, if not all of us, have some UNKNOWN sin in our lives. That is, something we are doing, etc., that we do not KNOW is sin. That is why the Bible talks about sins of ignorance needing atonement and forgiveness. That's why David prayed, "*Cleanse thou me from SECRET faults.*" That is, sins, faults that I have that I don't realize that I have.

And since our knowledge is so limited, and we are not by any means of infinite knowledge, then the truth is that most of us, if not all of us, probably have some unknown sin somewhere. But KNOWN sin -- sin that you know is there, and that you tolerate in your life, and that you allow to stay there unconfessed -- grieves the Holy Spirit.

Now, there is a difference between "grieving" and "QUENCHING" the Holy Spirit. Whereas known, tolerated sin grieves the Holy Spirit, there is something else entirely different that QUENCHES Him.

What does it mean to "quench" the Holy Spirit. Well, let's talk about the definition of the word, "quench." I looked it up in my little Greek Lexicon this afternoon, and I found out that the word in its adjective form is the word "*sbestos.*" Now, if you take the little Greek letter, alpha ("a"), and put it in front of sbestos, you will have the word we get our word "ASBESTOS" from.

Now, you know what asbestos is, don't you? Asbestos is a fire-proof, a fire-quenching, material. Look in the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Mark. Here Jesus was preaching a sermon on Hell. In verse 44 the Bible says, "*Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is ASBESTOS (not quenched).*"

Verse 46, "*Where their worm dieth not and the fire is ASBESTOS (not quenched).*"

In verse 48, “*Where their worm dieth not and the fire is ASBESTOS (not quenched).*”

Now, what does the word “quench” mean? Well, the word “quench” simply means to hinder the operation and effectiveness of something. We commonly use the word “quench” in physical life. For instance, water QUENCHES a fire. We talk about a fire being QUENCHED by water.

I am reminded of the lady who got her curtains caught on fire. The house was going up in flames and smoke. She called the fire department and said, “Quick! Come on down! My house is on fire!”

The fireman on the other end (it was about 3:00 in the morning) said, “Lady, have you tried putting water on it?”

She said, “Yes! I have tried that!”

He said, “Well, there’s no use us coming. That’s all we do.”

Water quenches fire. What does the water do to the fire? It hinders the operation and effectiveness of that fire. That is what “quench” means.

When we say that a cool glass of water QUENCHES our THIRST. What does it do to your thirst? What does it do when you take a cold glass of water and apply that cold glass of water to a thirst? It QUENCHES IT. It hinders the operation and effectiveness of that thirst.

Now, that is what the word “quench” means. When the Bible says, “*QUENCH not the Holy Spirit...*” it means “don’t hinder the operation and effectiveness of the Holy Spirit.”

The Bible uses the word “quench” in Ephesians 6:16 where it talks about the shield of faith “*quenching the fiery darts of the wicked.*” You have seen the cowboy and Indian pictures where they douse the end of the arrow in some fire-cumbersome liquid and then they shoot it and the arrow lands on top of a building and sets the place on fire.

Well, the Bible uses the analogy of fiery darts, or fiery arrows, to picture the temptations of Satan. And the Bible says that the shield of our faith QUENCHES the fire of those arrows. It means it hinders the operation and effectiveness of those temptations. And that is what the word quench means.

Now, the Bible says, “*QUENCH NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT.*” That is, DO NOT HINDER THE OPERATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Now, what quenches the Holy Spirit? What is it that hinders the operation and effectiveness of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian? Well,

let's go backward just a little bit. The moment you got saved, the Holy Spirit came down instantly to live in your body. He took up residence in you. He came there to give you power for Christian service. He came there to help you understand the spiritual truths of the Word of God. He came there to be a help and a blessing to you in your ministry of praying for yourself and for others. He came there to be a comfort; He is the Comforter. He came there to be One called alongside to encourage you in time of need. He is the Parakletos. He came there to teach you all things, to bring all things to your remembrance that God has taught you in His Word.

He came there to do so many things for you. And He is there in your body to perform His ministries to you and through you and for you. HOWEVER, when I do certain things -- by doing those certain things -- I hinder the operation of the Holy Spirit. He can't teach me then. He can't help me to pray effectively. He can't help me to witness effectively. I have hindered the operation and effectiveness of the Spirit of God.

Now, what IS it that hinders the Holy Spirit? It is an UNYIELDEDNESS TO THE REVEALED WILL OF GOD.

Now, note the wording. You hinder the operation of the Holy Spirit and His effectiveness, by being UNYIELDED -- and there is the key word, "yield" -- to the REVEALED will of God.

What are we talking about? We are talking about saying "NO" to God. God said, "I want you to preach."

We say, "No, I don't want to."

What are we doing? We are quenching, hindering the operation of the Holy Spirit.

If God said, "I want you to be a Missionary," and He lets you KNOW in your heart -- I'm not talking about seeking the will of God; I am talking about KNOWING the will of God -- and you say, "I don't want to be a Missionary. I'm not going to be a Missionary." The revealed will of God for you, in that case, is to be a Missionary; and in saying "No" to His will, you quench and hinder His operation and effectiveness in your life.

Let's talk about something that is a little more down to earth for all of us. How about the fact that I am supposed to be a witness to "every creature" in every place. We are to witness to everyone everywhere. I know that is the revealed will of God. Some folks say, "Well, I didn't feel led to witness to so-and-so." But, neighbor, the Bible says we are to witness to "every creature" in every place.

My wife and I were sitting in a church service in York, PA, one day. The preacher of that particular church said, "God doesn't want you to witness to everybody."

My wife looked down at her Bible and looked up Mark 16:15, "***Go ye into ALL THE WORLD, and preach the Gospel to EVERY CREATURE.***"

I don't remember her exact words, but she put her Bible under my nose and said something like this, "I thought that is what it said!"

Now, wait a minute, if the Bible says I am to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, then I know what the revealed will of God for me is: It is everywhere I go I am to have a leaky seed basket, dropping the seed of the Word of God everywhere, telling everyone I have opportunity to -- telling them about the Lord Jesus.

But, let's suppose I say "No" to the revealed will of God. What do I do? I hinder the operation of the Holy Spirit in my life -- in all areas, by the way. I hinder the effectiveness of the Spirit of God in my life --in all areas.

The Bible talks about it as "resisting" the Holy Spirit. In Acts 7:51 Stephen was rebuking an unsaved person, and he said, "***Ye. do always RESIST the Holy Spirit.***"

In that particular case, the Holy Spirit had been sent to reprove that person of his sin and of his need of Christ. That person said "No" to the revealed will of God. And so God the Holy Spirit was "resisted" by him. But that is what a saved person does, also.

Now, the Bible does NOT say the Holy Spirit leaves. He does NOT leave. Jesus said, "I will send the Holy Spirit AND HE WILL ABIDE WITH YOU FOREVER" Not until you sin or grieve Him, or refuse to do His will, but FOREVER!!

However, though He does not leave, we do quench Him by saying "No" to the revealed will of God. Let me illustrate: Let's suppose a person gets saved, and that person knows that the Bible says that the first step of obedience in the Christian life is water baptism -- but that individual refuses to be baptized. I mean, he KNOWS it -- he has been convinced of it from the Bible -- but he still REFUSES to follow the revealed will of God, for whatever reason (excuse). That person has just QUENCHED the operation of the Holy Spirit in his life. That is the reason that a person who refuses to follow God's will in this matter never grows beyond that point in Christian maturity -- He does not have the help of the Holy Spirit to effectively live for Christ. That individual will never become a prayer warrior, effective soul

winner, etc.. Why? Because he has quenched, hindered, the operation and effectiveness of the Holy Spirit in his life.

Now, what is my total responsibility as a Christian to the operation of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Holy Spirit? My total responsibility is all tied up in that little triangular yellow traffic sign: YIELD! YIELD!!

What does "Yield" mean? Well, you are driving down the street, and the sign says, "Yield." What does it mean? It means to "give the right of way" to the oncoming traffic.

Romans 6:12 and following says, ***"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither YIELD ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but YIELD yourselves unto God..."*** Our total responsibility as a Christian is to YIELD the right of way to Almighty God as revealed in the Word of God through the Holy Spirit.

Listen, neighbor: God HAS the right to HAVE the right of way. He is the only One who has the right to have total right of way all the time. He is all-Wise. He knows what is best for you. Yield to Him. ***"Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."***

Any other attitude toward the Holy Spirit is rebellion. And the Bible says that rebellion ***"is as the sin of witchcraft."*** God's will is always best -- whether it is God's specific will revealed in the Word of God about one of those matters, or whether it is a personal matter between you and God. His known, revealed will is always best.

What quenches the Holy Spirit? What hinders His operation and effectiveness in your life? Saying NO to God. Whether you say it verbally in a prayer to Him, or say it just by your actions you ignore His revealed will.

Now, let me say something to you about the yielded life. We are talking about yielding. We said that our total responsibility is to yield. **NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN BE MORE MISDIRECTED THAN A SELF-DIRECTED LIFE!**

May I submit to you that God did not create us with any faculty of self-direction. Why does God want to impose His will on me? Why does God want to impose His will on you? I'll tell you why: because He is OMNISAPIENT. He is all-wise. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows how to put it all together. He KNOWS how to make you happy. He KNOWS what is best for your life. Besides that, you BELONG to Him -- and God knows that not one single person on the face of the earth has ever been

created with any faculty of self-direction. Nobody is capable of directing their own life and coming out right.

Jeremiah 10:23 says, ***“O Lord, I know that THE WAY OF MAN IS NOT IN HIMSELF: IT IS NOT IN MAN THAT WALKETH TO DIRECT HIS STEPS.”*** It is not in us. It’s just not there!

Now, to be honest with you, it WAS there in the garden in Eden. But it is not there anymore. It is part of what we lost when Adam and Eve sinned. And it is not in man to direct himself. Nothing could be more misdirected than a self-directed life, because God did not create us with any faculty of self-direction.

This desire to direct self, even though we know it will take us wrong, is merely a result of the Fall of man. God had given Adam and Eve specific instructions about the garden in Eden. They decided they wanted to direct their own lives. And as a result, they fell and plunged all of the generations after them, including you and me, into the depths of depravity -- and ever since then, we have not had the least faculty of self-direction. That is why the Bible says, ***“There is none good, no not one!”***

In Isaiah 53:6 we are told, ***“All we. Like sheep have GONE ASTRAY...”*** We are not self-directed; gone astray. ***“We have turned everyone to his own way...”*** The most important thing in the world is for you as a Christian to give your life to Jesus Christ once and for all, wholly. The key is YIELD.

Now, not only did God give instruction about this matter of yielding to His revealed will, He also gave us some pretty good examples as well. He gave us one excellent example in the Lord Jesus.

Over in Hebrews chapter ten, beginning with verse number five, it says, ***“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.”*** This is a picture of Jesus talking to the Father.

“In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.” Well, he said, back in the Old Testament they did that, but you don’t have any pleasure in that now.

“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) I COME TO DO THY WILL, O GOD.” Why did Jesus come? To do the will of the Father. He came to do God’s will.

I don’t know if it is possible to sit down and determine whether God the Son volunteered or whether God the Father gave instruction. But I do know this: It IS the will of God the Father that Jesus would come to earth, be born of the virgin Mary, live for 30 years, be baptized and filled with the Holy

Spirit, live three more years in a Spirit-filled ministry, die on the cross, lay down His life for sin, buried in the grave for three days and three nights, rise from the dead -- that is the will of God for His life.

And the Bible says that Jesus could pray with a clear conscience, "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God!"

Jesus is our Supreme Example of a normal attitude. I didn't say "natural" attitude. I said "normal attitude." The NORMAL Christian life is Romans 12:1 and 2, which we have already read.

And, by the way, such an attitude is only imparted by the Holy Spirit. You and I cannot even begin to have the attitude of yieldedness until we learn to be sensitive to the leadership and the wooing of the Holy Spirit.

Look at Philippians 2, beginning with verse 1, ***"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let THIS MIND (the mind of humility, the mind of submission, the mind of putting others first -- let THIS mind) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."***

By the way, you will notice the word "LET." God wants the mind of Jesus Christ to be in you. What does the word "LET" mean? Well, what do you do when you come to that yellow sign which says "Yield"? You "LET" the other guy go first. The word "let" means "yield." Yield to the mind of Christ -- LET this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

The very first word in that command is "Let -- yield!" Now, what is the mind of Christ? What is this mind? Well, if you will study verses 6 through 9 you will find that Jesus was willing to GO where His Father chose; He was willing to BE what His Father chose; He was willing to DO whatever His Father chose. Neighbor, the submissive mind is the mind that is willing to BE what God chooses you to be, to DO what God chooses for you to do, and to GO where God chooses for you to go. And that is the example given by the Lord Jesus.

Jesus spoke in John 15 spoke about this. This is the famous chapter in the Bible where our Lord spoke about Himself being the "true Vine," and His Father being the "Husbandman."

Picture a grape orchard. He is the vine, rooted in the ground. God the Father is Husbandman, the Farmer, Who comes along and prunes the vine, feeds the vine, and props it up. That is God the Father, the Husbandman.

And He said that we are the branches. Then He said, ***“every branch in me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”***

Now, this whole passage is about abiding in Christ. In verse four He said, ***“Abide in me.”*** In verse four again, in the end of the verse, He said, ***“...Abide in the Vine.”*** In four, the very last three words of the verse are, ***“Abide in me.”***

In verse five, in the middle of the verse, ***“Abide in me.”***

In verse six, in the beginning of the verse He talks about those who ***“abide not in me.”***

In verse seven, He said, ***“Abide in me.”*** In the same verse He also said, ***“...let my words abide in you.”***

In verse ten, He said, ***“...abide in my Love.”*** In the same verse He talked about Himself ***“abiding in the Father’s love.”***

Now, the word “abide” is the Greek word “meno.” It doesn’t mean to live. It doesn’t mean to stay. It doesn’t to visit, as a guest. It means to “settle down and be at home; to be closely aligned with” something.

Now, you know some places where you can go and settle down and be at home. You know some places you go where the friendship may be as equally as intimate as others, but you just can’t feel “at home” like you can at others. I remember some dear friends of ours in Fairfield, California. Sweet Christian people -- she was from Newfoundland, and he was retired Air Force. They were sweet, Godly people -- they loved the Lord. They were as kind as you would want anybody to be, precious people.

They had two twins -- twins usually come in two’s. They had one boy and one girl: Terry and Jerry. I had been instrumental in leading some of their family to Christ.

She was the kind of a woman that just went all out to decorate her house. I don’t just mean for cleanliness -- I mean to have a ‘fancy’ house. It wasn’t gawdy, but it was immaculate and beautiful.

One year she had ail French decoration and furniture. The next year she would change to early American. The next year it was totally redone to all Spanish decor. The next year it was Old English, or something like that. Every year it seemed like it was different.

Now, they are precious, precious people. But when you walk in the house, it is not just the kind of house where you can “settle down and be at home.” I just get nervous around that kind of surroundings.

One day I am going to become the president of the Organization of Clumsy People. I spilled a soda today. I spilled Momma’s soda up at the

restaurant this afternoon. While her and Becky weren't looking I took Momma's soda, she wasn't looking, and put it in front of Becky with a lid on top. And Momma got Becky's soda. That's just me -- and I spilled it all over.

I'm just like that. And so in a home like that, although the people are wonderful people, I just can't seem to "settle down and feel at home." You have to be so careful.

I remember a friend of ours. His wife would vacuum the floor so that all the fibers of the carpet were leaning in the same direction. And then about ten to twelve times a day, without even plugging the vacuum in, she would get that vacuum and run it over the carpet again just to get those fibers sticking up in the right direction.

My dad was like that about some detail. He had one of these Persian-type rugs with the tassles on the end. He would take his comb two or three times a day and go in the other room and comb those tassles out.

Well, when I am around surroundings like that it is hard to settle down. And you know what I am talking about. When you are around the life-style of yourself, it is easy to settle down and be at home.

Now, that's what the word "abide" means. It means, "settle down and be at home." Jesus said, "*Settle down and be at home in me, and Let my words settle down and be at home in you.*"

Now, I want you to notice the results of the 'abiding' life -- the settling down and being at home in the submissive will of God. Verse 7 tells me that **PRAYER BECOMES EFFECTUAL**. "*If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*" Prayer becomes effectual.

Verse 11 tells me **JOY BECOMES CELESTIAL**. "*These things (about the abiding life) I have spoken unto you, that MY joy might remain IN you, and your joy might be full.*" Joy becomes Heavenly.

But not only that, **FRUIT BECOMES PERPETUAL**. In verse 16, talking about this abiding life, Jesus said, "*I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and BRING FORTH FRUIT, AND THAT YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN...*" Prayer becomes effectual, joy becomes celestial, and fruit becomes perpetual.

Now, when we talk about the yielded life and yielding to the revealed will of God, we are not talking about any particular issue of worldliness or separation. We are talking about taking the will of God as the abiding rule of life. The truth is, neighbor, before you can know God's will about any matter, you must be submitted to God's will about any matter.

We're talking about electing, choosing, that the will of God should be final in your Christian life!

Now let me say just a word about the will of God. I've preached a number of messages here about deciding the will of God, etc.. I think these comments might help you determine what the will of God is for you when it is not a specific revelation in the Bible.

May I say, first of all, that God's leading, His will, is only for those who are committed to doing what He has chosen. 'How can I commit to it if I don't know what it is?' You commit to Him. John 7:17, ***"If any man (wills to do) my will, He will know of my doctrine."*** He didn't say that if you will learn His doctrine then get submitted to His will -- He said that you must first will to do His will, then He will reveal His will to you.

What about the little boy who comes to Daddy and say, "Daddy, put on this piece of paper, please, what you want me to do today -- then I'll decide whether I want to do it." No, no -- it doesn't work that way. You get your will in submission to God's will first, then your Heavenly Father will show you what His will is. God's leading is only for those who are already committed to do as He chooses.

Secondly, God's leading will always be according to the Bible. I've preached on that 100 times if I have preached on it once, but it bears repeating. His will is never contrary to the Word of God. This, the Bible, IS the final authority of faith and practice for the child of God. And God said that if you add to His Word He will add to you the plagues in it; and if you take away from His Word, that He will take your name out of the book of the living. This IS the ONLY Authority of faith and practice for the Christian.

The Bible is a very condensed Book, and it does not tell you everything that there is to know about God. But it DOES tell you everything that He WANTS you to know about Him. And as a result, since it was written for all people of all periods of time, we know that the Bible is not specific about EVERYTHING. In fact, about most things, the Bible speaks in principles or generalities.

Therefore, I can't pick up the Bible and decide, for instance, "Well, which Church am I to go to?" It doesn't say, "Thou shalt go to First Baptist Church." So you have got to pray and decide the will of God about that matter by the leading of the Holy Spirit. But there is always a principle to cover those things. You follow the principles in the Word of God and you will never go wrong. But you mark it down, neighbor, God never leads contrary to the Bible.

By the way, here is something that might come as a shock to some of you: God never leads two of His children alike. I'm not talking about matters of sin. Sin is sin, period, for everybody. What is sin for you is sin for me. And what is sin for me is sin for you. Wrong is wrong, and right is right; black is black and white is white. And I don't give a flip what the liberals say, there ARE absolutes about right and wrong.

BUT -- when it comes to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, God will lead Don one way and me another way. Why? Because God knows his inner workings, and God knows what he responds to, and He knows what I respond to, and it is two different things. God never made any two people alike. God made Charlie and threw the mold away. God made Marty and stomped the mold in anger! (Laughter!!) God has made every one of us different. Nobody is alike; there never have been two people identical -- are not now, and never will be!

Individualism is a Bible concept. The group philosophy is a humanistic concept. And as a result God does not lead any two of His children alike. Therefore, I cannot say to you, "Here is how God will lead you." I can give you Bible principles that will you to stay within the framework of God's will, but He will lead me one way and you another way.

Fourthly, His leading is by the Holy Spirit. It is more an inner consciousness than outward signs. It's never wise to look for a 'fleece.' WE get that old 'fleece' business from Gideon. Gideon was not demonstrating faith when he prayed about the fleece being wet on one day with all the ground dry, and the next morning the fleece being dry and all the ground wet. That was a matter of extreme lack of faith. God had already revealed His will to him. He had no right to doubt the will of God, or to expect more 'evidence' or detail about it. God had three times already come to him and said, "This is my will, now do it."

Gideon said, "Lord, IF that is your will.. .." And he began to act on doubt. I am saying, it is more an inward consciousness than an outward sign. And it's not necessary, nor is it wise, to depend on a fleece.

"Lord, if you want me to go, open the door." Well, you know the Devil has keys, too. He knows how to open doors. Don't you depend on outward circumstances. The leadership of God is always by the inner consciousness of the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit.

Now, when we talk about "yielding," when we talk about the sacrificial Christian life, most people for some reason get the idea that that is a painful matter. The word "sacrifice" has a tinge of pain in it --- or, at least we think it does. But the sacrificial life for the Christian is not a painful

matter. It is a matter of doing the will of another -- doing the will of God. The prevailing note in the sacrificial Christian life is always joy and peace.

You don't know what real joy is - - you don't know what real peace is -- until you learn to live the life that sacrifices its own will and get under the leadership of God through the Holy Spirit. I am saying, neighbor, the sacrificial life has the prevailing mode of joy and peace.

And again, we are not talking necessarily about outward issues - - we are talking in this sermon more about yielding to the will of God as an abiding attitude.

Let me close with this little illustration. The very first sin ever committed -- that introduced sin into the universe -- into Heaven first, and then into the world -- was the sin of pride, self-ism, egotism. Five times in Isaiah 14 Lucifer, who was the archangel over much of God's kingdom and creation, said, "I will arise above God! I'm taking over around here!" Five times he said, "I WILL!"

Not once did he ever say, "IF God wills..." He said, "I'm going to do what I want done." Self-will got him kicked out of Heaven. And you mark it down, neighbor, self-will is at the base of every sin. We're talking about abiding in Christ, yielding to the Holy Spirit: first of all, as revealed in His Word; and then, secondly, as He would lead you, based within the principles of the Word of God, as He would lead you in your inner consciousness. (And I almost hesitate to use that phrase. It almost sounds half psychic sounding. But you know what I am talking about.)

Who was it? Wasn't it Elijah who heard the whirlwind, and God wasn't there? God wasn't in the whirlwind. The mountains quaked, and God was not in the earthquake. The thunder storm came, and God was not in it. Then came the still, small voice down inside. And that's where God was.

GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Ephesians chapter four, the first eight verses are taken up with Paul admonishing the saints in the Church in Ephesus to live in the unity of the Spirit. And then verses 8 through 10 say, *“Wherefore he saith, When he (Jesus) ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto me. (Now that he ascended, what is but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)”* Jesus went into Hell to preach to the *“spirits in prison”* on the Hades side, and then to empty out the Paradise side. And He took the souls of those in Paradise with Him to Heaven.

“He that descended is the same also that ascended up for above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.”

Then when He ascended, verse 11 says, He gave gifts unto men, and then gave those gifted men to the Church. It talks about Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, *“for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

The sentence for that context ends in the end of verse number sixteen. Our text begins in verse 17, *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former lusts: And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”*

Verse 23 talks about “putting off.” That’s the negative side of separation. Verse 24 talks about “putting on.” That’s the positive side of the spiritual life. Some things we are to put off; some things we are to put on.

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not.” It’s not a sin to be angry, as long as you’re angry at the right thing and you don’t sin in your anger.

“Let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your

mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

(Prayer)

We are in a series of messages on TRUE SPIRITUALITY. We've talked about the MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, the MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, and QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT.

You will remember that we said that the only difference between the ministries and manifestations of the Holy Spirit are, the manifestations of the Holy Spirit are ministries that are give to you, the believer, in order to manifest the Holy Spirit's presence in you.

We come now to the point that, if it were possible, we would put this message and the next three all together into one sermon. I find in the Bible three conditions for true spirituality. The one we speak of in this message is actually the FIRST CONDITION of being a spiritual Christian. What we say in this message is all on the negative side of the coin. What we say in the next message will be on the positive side of the same coin.

But this message, GRIEVING THE SPIRIT, and the message on QUENCHING THE SPIRIT, and the one on WALKING IN THE SPIRIT, are really three points of the same sermon.

Verse 30 of our text says, "***And GRIEVE NOT the Holy Spirit of God.***" The tense that this verse is written in would read, "***And STOP GRIEVING the Holy Spirit...***"

It indicates that at this present time that the writer was writing this, the believers in the Church of Ephesus were in the process of grieving the Holy Spirit. In fact, if you will read the context prior to and after this verse, that they were. Some were stealing. Some were robbing, and taking from others when they had the ability to go out and work for a living. Some were demonstrating bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor, etc..

Right in the middle of that passage rebuking these sins, the Apostle Paul said, "***Stop grieving the Spirit of God...***"

Now, the next two statements that I am going to make I have made in one of the other messages. But they serve to lay a foundation for the message here. (1) Christians are ordained to live every moment of our lives with the Holy Spirit. Now if you will stop to think about that, we are not talking about some kind of a little white ghost like Casper. We're talking about God Himself, what we call 'the Third Person' of the Godhead.

The Bible tells me in one place that Jesus Christ is in me. The Bible tells me that the Father is in me. In another place it says that the Holy Spirit is in me. I've studied the entire context of all that, and I find that the Father in His headquarters presence is in Heaven. But because He is omnipresent, He is everywhere.

I find that the Son in His headquarters presence is in Heaven seated in the right hand of the Father. But in His omnipresence He is everywhere. And I find that the Holy Spirit, though He is omnipresent, everywhere, yet His headquarters presence is inside of me.

One thing that we say we believe, but with most of us it has never really dawned upon us, is that **ALMIGHTY GOD HIMSELF -- GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT -- ALL IN THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, LIVES INSIDE OF YOU!** If you are saved, every moment of your day, every moment of your life, wherever you are, whatever you are doing, at work, at home, at school, at play, in church, everywhere you go, you are ordained to live every moment of your life with the Holy Spirit.

And I submit to you, He is not a guest. And He's not a visitor. You are the house, and He is the Resident. He owns you. He bought you with the blood of the Son of God. You are the house, and the moment you got born again, He backed up His U-Haul, unloaded lock, stock, and barrel, and He moved in and planted His shingle on the front door. He lives in you, and you and I are ordained every moment of our lives to live with the Holy Spirit.

Statement number two: (2) That being the case, life for you and me is a vital union -- if you can grasp the force of that word -- with One Who is infinitely holy, absolutely spotless, not only sinless in act, but absolutely perfect and just and righteous and holy in EVERY aspect of His character. I'm saying, neighbor, that we are ordained to live every moment of our lives with God. And, friend, life for us is a vital union with One Who is absolutely holy -- One Who is infinitely holy.

Now, there are many different definitions of what sin really is. ***"Sin is the transgression of the law."*** the Bible says in I John.

"For. a man to know to do good, and not to do it," James says.

“If a man keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he guilty of all,” the Bible says.

What it all boils down to is this: SIN IS THE VERY OPPOSITE OF ANY TRUE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Write that down; let it sink in. SIN IS NOT ONLY SOMETHING YOU ACTIVELY DO OR SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO DO THAT YOU LEAVE UNDONE; SIN IS THE VERY OPPOSITE OF ANY TRUE MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE.

Now we are going to talk in the message about GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT. Have you ever grieved? I don't mean, have you ever been sorry. I don't mean, have you ever cried a tear of sorrow. I mean, HAVE YOU EVER GRIEVED. Has your heart down inside of you literally been torn to shreds, been broken? Have you ever grieved?

If you can imagine the grief of a marriage partner who loses his or her spouse -- whether by death or other means. If you can imagine that grief, combined with the grief of a mother who loses a child -- and I say a mother because I think, as a rule, mothers grieve more than a father when a child is lost.

Think of the most grievous circumstances. Multiply that by five-hundred-million times, and you will find out how much the Holy Spirit grieves inside of you when you sin.

Now you mark it down, neighbor, though we say (theologically) that we believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit -- yet we have a tendency not to really down in our hearts believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit. And I'll tell you why: One major reason is. though we believe theologically in it, we don't believe practically in it. And here's why: it is easy to think of the Father as a Person because He is called God the “Father.” Fathers are people.

It's easy to think of the Son as a Person. He walked on earth. He had a human body. He had a human birth, although it was a miraculous virgin birth. He lived for 33 years in flesh and blood on the earth. He died a human death; a miraculous, saving, vicarious death, but still a human death. It's easy to think of Him as a Person. He is the Son. He has a human name: Jesus. It's easy to think of Jesus as a Person.

But the other Person of the Godhead, what is His name? “The Holy Spirit.” And that is a title, not really a name. We don't know of a personal name that He has. He's not called “the Brother,” or “the Son,” or “the Father.” He is called the “Holy SPIRIT.” And as a result sometimes, although we say that we believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit, we don't

really grasp with the same reality that we grasp the personality of God the Father or God the Son -- we don't grasp the personality of God the Holy Spirit. But, neighbor, you mark it down: God the Holy Spirit is every bit as much a Person, with personal feelings, and personal qualities, and personal attributes, as the Father and Son.

In the Bible He is called by personal pronouns. He is not an "it." He is a "HE." He is a "HIM." He is a "HIS." He is a real person with gender. He is masculine -- not neuter. He is a Person.

In the Bible, personal acts are attributed to Him. In Acts 15:32 He gives joy. Only a person can give joy. Acts 15:32 says, "**...the apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost and with joy.**" The Bible talks about "**joy in the Holy Spirit.**"

Over in John 7:37-39, "**In the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried saying. If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink: He that believeth in me, as the Scripture hath said. Out of his belly shall flow RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. (But this spake He of the Holy Ghost...).**" He's talking about the satisfaction and the power and the joy that we have because of the Holy Spirit. He gives joy! He is a real Person.

In Acts 5:32 we are told that He is a soul winner. He is a "witness." "**We are witnesses of these things, AND SO IS ALSO THE HOLY SPIRIT...**" Only a person can be a witness for Jesus.

In John 14:26 we are told that He comforts. Jesus said, "**But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost...**" The same passage says that He teaches, and He brings to our remembrance things taught by Christ. These are only true of personality.

The Bible says in I Corinthians 2:10 that the Holy Spirit "**searches the deep things of God.**" God the Holy Spirit is more than an influence. He is more than a force. He is the real, living, intelligent Being -- a Spirit-being, but a personality. He searches the deep things of God.

The Bible says that He distributes spiritual gifts. Did you ever see those offering plates get up and collect an offering all by themselves? If they ever do, I'll give an offering. It will be the rubber I leave behind tearing out the door. Did you ever see that? Why don't they do that? Why can't they distribute or receive gifts? Because they are not persons. They have no personality. An animal couldn't even do that. You can train an animal mechanically, such as a monkey, to do certain things, but that animal doesn't understand the personal meaning of acts. You can train a parrot to talk, but they don't understand language. They don't really talk. They merely mimick sounds that they hear. They don't know what they are saying.

The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts -- I Corinthians 12. Romans 8:26, 27 says that He prays. Did you ever see a chair pray? Can that chair get up, come up here, bow in the front of this auditorium and say, "Our dear heavenly table..." (Laughter!!) Chairs don't pray. Animals don't pray. Trees don't pray. An influence cannot pray. A force doesn't pray. The Holy Spirit is not a force or an Influence. He is a real, living Personality. He is every bit as much as real and living and personalized, if you please, as the Father and the Son. He prays.

Over in Acts 13:2 we are told that He oversees the missionary work of the Church. He came to the Church there and said, ***"Separate me Paul and Barnabas for the work I have called them to."*** I am saying, the Holy Spirit oversees the missionary work of the local Church. He takes care of the evangelistic ministry of the local Church. HE IS A REAL PERSON.

He would have to have intelligence to do that. He would have to have knowledge to do that. He would have to have communication skills to do that.

You have been Influenced by an inanimate object before, but in all reality it wasn't the Inanimate object that influenced you. It was your reaction to that inanimate object. But only an animate object, with intelligence and personality can oversee and influence us to do certain things.

In Acts 10:19 I ran onto something that I had underlined before in my Bible, but I did not really recognize before this afternoon. In chapter ten of Acts is the story of Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian band of soldiers in Caesarea. This man was a devout man, feared God with all his house, a man of stature, prayed to God always. The Bible says in verse 3 that an angel of God came to him. In verse four, Cornelius saw the angel and called him "Lord." Not necessarily because he thought the angel was the Lord, but because he recognized that the angel was FROM the Lord.

Down in verse 7 it says that it was an actual angel. In verse 19 it says that ***"While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said to him. Behold three men seek thee."*** That's the three men that the angel told Cornelius to send to find Peter, the soul winner.

He said, ***"Three men seek thee... Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I HAVE SENT THEM."*** Wait a minute! The Holy Spirit didn't send them. The angels sent them; that's what it says. The angels spake to Cornelius.

That's not too hard to explain. Why didn't the Holy Spirit go to Cornelius? Why did He send an angel? But the Holy Spirit went to Peter. Why didn't the angel go to Peter, and the Holy Spirit go to Cornelius? It's

simple: because when the Holy Spirit has a message for a lost sinner, He sends an angel, When the Holy Spirit has a message for a SAVED person, He goes Himself.

Now, notice it says, ***“While Peter thought on the vision, THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID...”*** An influence can’t talk. A force can’t talk. Only a person can talk. I submit to you that the Holy Spirit is a real Person. The Bible uses personal pronouns of Him. He performs personal acts. And if you’ll study your Bible you will find that He is susceptible to personal treatment. The Holy Spirit has real, emotional feelings; and you can hurt His feelings. He is susceptible to personal treatment.

Let me illustrate: In Acts chapter five He is lied to. The Apostle Peter said to Ananias and Saphira, ***“Why hath Satan filled thine heart to LIE TO THE HOLY GHOST?”*** You can lie to the Holy Spirit -- He is a Person - - He is susceptible to personal treatment.

Over in I Thessalonians 5:19 we are told He can be quenched. ***“Quench not the Spirit.”*** That means to hinder His operation and effectiveness. He is susceptible to personal treatment.

In Hebrews 10:29 the Bible uses the word ***“despite”*** to refer to the insult the Holy Spirit receives. When a lost sinner turns away the Son of God, tramples under his feet the blood of Christ, and ***“does despite unto the Spirit of grace,”*** they are insulting the Holy Spirit. Neighbor, you can’t insult a wind or a force or influence. You can’t insult an animal -- I’ve tried. We’ve got two in our house I tried to insult You can’t do it. You can only insult a person. And can be insulted.

Have you ever been insulted? So is the Holy Spirit. He gets it every day. He is susceptible to personal treatment. He is a real Person. Did you know that the Holy Spirit can be sinned against, and blasphemed? Jesus said in Matthew 12:31, 32, ***“All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”***

I’m saying, He is a real Person. He is susceptible to personal treatment. In Ephesians 4:30, our text, we are told, ***“And GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT...” “STOP GRIEVING the Holy Spirit!”*** The Holy Ghost of God is a real Person. Sometimes I wish that God had given us for Him a personal name. You mark it down, He is just as real as the Father and the Son. HE IS A PERSONAL BEING!! And He is susceptible to human feelings.

It would be more proper to say, "We are susceptible to the feelings He has." Because He had them long before we had them. But for purpose of identification, may I turn it around, and say He is susceptible to human treatment and personal feelings.

Did you know, neighbor, that the Bible says He can be ignored. Sometimes you get on the telephone, and they always seem to do it when it's a long distance call, and they put you on what they call "hold." It's not "hold," it's "ignore!" They ought to have not "h.o.l.d" but "i.g.n.o.r.e" on the button. "Hold it a minute. Let me put you on 'ignore!'" And they forget about you. They give you some music that will put you to sleep to help tranquilize you -- or some that will wake you up.

But do you know that in James 4:5 the Bible says, "***The Spirit that dwelleth in us LUSTETH TO ENVY.***" He becomes envious. There is a right kind of envy, and a wrong kind.

The Holy Spirit WANTS to do His job in me. He WANTS to fill me. He WANTS to teach me. He YEARNs to be my Comforter. He LONGS and He CRAVES and He LUSTS to be my Encourager. BUT I WON'T LET HIM, and He is driven off into a corner. And He "lusteth" to do His job.

I try to read the Bible without soliciting His help, without saying, "Now, Holy Spirit, I depend on You to teach me the Word of God." And He taps me on the shoulder and says, "If you will let me help, Andy, I will do it. I wrote that Book! I know all about it. I can teach you something about it. Just let me!" But we ignore Him. He LUSTS to do His job, even to the point of envy. He can be ignored and insulted. He has real, personal feelings.

Now, the question is asked, "What grieves the Holy Spirit?"

The Holy Spirit is grieved when known sin is tolerated in the life of a Christian. We are amazing creatures. We have amazing ways of salving our conscience and excusing what God calls sin. We have an amazing way of quickly passing over the passages of Scripture that we are guilty of violating. But the Holy Spirit is grieved when a Christian tolerates known sin -- ANY sin.

Do you realize, dear friend, that when known sin is tolerated in your life, the Holy Spirit has to turn from His ministry THROUGH you to a pleading ministry TO you! The Bible He was sent to reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. However, when you get born again He enters into you, and He becomes the Inhabitant in your body, your house of flesh and blood.

But, neighbor, when I tolerate known sin in my life, He has to leave off His ministry THROUGH and turn to a pleading ministry TO me. Now, the Holy Spirit does not LEAVE, but He does GRIEVE!!

KNOWN sin, whether excused, whether salved in your conscience or not -- KNOWN SIN in the life of a child of God GRIEVES and breaks the heart of the Holy Spirit. If you are saved you have the Holy Spirit in you, and life for you is a vital union with that One Who is infinitely holy. Do you know what that means? That means that this very moment, every person in this room who is born again lives with either a grieved or an ungrieved Holy Spirit. There is no in between. There isn't any neutral ground in this matter. Every person in this room... every person in the world who is born again; everybody who names the name of Christ in a saving relationship... lives this very moment either with a grieved, or an ungrieved, Holy Spirit. Every one of us!

May I say also that the TRUE SPIRITUAL LIFE for me must depend on a right attitude and understanding of the issues of sin in my life. Let me illustrate. I can turn over to Deuteronomy 22:5 and talk about clothing. Some seemingly have no conviction about it all, and they say, "That's not my conviction."

But God didn't say, "Obey it if it's your conviction." He says, "If it is in the Bible, obey it!"

We can talk about any matter of right and wrong for the Christian. I'm saying, neighbor, some people don't have an understanding of Scripture and therefore their conscience is salved. But do you realize that the conscience is one of the agents that the Holy Spirit uses?

Let me illustrate that for you. In Romans chapter nine Paul said, ***"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, MY CONSCIENCE also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost..."***

The Holy Spirit is not limited to the conscience, but He does use the conscience. And for me to have a spiritual life, for you to have a spiritual life, you must have a right understanding and adjustment to the issues of sin in your life.

Do you know, neighbor, that God has a two-fold provision for sin in the life a Christian. And I'm not talking about judicial forgiveness, which is when you get saved from the penalty of sin. I'm talking about "family forgiveness." You are in the family if you are saved. And I'm talking about family relationships.

God has a two-fold provision: (1) He has provided for the PREVENTION of sin. God has provided a way whereby you and I can

PREVENT known sin in our lives. What is that prevention? Well, let's first of all get the fact a little more firmly established.

In I Corinthians 10:13, we are told, ***“There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptations also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*** FACT ESTABLISHED!

Now, let's find out what the preventive method is. I mean, an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure! Let's find out what the preventive method for sin is. God has provided a protection for you and I in this matter of sin and temptation.

What is it? Psalm 119:11 says, ***“Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST GOD.”*** That's not mere Scripture memory. Memory is hiding it in the head.

How does something get into your heart? When you can visualize a concept, that is knowledge (in the head). But when you can USE that concept, it gets down in the heart. That's different.

It is one thing to know what the Bible says. It is another thing to DO what the Bible says. When I learn what the Bible says, and I DO what the Bible says, the Bible is preventing sin in my life. ***“Thy Word have I hid*** (not in my head) ***in MY HEART, that I MIGHT NOT SIN against God.”***

I John 2:1, ***“My little. children, THESE THINGS I write unto you, THAT YE SIN NOT.”*** What's the prevention for sin in the Christian: This is it right here, the Word of God. Is it any wonder that most of us in this room don't have the power to punch our way spiritually speaking out of a wet paper bag? Five minutes in the Bible won't do it, neighbor. Daily Bread won't do it!

We are talking about a saturation of the soul in the Word of God, and making this Book be a part of your spiritual bosom. Jesus called it, ***“...my words abide in you...”*** We are talking about the Word BEING the prevention for sin.

And then, God has made another provision. I only quoted the first part of I John 2:1, ***“My little. children, these things I write. unto you, that ye sin not. AND IF ANY MAN SIN, WE HAVE AN ADOVCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS.”***

God knows that we are going to sin. He knows that we will disappoint Him. He knows that will grieve His Holy Spirit. He knows that we will live at times with a grieved Holy Spirit. So He has not only provided the

prevention for sin, but when we don't take advantage of that prevention, He has provided a CURE FOR THE EFFECTS OF SIN.

What is it? *"The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin."* (I John 1:7). And neighbor, that is a fellowship verse.

"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth me from all sin." That's a family cleansing, not a judicial cleansing. That is not a salvation passage; that is a fellowship passage.

Not only did the blood cleanse my soul from all sin judicially when I got born again, but every time I sin, when I get back in fellowship with God it is that same blood on the Mercy Seat in Heaven that cleanses me. If the blood of Jesus Christ is good to cleanse a LOST sinner, don't you think it is good to cleanse a SAVED one too?

Isaiah 1:18, *"Come now, and Let US..."* Hey! Who wrote that? God said it, but who wrote it? Isaiah did. Was Isaiah a believer? Yes, he certainly was. Who is the "us" then? Believers.

"Come now, and let US reason together: though YOUR sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

The blood of Jesus Christ is the remedy for sin.

What grieves the Holy Spirit? Known sin. But God has provided a prevention for sin: the Word of God -- the application of the Word of God; the appropriation of the promises of the Word of God. But because God knows we are carnal, and because He knows we will fail Him, He has also provided a cure for the effects of sin in a Christian.

This is the divine condition for you and I, child of God, after we've sinned, to be cured from the effects of that sin. And I didn't say if you go out and get drunk you won't have a head ache the next morning. I'm not talking about the natural results of sin. I'm talking about the effects of sin as far as God is concerned: broken fellowship, no power, etc...

We can be cured from the effects of sin. How? Well, let me make a couple of statements. There are a couple of things you need to realize, and one thing you need to do.

The first thing you need to do is **REALIZE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GRIEVED BY YOUR SIN.** Let me ask you a question: Those you dearly love, you are a little more careful not to grieve, aren't you? At least you should be.

Don't you think that if you would just fall in love with the Holy Ghost of God, you might be a little more careful not to grieve Him? Realize that the Holy Spirit is grieved by any and all known sin.

Secondly, **REALIZE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ABUNDANTLY ABLE TO CONVINCe THE CHRISTIAN OF HIS SIN.** That does not mean preachers don't have to preach against it. That does not mean that preachers are not to point it out. The Bible says in Isaiah 58:1, ***"CRY ALOUD, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."*** That is the job of a mouthpiece for God, a preacher.

But, neighbor, when it comes to individual, particular sin, God the Holy Spirit is able to point out to me what my particular sin is. But He is just like the Father and the Son: He doesn't force on me any knowledge I am not willing to receive. There are some things that are sin the Holy Spirit will never point out to you until you get on your face and say, "Dear God, I submit my all, my will, to you."

Thirdly, **REALIZE THAT NO PERSON CAN DEAL INTELLIGENTLY WITH UNKNOWN SIN.** Jesus did pray, ***"Father forgive them, for they know now what they do."*** But they could not deal with sin that they "knew not" of.

The Bible does say, ***"Cleanse thou me from SECRET faults."*** That is, faults you have that you don't realize that you have. I wonder why David didn't name those. Because he didn't know what they were. If you don't know them, how can you deal with them effectively?

I'm saying, it is **KNOWN** sin specifically. You cannot deal intelligently with unknown sin. Therefore, in your little love-feast with the Holy Spirit in the prayer closet, what you need to do is, open your heart and say, "Dear Holy Ghost, is there anything at all in my heart that is displeasing to you?" And then shut up for a while. When He brings something to your mind, confess it as sin.

If you are honest and sincere about it, if you have an open channel between you and God, and your known sins are all confessed -- **ASK HIM WHAT THE UNKNOWN ONES ARE!** He'll tell you. He'll let you know, but He will expect you to deal with them as He reveals them to you. If you don't deal with that one, He will not show you the next ones. You deal with that one, and when it is out of the way, He'll show you others. Now, what is the cure? It is simple: I John 1:9, ***"If we CONFESS our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleans us from all unrighteousness."***

Notice that it is not God's love and mercy that make Him forgive us when we confess. It His faithfulness and justice. Wait a minute; faithfulness and justice don't forgive sins, mercy and love do. Why, then, does it say that God is "FAITHFUL AND JUST" to forgive our sins? Because He has promised to forgive and cleanse what is confessed. And He is FAITHFUL to keep His promise; and He is JUST not to exact from us the penalty already borne by His own Son on Calvary! In other words, when I honestly confess, if He does not honestly forgive AND cleanse, then He is unfaithful and unjust. And we know that is impossible.

Notice that He doesn't just "forgive" confessed sin. He also "cleanses" the believer. What is the difference?

Illustration: We put a brand new, pretty, frilly, lacy dress on Rebekah (our daughter)., "Now, we're getting ready for church, honey. We know the door is open. There is a mud puddle right out there at the bottom of the steps. Don't you dare go anywhere near that puddle!" You know, mud puddle have a way of jumping out and grabbing children when they walk by. They have long arms, too,

She goes out, and she heads straight for the mud puddle. Splash!!

What does she get? She gets a spanking for disobeying Daddy. She comes in and she confesses, weeps, repents, and she gets "judgment." Then she gets it all right with Daddy. She's forgiven

But, you know something? That is still not good enough. She can't go to church in the state she is in. So then comes the cleansing -- she gets a bath and a clean change of clothes.

The difference between forgiveness and cleansing: Cleansing is a removal of that sin out of the life of the one confessing. Forgiveness is something else.

Now, there are seven (7) things that are involved in sincere confession:

(1) FACE IT HONESTLY.

You cannot confess something that you are excusing. You can't confess something that you are not willing to face honestly. Face that thing head on! Don't excuse it. Don't brush it's guilt under the carpet. Don't throw it over your shoulder to the guy behind you. Don't try to block it out of your memory. FACE THAT THING HEAD ON!!

Proverbs 28:13, "*He. that covereth his sin shall not prosper; but blessed (happy) is the man that confesseth and forsakes them.*" If it's a lie,

don't call it "exaggeration." Call it a dirty black lie, for what it is! If it's lust in the heart, call it "adultery." God does! If it's rebellion toward the revealed will of God, call it "witchcraft." God says that "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft."

If it's covetousness, call it "idolatry." God says, "Covetousness is as the sin of idolatry." If it's a lack of love or a hatred in your heart, call it "murder." Jesus did. Face it honestly.

(2) CONFESS IT SINCERELY.

I John 1:9, *"If we CONFESS our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive...and to cleanse..."*

Notice that he said "IF." In other words, if we don't confess, God will not forgive and cleanse us.

Now, let me tell you what confession is. The word "confess" is the word *"homo-logeo."* "Homo" means "the same." "Logeo" comes from "logos," which means "to speak, or to say." "Confess," then, means "to say the same thing that God says about your sin."

So if it is a lie, I must not call it "exaggeration." I am to say the same thing about it that God says. D. L. Moody was praying with a drunk in his own vomit in the gutter of the streets of Chicago one night. The drunk was wailing, "Oh, God! You know how strong the drink is, and you know how weak I am...."

About that time, Moody jumped up, slapped him on the back and said, "Shut up, man! Tell God you got drunk!"

Don't call it "alcoholism;" call it "drunkenness." Don't call it "gay;" call it "Sodomy." Call it what God calls it. Put a name on it, the same name that God puts on it in His Word.

By the way, confession isn't getting on your knees at night and saying, "Dear Lord, if I have committed any sins today...." Hog wash! You know you have!

Neither is confession getting down to pray and saying, "Dear Lord, please forgive me of all the sins I have committed today." You didn't commit them in a bushel basket, and you don't confess them that way. You committed them one at a time, and you must confess them that way. That's why it is a dangerous thing to wait until that night to confess your sins. Confess each one as soon as you are aware of it!

(3) CLAIM FORGIVENESS AND CLEANSING

It doesn't do any good to act out a promise of God, if you don't by faith CLAIM that promise. Try Isaiah 1:18; I John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13; etc.. There are a host of Bible promises about getting forgiveness and cleansing if you will confess your sins. Claim one of them each time you make a confession. Put your finger on it and say, "Here it is, O God! I confess it to you. It's awful! Oh, I'm so sorry. I've been wicked and evil

Then when your confession is sincere and complete, claim the promise of God for yourself.

(4) ISOLATE THAT SIN

Isolate that sin. What do we mean? We mean, if you are prone to gossip, don't hang around those who do. If you're prone to an ill temper, don't hang around people and circumstances that tempt you to demonstrate that ill temper. If you're prone to dirty stories, don't hang around those who tell them. If you've been a drug addict, or a drunk, then don't hang around those kind of people. If your habit is a little six-inch tobacco stick between your fingers, get away from people who smoke.

I'm saying, isolate that sin. Romans 14:13, "...*Make no prevision for the flesh, to fulfill it in the lusts thereof.*" Now, the admonition there is not "don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh." it is, "Don't even provide the flesh a temptation to lust..."

In Ephesians Paul said (4:20) that we're not to "*give. peace to the Devil.*" You cannot stop the birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from making nests in your hair. Don't give the Devil any place to "make a nest in your hair."

A man is an absolute fool who was saved out of drunkenness, and yet he hangs around with a drinking crowd or in places where they sell and serve that gut—rot! An utter fool! Isolate - that sin!

(5) NEVER ASK FORGIVENESS FOR THAT SIN AGAIN

Now, if you commit that sin again, ask forgiveness. But once you have confessed it, don't ever confess it again. If you have lied today, and you have confessed that lie to God and dealt with it, don't you ever ask God again

to forgive you. Why? Hebrews 10:17, ***“Thy sins and iniquities I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”***

And if God has forgotten, you have no right to bring it up to Him again. We say, “Dear Lord, I know I have confessed that sin before, you know that lie that I told the other day.”

And the Lord says, “Oh? What lie? I don’t know anything about it!”

“But, Lord, I know I have confessed it already, but I still feel guilty about it. I’m so sorry. You know....”

And the Lord says, “I don’t know a thing about it.”

“But, Lord, you know all things!”

“Yes, and I know how to forget what I don’t wish to remember. Shut up about it! THY SINS AND INIQUITIES I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE. WHAT SINS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON’T REMEMBER THEM ANYMORE!!”

By the way, if God doesn’t remember my sins, I have no right to remember them. If God doesn’t remember my sins, YOU have no right to remember them. And I have no right to remember yours! I get fed up from the bottom of my feet -- that’s way down there about a mile and a half away -- to the crown of my head with these preachers that constantly remember and dangle in front of others their sins! Never ask twice for the same instance of sinning.

(6) **FORGIVE YOURSELF**

Do you know why you ask over and over again for forgiveness for the same instance of sinning? One reason is, you haven’t forgiven yourself. And the Devil has intimidated you, and robbed you of power and blessing and answered prayer, and you are not appropriating the promise of God. Don’t let Him intimidate you! if God has forgiven you, **YOU FORGIVE YOU!!** And forget about it!!

God is not interested in what you used to be. He is interested in what you are now, and what you are going to be. God isn’t interested in what you **HAVE DONE**. He’s interested in what you are doing now, and what you are going to do. He’s not the “**I WAS;**” He is the “**I AM.**”

And you mark it down, neighbor, nothing in the world will rob you of power like your not forgiving yourself of some sin in the past that you have already dealt with and made restitution for. Nothing will rob you of power and keep your prayers from being answered or rob you of the blessings

of the Word of God, like allowing the Devil to intimidate you about a guilty past.

EVERYBODY has a guilty past. There is not a man on the face of the earth -- Hyles, Rice included -- that if we dug into their past, we couldn't find something to dangle in front of them. EVERYBODY HAS A PAST -- EVERYBODY! Just make sure yours is under the blood.

Face it honestly, confess it sincerely, isolate that sin, claim and forgiveness and cleansing, never ask twice to be forgiven of that same instance, forgive yourself -- and then, lastly:

(7) CLAIM DAILY VICTORY

Get down to the prevention provision: Claim daily victory. Claim is daily. There IS no sin you cannot overcome. There IS no temptation you cannot deal with and overcome instantly if you want to -- not a single one!

Philippians 4:13, "***I CAN through Christ...***" He is the One strengthening me, so "**I CAN DO ALL THINGS....**"

Claim daily victory

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

We're preaching a series of messages on WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN. Not necessarily an emotional Christian, although you cannot divorce emotions from the spiritual life anymore than you can from anything else. Not merely a mechanically-serving Christian, although you cannot divorce Christian service from spirituality. But, what does it mean to be a SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN.

In the last few messages we have studied the SEVEN MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. These seven things the Holy Spirit performs for the sake of ministering through us to others.

Then we studied the MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. That is, ways the Holy Spirit manifests Himself to the believer.

We also studied THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, which is LOVE; GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT; and QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Under GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT, we said that there are three basic, foundational principles. (1) God has ordained that every believer should live the rest of His life with the Holy Spirit. (2) Life, for the believer, then, is a vital union with One Who is infinitely holy.

Even the most spiritual Christian is carnal. Paul, the Spirit-filled man of God who penned at least thirteen letters of the New Testament, said this in Romans chapter seven, ***"I am carnal...sold under sin."*** Sold under the influence of the sin nature. And he said, ***"O wretched man, who shall deliver from the bondage of this sin (nature)...?"***

And we don't stop to think about how carnal even the most spiritual Christian is. And the best that we can produce is like filthy rags to God. Then, neighbor, the fact is, you couple that (the condition of even the most spiritual Christian) with the infinite holiness of Almighty God. Did you know the Bible says that ***"God is LIGHT, and in Him so no darkness at all."*** Now God never said we are to BECOME the light; it says we are to walk in His light.

Stop and think about how bright God's light is. ***"God is light, and in Him is NO darkness AT ALL."*** (I John 1:5). There is a double negative used here for "no." In the Greek, a double negative strengthens the negation.

That is the very reason that when Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, in the middle of the day when the hot noonday sun was shining its brightest -- not the light from the sun, but the light from the throne of Jesus Christ shone down upon Saul and knocked him

off his donkey on the Damascus Turnpike. The light of Christ so overpowered the sun that Paul didn't even know the sun was turned on, and the light from Heaven blinded him for three days.

Maybe that was the cause of his physical infirmity, his thorn in the flesh. We don't know for sure.

That is the very reason that when Nadab and Abihu went into the holy place uninvited by God and immediately God burned them to a Post Toastie. Not with His heat; merely with His light.

The earth is ninety-three million miles from the sun. We are told that if a human being could get within fifty-million miles of the sun --that's about half the distance from earth to the sun - - the LIGHT of the sun (not the heat) would blow that individual to the four corners of the universe. And you stop to think about the fact that the sun is not even a shade, not even a shadow, not even a figment of the brightness of the eternal glory of God!

By the way, the Bible talks about His light as being His holiness. You think about God in terms of His nature -- and then you realize that life for us is a vital union with INFINITE HOLINESS. Neighbor, if that doesn't scare you, I don't know that anything will! If that doesn't make you stand in awe and wonder, fearing that we disobey and displease His infinite holiness, what on earth will ever move us?

The third principle on GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT is, (3) right now you and I are living with either a grieved or an ungrieved Holy Spirit. That means that every person in this room who is born again, right this moment, is living with either a grieved or an ungrieved Holy Spirit.

We said that the Holy Spirit is grieved when a Christian tolerates known sin in His life.

The difference between GRIEVING the Holy Spirit and QUENCHING the Holy Spirit is this: The Holy Spirit is GRIEVED when a Christian tolerates known sin in His life. The Holy Spirit is QUENCHED (His power influence and operation is hindered) when the Christian says "No" to the revealed will of God -- whether it be the revealed will of in the Bible, or the will of God made known by an influence of the Spirit of God in the heart.

In this message we are speaking about **WALKING IN THE SPIRIT**. Galatians 5:1, "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*"

Verse 13, "*For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor is thyself.*" Now, there is another passage in Matthew 23 where Jesus

said that two greatest commandments in the law are to love God supremely, and to love your neighbor as yourself -- on these TWO hang the law and the prophets.

Paul said that the entire law of God is bound up in the responsibility of the Christian to love his neighbor as himself.

Verse 15, ***“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusted against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. but if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.”***

Back to verse 16, ***“This I say then, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH.”***

(Prayer)

There are three conditions to TRUE SPIRITUALITY. Two of those conditions are negative; one of those conditions is positive. Most of what is in the Bible is negative. Somebody says, “I don’t like negative preaching!”

Well, read Matthew 23, and put that one on for size. You wouldn’t have liked the preaching of Jesus in that chapter; and you certainly wouldn’t have liked the preaching of John the Baptist. Read what he had to say to the Pharisees when he was standing on the banks of the River Jordan just prior to the baptism of Jesus. Read how he sent back some people who came forward to get baptized, calling them a bunch of snakes, and telling them how they would have to bring forth fruit meet for repentance before he would baptize them.

There is a lot of negative in the Bible. You cannot eliminate the negative. You can’t slight the negative portions of the Word of God, and come up with a balanced Christian life. That is why on the one hand we have a lot of superficial emotionalism -- because they have eliminated the negative, and tried to camp on only the positive.

Then, on the other hand, we have a lot of Phariseeism because they have eliminated the positive and tried to major on the negative. You have to take the Bible balance.

Did you know that, out of the Ten Commandments, only one of them is Ceremonial. That is the Sabbath law. All the rest are for us today.

They are all repeated for us in the New Testament. There are nine MORAL laws in the Ten Commandments.

Did you know that, out of the nine moral laws, ALL BUT ONE is 100% negative, and that one contains some negative connotations. Paul told Timothy, *“Be instant, in season and out of season...”* There are only two times that we are to preach the Word: *“IN season, and OUT OF season..”*

Then he told them HOW to preach the Word. He said, *“reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”* Did you notice that that is two-thirds negative? Reproof is negative. Rebuke is negative. And exhortation is part negative and part positive, or it is unbalanced exhortation.

I’m saying, the Bible has a lot negative in it. The spiritual Christian life, which has to do with our relationship to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and our sensitivity to His will and to His heart, is two-thirds negative.

The FIRST condition of true spirituality in your life is “GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.” That’s negative. Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit. Stop grieving the Holy Spirit.

The SECOND condition of a truly spiritual Christian life is also negative: “QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT.”

There is only one condition of true spirituality that is positive, and that is the one we are going to talk about in this study. In verse 16, the Bible says, *“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*

TRUE SPIRITUALITY DEPENDS ON A POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF RELYING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT. When I say “positive,” I am not eliminating the negative. I am merely saying that the foundation of spirituality is an attitude of positive reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Now, if you don’t KNOW the Holy Spirit, how are you going to rely on Him? If you don’t walk with him, how can two walk together, except they be agreed? If you don’t have a genuine, Godly, vital union and unity with the Holy Spirit, how can you ever be spiritual? The spiritual life depends on a positive attitude of reliance on the Holy Spirit -- relying on Him.

So, just because some theologians have chosen to call the Holy Spirit, “The Third Person...,” as though He weren’t as important as the “Second” or the “First,” don’t let that fool you into thinking the Holy Spirit is not equally God with the Father and the Son. They are all God.

Now, what is meant by “WALKING IN THE SPIRIT?” I want us to have a little Bible study -- a little word study, if you please.

In verse 16, our text, Paul said, *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* Now, we are going to

analyze that phrase. But before we do, may I lay a foundation for this little analysis by making this statement: **THERE IS NO POWER WITHIN YOU TO ENTER A SPIRITUAL LIFE. AND THERE IS NO POWER WITHIN YOU TO MAINTAIN A SPIRITUAL LIFE.**

I repeat: **THERE IS NO POWER WITHIN YOU TO BECOME SPIRITUAL, AND THERE IS NO POWER WITHIN YOU TO MAINTAIN SPIRITUALITY ONCE YOU BECOME THAT WAY.** It must be by an operation of the Holy Spirit, appropriated by faith. You have no ability, no power -- Paul said, ***“In my flesh*** (that includes the body, soul, and spirit) ***there dwelleth NO GOOD THING...*** There is absolutely nothing about any human being that can **MAKE** him spiritual, or maintain spirituality. It **MUST** be **TOTALLY** by an operation of the Holy Spirit, by faith exercised.

Now, let's study this verse, ***“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”***

Let's break that verse down and analyze it. Let's take it one word at a time, not necessarily in the order it is given in the English Bible, but in the order it is given as the Holy Spirit gave it in the inspiration of the original text.

Let's take, first of all, the word ***“in.”*** The word “in” does not mean “inside” here. It is not as though you are walking around inside of the Holy Spirit. That is not what it means.

The word ***“in”*** means “by means of; under the power of.” It means, He is your source of energy and power for walking, “by means of.” You might want to write that in the margin of your Bible. Circle the word ***“in,”*** draw a line over to the margin somewhere and write in quotes, “by means of.”

The word ***“walk”*** doesn't mean merely this (walking across the platform). That is a part of it for those who have legs. But that is not what the word “walk” means.

The word translated “walk” is the word “peripateo.” It means ***“to order your behavior; to order your manner of life.”*** So, circle the word “walk,” draw a line over to the margin somewhere, and put in quotes “order your behavior.”

The word “in” means “by means of.” The word “walk,” which really comes second in the sentence, means “order your behavior, order your life.” Alright, let's go to another word.

The word, ***“not,”*** in the Greek language is a double negative, “ou. me.” It is two different words. Now, in the English language, a double negative makes a positive. Do you understand that?

However, in the Greek language a double negative does not mean a positive. A double negative in Greek simply strengthens the negation of the negative word. For instance, in I John 1:5 where it says, ***“God is light, and in Him is no darkness...”***, the word “no” there is a double negative, “ou me.” If you were to put all of that emphasis in smooth English, you would have to stray from absolute accuracy and put in a whole mouthful of italicized words. You would have to say something like this, “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all -- no, not even one little bit!”

The word “*not*” in Galatians 5:16 is a double negative. ***“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not – NOT – fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*** It is a double negative, strengthening the negation.

Now, the word “*fulfill*” means “perform.” It is not as though there is a promise to “fulfill.” It means to “perform” the actions of doing something.

The word “*lust*”-- we commonly use this word to mean sensual desires —— but it doesn’t mean that. It merely means “desire.” The Bible talks about the “lust” of the Spirit. He ***“lusts to envy”***

The Bible says in this passage (verse 16) that ***“the flesh lusts.”*** That’s not the physical body: that is the body, soul, and spirit together. And it says that the Spirit lusts.

The flesh has desires that are contrary to the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit has desires that are contrary to the flesh.

Now, with that in mind, here is what the verse says, “By means of the Holy Spirit, be ordering your life, and ye shall not -- ye shall not -- perform the desires of the flesh.”

How am I supposed to order my life? By means of the Holy Spirit. That means, neighbor, that I am supposed to get my direction from Him. That means that I am supposed to get my desires from Him. That means that I am supposed to walk in such a vital unity with Him. We HAVE a vital union with the Holy Spirit, but we are to walk in UNITY with that infinitely holy Spirit.

There is a difference between union and unity. You can take two old scrawny alley cats, tie their tails in a knot, and dangle them over a clothes line wire. You will have union. But, my friend, you sure won’t have any “unity.”

When the man says, “I do,” to the woman; and the woman says, “I do,” to the man. And the preacher pronounces them man and wife, right then and there they have union. But most fight like cats and dogs, and don’t have UNITY.

Everybody who is saved has a vital UNION -- a fusing -- with One Who is infinitely holy. The sad fact, most of us don't have much UNITY with the Holy Spirit. That's Amos 3:3, "***How can two walk together, except they be agreed.***"

That's agreement. It goes deeper than fellowship, deeper than communion. That's UNITY, brought about by the relationship of UNION. (Boy, this is sounding theological. Let's get this on tape.)

But the fact is, that's what the word means. That is what the verse is saying. "By means of the Holy Spirit, be ordering your life..." And, if you will order your life BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, in His strength and in His power, getting your desires from Him, being submissive to Him, and loving Him and walking and talking with Him, in a vital union and unity with Him -- you will not perform the desires of the carnal nature. Whether those desires are evil or neutral, makes no difference.

Neighbor, that is spirituality. It is a positive attitude of relying on the Holy Spirit. One more time, then we have got to move on from this verse: "By means of the Holy Spirit, be ordering your behavior (*that is in the DURATIVE tense, meaning "continual"*), so that you will not fulfill the desires and cravings of your old nature."

Now, there is a human responsibility in all of this. The human responsibility is to LEARN TO DEPEND WHOLLY ON THE HOLY GHOST. There is no way that I, in the flesh, can become spiritual and walk like that. There is nothing in my body, there is nothing in the makeup of my soul, there is nothing in the make-up of my spirit, there is nothing in the make-up of my three-part being that could possibly enable me to become spiritual. There is nothing within me that could possibly give me to ability to maintain the spiritual walk. It ONLY comes about by a total relying on the Holy Spirit.

God has a divine objective in your life. God has a divine goal. God saved you and He took you out of the world, and He put you on the straight and narrow way, and He has a goal at the end of the road. He would like for you to reach that goal right now, but He knows you are carnal and human and knows that you won't, and so He knows that that goal is a step-by-step process.

God's divine objective for your life is THE GOD-HONORING QUALITY OF LIFE. I'm not talking about in the sweet by and by; I am talking about in the nasty now and now! If there is anything that God wants for your life, it is to bring you to the place -- whatever it takes -- where your

quality of life, not just your life, but your quality of life, brings honor to Him. God's divine objective is the God-honoring quality of life.

Now, neighbor, the important thing for you to do -- and the important thing for me to do -- is to maintain an attitude of relying on the Holy Spirit. By the way, the Holy Spirit will never bless anything that we do that is knowingly contrary to this Book, the Bible. The Holy Spirit will never lead me to do anything that is contrary to this Book. This IS His final -- and ONLY -- authority of faith and practice. And when we talk about "following the leadership of the Holy Spirit" we are talking about within the confines of the principles that this Book has laid down. And, let's face it, the Bible is more principles than it is specifics.

The important thing for me to do, then, is to maintain an attitude of relying on the Holy Spirit. Now, dear friend, for a Christian to TRY to become spiritual by His own effort is like the Engineer of a locomotive that comes to a hill, and he gets out and pushes the train. That would be kind of dumb, wouldn't it!

It's like the fellow who settles for a box car when there is a Boeing 747 at his disposal. But that's no more foolish than a Christian to try in his own energy to become spiritual and maintain spirituality.

By the way, a new Christian can be spiritual, just as much as a person who has been saved for 70 years. On different levels of maturity; but we are not talking about maturity. We are talking about spirituality, which is that positive attitude of relying on the Holy Spirit.

Now there are three reasons why you MUST rely on the Holy Spirit, and you don't have any choice in the matter.

Reason number one is found in I John chapter two. There are three reasons why you have got to learn to rely on the Holy Spirit. Reason one is found in verse 15, ***"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."***

Reason number one that you have to rely on the Holy Spirit is: THERE IS A WORLD OUT THERE, AND YOU HAVE NO POWER IN YOURSELF TO BE VICTORIOUS OVER IT!

"Preacher, why do I constantly fall?" It's because you are pushing the engine. Why don't you just get in and put a little fuel on the fire, and let the fire carry the engine?

There is a second reason you have got to rely on the Holy Spirit. Romans chapter seven, beginning with verse fourteen. The spiritual, Godly man of God said, ***“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”*** By the way, the word “sin,” every me **it is** mentioned in this chapter, has the little Greek definite article ***“tes,”*** meaning **“THE sin.”** That is not a reference to ACTS of sin. That is not a reference to SINFULNESS. It is a reference, rather, to the principle of sin, THE SIN NATURE, the sin principle.

Paul said, ***“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under (the sin nature). For that which I do, I allow not: for what I would, that do I not: but what I hate, that do i. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but (the sin nature, the sin principle) that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh)...”*** And remember, “flesh” is not this body you are dwelling in. “Flesh” is your entire body) soul and spirit, apart from Jesus Christ. The natural desires of the spirit, the natural desires of the soul, and the natural desires of the body -- that is “the flesh.”

And Paul said, ***“In me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but (the sin nature) that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, EVIL is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of the sin nature) which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”***

Now, neighbor, let me tell you something. There are three reasons you and I must learn to depend on the Holy Spirit for victorious, spiritual Christian living. Reason number one is, THE WORLD. You and I have no power to overcome this world system.

And reason number two is THE FLESH. If Paul couldn't overcome the carnal nature in his own energy, what makes you think you can do it? If Paul couldn't push the locomotive up the hill himself, what makes you think you can do it? He was probably a more Godly man that you and I will ever dream of being. And yet he said, “I am carnal.. I am sold under the power of my sin nature, the sin principle.”

Then, there is a third reason that you and I have got to rely on the Holy Spirit. That reason is found in I Peter 5:8, ***“Be sober, be vigilant;***

because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” He cannot take you to Hell, but he can sure stop the power, the program, and the people of God from having victory.

And, my dear friend, he is not a divine being -- he is not an all-powerful being -- but he IS a super-powerful, or super-natural, being. And, though ‘greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world,’ in yourself you have no power to overcome the world; in yourself you have no power to overcome the flesh; in yourself you have no power to overcome the Devil.

Did you know that even Michael the archangel, the prince of all of the angels, didn’t even dare bring a railing accusation against the Devil. He merely said, “The Lord rebuke thee!” because he had respect for the power and the position of even the fallen Lucifer. What makes us think that you and I can overcome him?

We are absolutely powerless within ourselves to be victorious over those three reasons that we have got to rely on the Holy Spirit.

Now, let me do this very quickly. Let me give you what the Bible says practically, and then principle of, how overcome the flesh, the world, and the Devil. Let’s talk about PRACTICALLY. (The principle is the same for all.)

Let’s talk about the WORLD first. There are four things that I find in the Bible that demonstrate our response to the temptations of the world. And when I talk about “temptations,” I am not just talking about the movie crowd, and the x-rated crowd, and the cigarette smoking crowd, and the liquor crowd, and the dirty joke crowd. I’m talking about the world system in general.

I read a book today and it said, talking about how to become financially independent. But the whole premise of the book is built on this: When you get your paycheck, pay yourself first! Now, neighbor, that is against every Bible principle of finances. The Bible says to TITHE first. Debts come second. Needs come third. And luxuries come last.

Now this man builds a great financial empire on a false, unscriptural principle. There is nothing wrong with being rich. The Bible never says that riches, or money, is the root of all evil. It says, “The LOVE...” of it is the root of evil. It is the emotion and affection toward money that is wrong.

Now here is a man who has built a financial empire and become a multi-millionaire in a matter of a few years, and all on an unbiblical principle. Now, let’s suppose that a Christian follows an unchristian principle. It may

not be evil and wicked in the sense of being immoral, but it is certainly selfish. What is wrong with that? It is following the philosophy of the world.

Suppose I want to use all the money that I make on that philosophy to give to missionaries. God doesn't want your dirty money! God is more concerned about the quality of your effort than the quantity of your results. We don't finance God. God doesn't have to have you and me. (You will notice that I didn't tell you that before we took the offering this evening. *Laughter!!*) God's sustenance and God's happiness doesn't depend on your giving to Him. He wants your HEART.

There is a philosophy of the world that draws Christian people.

Now, how am I supposed to respond to the world. We don't have time to look each one up, so you will have to do that yourself.

Number one: DON'T YOKE UP WITH THE WORLD. Don't ever get in a binding tie of any kind with the unsaved. I am talking about a contractual binding tie. That doesn't mean that you are not to work with or for an unsaved person. It doesn't mean that at all.

The Bible says, "***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...***" (II Corinthians 6:14). A "yoke" is the thing that goes on the neck of the two animals that keeps them pulling the plow in the same direction. That is why the Bible says in the Old Testament that they were not to plow with an oxen and an ass in the same yoke. They just don't have a tendency to get along good together. They don't plow alike.

And God said we are not to yoke up in a contractual binding tie with the unsaved. That means marriage. That means religion. That means politics. That means business. In ANY FORM AT ALL, God said it is wrong to yoke up with unbelievers in a binding tie.

That's why I don't go to lodges. That is a "yoke" with unbelievers. You have to take vows to perform things of that nature with unbelievers.

Number two: "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE YE SEPARATE." The first verse was II Corinthians 6:14. This one is verse 17 of the same chapter. "***Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial ...Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord...***"

That is not isolation, but it is separation. "Come out from among them.. .and be separate."

God said to come out from among them and be separate. That is the reason I don't go to the movies -- or to the barn dance, or the square dance, or the round dance, or any shaped dance. Because the Bible says, ***"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."***

That's the reason that I don't go to the bar, not even to drink a Pepsi. The Bible says, ***"Come out from among them and be separate."***

That's the reason I don't join the local ministerial union. Because the Bible says, ***"Come out from among them, and be ye separate..."***

We could go on and on and on. I'm not talking about isolation. I'm talking about separation. God NEVER said, "When you get saved, stay in..."

I preached in a meeting just recently in a good church. They are in the process of pulling out of the liberal convention. When they do that, they are going to have to go and look for another building and property is owned by the convention, and there is some kind of a lien clause on almost every church in the country in that convention. And that clause says that if you disassociate with the convention, your property goes back to the convention.

That church does not support the liberalism within their convention, but they are pulling out because the Bible says, "Come out..." from infidels and unbelievers, "...and be ye separate."

There is another thing I am supposed to do with reference to the world, and that is found in the same chapter (II Corinthians 6:17). That is, ***"...TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN..."*** The word "thing" in that verse is in italics. It was inserted by the translators. ***"Touch. not the unclean..."*** That's thing or person.

Don't yoke up with unbelievers. Come out from among them and be separate. Touch not the unclean thing. And Ephesians 5:11 says, ***"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness..."***

Now how are we to do that? How am I to put myself in the place and in the frame of mind, to walk and order my behavior, in such a manner as not have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness? How do I do that?

Look at II Corinthians chapter three, and we will see how. Jesus died to set you free. There is a concrete lady that we got from France that stands over there in New York harbor. That is our Statue of Liberty. She stands for the liberty that our country is supposed to enjoy.

There were three crosses on Golgotha's hill two thousand years ago. One contained an unrepentant thief. One held a repentant thief. The one in the middle, the one that our Savior was crucified on, is our STATUE OF

LIBERTY. That is why He died. He died to set us free from the penalty of sin -- liberty. He died to set us free from the power of sin -- liberty. He died to give us LIBERTY in Jesus Christ, to free us from the demands of law of sin. Now look at II Corinthians 3:17, ***“Now the Lord IS that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, THERE is liberty.”*** Wait a minute! Who is the enemy: the world, for one.

Now look at the next verse, ***“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord...”*** Well, that means that I am supposed to be able to look in the mirror and see an image of Christ. Because I am supposed to be LIKE Him

And it says, ***“...We are changed into the same image from glory to glory. EVEN AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.”*** How do you overcome the world? How do you come out from among them and be separate? How do you learn to touch not the unclean thing? How do you learn to not yoke up with unbelievers, and live by a philosophy and frame of mind that would not allow me to be comfortably even thinking about yoking up in an unscriptural tie with the lost? The Bible says, ***“...by the Spirit of the Lord.”***

He, the Holy Spirit, is the KEY to the spiritual life. We are to rely on Him!

Let's look at the three responses the Bible gives to the FLESH, the old nature. Number one, Romans 8:13 says, ***“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye THROUGH THE SPIRIT do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”***

Do you know what we do? We try to do it in the flesh. Without relying on the Holy Spirit, we try to chop off this and chop off that. That is the very reason that when a man gets saved, he has a hard time giving up his liquor. Because he doesn't rely on the Holy Spirit. And that's the very reason that when a man gets saved he has a hard time giving up ANY evil habit. It is because he hasn't learned to rely on the Spirit of God. He wants to do it so bad, but he plunges in and tries to do it in his own energy.

The best Nicoban I know of is the Holy Spirit. Yield to the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, walk in the Spirit. That is, by means of the Holy Spirit, order your life (Galatians 5:16).

Thirdly, don't give the old nature an open door. What does that mean? For instance, if you are prone to listening to gossip, don't hang around those that gossip. You can't stop the birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from making nests in your hair -- those of you have some.

If you are prone to falling to the temptation of liquor, don't go places where they sell and serve it, or where people drink it. If you are prone to immorality, don't hang around the stores that sell dirty books. You shouldn't hang around them anyway. Don't hang around people who ARE prone to immorality.

Romans 14:13, “...***Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill it in the lusts thereof.***” It doesn't say, “Don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” It says, “Don't even provide an open door, an opportunity, for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.”

That's why mixed bathing, for instance, is wrong. I'm not against mixed bathing; I am against mixed nudity. If you want to put your clothes on, that's fine! But when you go swimming where people go in suits that cover less than their underwear covers, then you are providing your flesh an opportunity to lust -- and Jesus called that committing adultery in your heart. That's why we don't go to the beaches and public pools. Because the Bible says, “***Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill it in the lusts thereof.***”

You say, “Well, it doesn't bother me to see a woman in a bathing suit.” If it doesn't bother you, you need to get a check up! Don't give the old nature an open door. Don't put yourself in a position where you might be tempted to fall.

That is how you battle the flesh. That is the mechanics of it, but let's look at the underlying principle of it. Look at 11 Corinthians 3:17 and 18 again, “***Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are CHANGED INTO (HIS) IMAGE...BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.***” Learn to rely on the Holy Spirit.

Let's go to the last one. The third reason to rely on the Holy Spirit is: the Devil. What does the Bible say I can do to overcome the Devil? The first three you will find in Revelation 12:11, “***And they overcame him, by the blood of, the Lamb...***” That means, get your salvation nailed down. We are saved, redeemed, by the blood of Christ, the Lamb. We are born again by the blood. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin, I John 1:7; Hebrews 9:17, and a host of other passages. Get your salvation nailed down so you don't have to worry about it anymore.

Secondly, “... ***and by the WORD of their testimony...***” It doesn't say, “by their testimony,” or “by their lifestyle.” It says, “by the WORD of their testimony...”

A word is an expression of thought. Just thinking about the Christian life is not what brings you victory. It is the SPEAKING... There is

something that God does miraculously in and to and through the heart of a person who will obey the Great Commission, which is merely a consummation of all the desire that God has. There is something about the power and ability to overcome that God gives to those who are obedient about being His mouthpiece in giving the Word.

Then, thirdly, in the same verse, surrender. That's not sinless perfection. That is an attitude of submission. *"All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give. ... Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way...."*

Revelation 12:11 again, *"...they loved not their lives, even unto death."*

There is another response that we are to have toward Satanic attack. That is found in James 4:7, *"Submit yourselves to God; resist the Devil, and he will flee from you."* Resist him. Push him away. Tell him, "No." Resist the Devil.

Now, those are the human responses. What is the underlying principle that gives me victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil? Well, look at II Corinthians chapter three again. Let's look at verses 17 and 18 once again, *"Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LIBERTY..."* over the world; LIBERTY over the flesh; LIBERTY over the Devil!

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image (the image of Christ) from glory to glory, EVEN AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD."

The Holy Spirit is the key! How is it done? Relying on the Holy Spirit! The Bible says that you must be in agreement with the Holy Spirit. Remember, sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Saying no to the will of God quenches the Holy Spirit. It hinders His operation and effectiveness.

An attitude of positive reliance on the Holy Spirit, so that God can give you that God-honoring quality of life -- that is what spirituality is all about.

CONFESSION AND CLEANSING

John 13, beginning with verse 1, *“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him.”*

Judas Iscariot was, in a very real sense, the Devil incarnate — much like Jesus was God incarnate, in human flesh. Jesus said about Judas, “He had a Devil from the beginning.” And the Bible says here that the Devil now put -- the word “*put*,” here, is the word “cast; to throw” -- the Devil now having cast into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus.

Then verse three, *“Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he was come from God, and went to God: He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments: and took a towel, and girded himself.”*

In the Greek language, the word translated “girded” means “to gird tightly,” not just to wrap around loosely. When a servant was going to wait upon somebody in the house, he would gird himself tightly with a towel, and then carry food or something else in his hands to wait on the guests. And this is the Lord Jesus taking the place of a servant at the end of supper.

Then verse five says, *“After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter said unto him, Lord, doest thou wash my feet?”*

The emphasis here in the Bible language is on the word “my.” Peter said, “Lord, are you really going to wash MY feet? You are God incarnate in human flesh. I’m a sinner. Are you going to wash MY feet?”

Verse seven, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”*

I thought about preaching a message on that one phrase, that one sentence that Jesus spoke; only taking it out of its context, using the application: What God is doing in your life now, you don’t know. You know what He is doing, but you may not know what He is up to. You don’t see the whole picture, the big picture. You don’t know what He is doing now; but there is coming a day when you will know what He is doing. You will be able to look back and say, “Oh, that’s what He was doing.”

“Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”

The word “never,” here is a double negative again. One of the negative words means, “never ever.” The other word means, “forever.” And what Peter is saying is, “You will by no means forever wash my feet.” He wasn’t being mean here. He was expressing zeal without knowledge. And it was a zeal that did not come from a spiritual heart, but it was expressing zeal without knowledge.

“Jesus answered, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed (or, has already been washed) needeth not, save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.”

If you are saved, you have already been washed; washed by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). You are washed in the blood of the Lamb of God. All you need to do now is to wash your feet every now and again. You don’t need to be saved over again, just to wash your feet that are soiled by this old dirty world.

Jesus tenderly rebukes Peter’s ignorance.

“For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.”

(Prayer)

We are studying in this section: CONFESSION AND CLEANSING. We’re not going to take a long time going through this particular passage. We have sort of commented on it as we read it together.

You will notice, if you know much at all about the life and ministry of Jesus, that some of the greatest words that Jesus spoke, He spoke at supper time. I speak some tremendous words of wisdom at supper time, “Pass the potatoes, please! Pass the beans, please.” (Laughter!!) Some of the greatest and wisest things that were spoken by the Saviour were spoken at supper time.

In Bible times, and even today in Bible lands, when you sit down and fellowship with somebody around the table, it is a time of intimacy. It wasn’t merely a time to eat and get nourishment. It was a time of fellowship, a time of communion, intimacy. And if you will study the life of Jesus, you will find that many times the Bible talks about when He stopped and sat

around the table with somebody. I think of Jesus at the marriage supper in John 2 turning water into wine.

I think of Jesus going to Matthew's supper to win people to salvation. Jesus' ministry ended with a supper. The last Ordinance that Jesus gave to the Church was the Lord's SUPPER. He gave first the Ordinance of Baptism, and then He gave the Lord's SUPPER. In Revelation 3:20, He said, ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and will open the door, I will come in to him and will SUP (EAT) with him."***

The second event that takes place after the Rapture of the Church is a supper. And I am saying that much of what Jesus did, He did around the meal table. Boy, I like that!

There are a number of things that you can learn from the surface of this particular story. You will find in this passage that Jesus was a very humble, hospitable Person, with a servant's heart. He was God incarnate in human flesh. He didn't have to take off His outer coat, wrap Himself in a towel, and wash the dirty, smelly feet of the disciples. But He did. He was God incarnate in human flesh being hospitable and demonstrating a servant's heart in washing the feet of sinful men.

You will find a number of things about Jesus in this passage. But let's bypass much of that and get specifically down to the meat of the teaching of these verses.

In our story, Jesus rose up from supper, laid aside His garment, and put around Himself a towel, became a servant to the disciples. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet. He then took the towel and dried their feet for them.

He eventually got around to Peter. And Peter, with much more zeal than he had knowledge, said, "Lord, your're not going to wash my feet! I am the one who ought to be serving you."

That's almost like what John the Baptist said when he said, "One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose."

In Peter's case, it was a demonstration of some zeal, but not quite according to knowledge. He said, "Lord, your're not going to wash my feet."

And Jesus tenderly rebuked him by saying, "What I do, Peter, you don't know right now. But there is coming a day when you will understand what I am doing."

Then verse eight tells us that Peter said to Him, ***"Lord, you will never wash my feet!"***

And Jesus said, “Peter, if I don’t wash your feet, you don’t have any part with me.”

Peter was madly in love with the Lord Jesus, but once again, he had a lot of immature zeal. And Peter said, “Then, Lord, wash me from head to toe. Wash every bit of me. Wash me. If the more you wash me the more part I can have with you, wash me from head to toe.”

And then Jesus straightened him out a little bit on his theology, and said, ***“He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet...”***

Now, the Bible talks about salvation as being a washing. Never does it speak of salvation as being a washing in physical water. Baptism does not save. But it does speak of salvation as being ***“the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost”*** (Titus 3:5).

So when Jesus told Peter that he had already been washed completely, He was saying, “You have already been saved. And those who have been saved don’t need to be saved again. You don’t need to be cleansed and washed all over, but you do need periodically to wash your feet, that part of you which comes in constant contact with the world -- that part of you which gets the dirt of the earth on it.” In those days, the roads were all dirt roads, and the shoes were all sandals. Their feet got dirty very often, and it was the common custom when you walked into someone’s house, and if they were hospitable they would wash your feet for you.

I find in this passage a tremendous lesson on CONFESSION AND CLEANSING in the life of a child of God. There are periodic times, more often that what we realize, when we need to have our feet washed. That is part of us which comes in contact with the world, and with unholiness. The Bible says, ***“Touch not the unclean thing...”*** And you and I know this, but although we are not OF the world, we are IN the world. We do touch the lives of others, and they do touch us. We are surrounded by worldliness. We are surrounded by ungodly philosophies. We are surrounded by humanism on every hand, on every advertisement, etc.. Everything you watch on television, everything you listen to on the radio, all if it is infiltrated by humanism and worldliness. As a result, there comes a time when periodically we need to have our feet washed.

Now I want to bring out a number of things about CONFESSION AND CLEANSING. I think the first thing we learn from this passage is that ONLY JESUS CAN CLEANSE US.

Now the Bible talks about a two-fold cleansing in this passage: A CLEANSING OF THE WHOLE PERSON, and that is salvation. Isaiah 1:18 says, ***“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your***

sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; through they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

We have already quoted Titus 3:5, which talks about *"the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."* That is a JUDICIAL cleansing. That is a washing of the whole person. That is a picture of salvation.

But the other washing in this passage is a PARTIAL WASHING. That's a I John 1:7 washing, *"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin."*

That cleansing is not an entire cleansing, in I John 1:7. That cleansing is a foot cleansing. It is a partial cleansing. It is a I John 1:9 cleansing, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness."*

This business of being cleansed once and for all, as far as your salvation is concerned, and then partially cleansed as you touch the world, and need to be cleansed, is pictured in the Old Testament. We'll not take the time to look them up, but in Exodus 29:4 we find that when a high priest entered the priesthood, he had to be washed. He had to take a ceremonial bath. From head to toe, every inch, he had to be washed and cleansed thoroughly. And that pictured the washing, the cleansing, that takes place at salvation.

However, in Exodus 30:17-21, you will find that every single time that the high priest went into the Tabernacle, and into the Holy Place and then into Holiest of Holies -- before he got too far he had to stop at the laver and take a partial washing. That's a picture of the confession and cleansing that I John 1:7 and 9 talk about.

Now, there is only one condition in the Bible for fellowship with God. There is only one condition for forgiveness of our sins. Only one condition in the Bible for cleansing from sin, and that condition is CONFESSION. I John 1:7, *"If, we walk in the light..."* You will notice that He did not say that you have to BECOME the light -- just walk in it, that's all.

"If we walk in the light, as He (Jesus) is in the light, we (me and Jesus) have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Verse 9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleans us from all unrighteousness."*

Now, this whole passage in I John chapter one is about FELLOWSHIP. You will find the word "fellowship" twice in verse 3, once in

verse 6, once in verse 7. Four times in three verses is the word “fellowship.” The entire book of I John is about fellowship.

If you stop to think about the twelve Apostles, and ask yourself which of the 12 would have been most qualified after 3 1/2 years with Jesus to teach about unbroken fellowship, who would it have been? Why, it would have been John the Apostle, would it not? He’s the one who is found always lying on the breast of Jesus. He is the one whom the Bible calls “the other disciple, that disciple whom Jesus loved.”

Peter, James, and John: those three were on the ‘inner circle,’ and John was the main one. He was closer to the Son of God than any of the other eleven. In fact, he pictures that in verse one of I John 1. He said, ***“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of life.”***

Verse 3, ***“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, THAT YE ALSO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US: AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”***

If anybody was qualified to testify of fellowship with Christ, it was certainly John. You will notice that God does not DEMAND for fellowship. He does not DEMAND sinlessness.

There are many places in the Bible where it says, for instance, ***“Go and sin no more.”*** But God did not say in verse 7, “If we BECOME the light...” He said, ***“if we WALK IN the light...”***

The word “walk,” here, is in the continual sense. “If we will continually, willfully walk in the light...” We might do wrong along the way - we will confess and get right. We might stray -- we’ll confess and get right. We might entertain evil thoughts -- we confess and get right. We might speak out of sorts -- we confess and get right. But He said, ***“I we walk in the light, as He is in the light...”***

God is not demanding sinlessness here; He is demanding confession. Now, there is only one condition for the cure of the effects of sin in the Christian’s life, and that is CONFESSION.

If you will read verse 9 you will find that there are two things about God’s nature that cause Him to forgive you of your sins when you confess them to Him. It is not His love that causes Him to forgive and cleanse you. It is not His compassion that causes Him to forgive you. It is not His pity or His mercy, that makes Him forgive the erring child of His. But, it is His FAITHFULNESS, and His JUSTICE.

God said in verse 9, ***"If we confess our sins, He (God) is FAITHFUL and JUST to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

Now, wait a minute! FAITHFULNESS and JUSTICE don't forgive -- LOVE and MERCY forgive! Why did God say here that He forgives us based on His FAITHFULNESS and His JUSTICE? If we got God's faithfulness and God's justice, we would all be banished to an eternity without Him--in Hell!

What is the answer? Well, here it is: **GOD HAS PROMISED TO FORGIVE AND CLEANSE OUR CONFESSED SINS. AND SINCE THE PROMISE HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, JUSTICE AND FAITHFULNESS CARRY IT OUT! GOD IS FAITHFUL TO DO WHAT HE HAS PROMISED. AND GOD IS JUST NOT TO EXACT FROM THE OFFENDER A PENALTY ALREADY BORNE IN HIS BEHALF BY GOD'S OWN SON!! Hallelujah!!!! What a Savior!!!!**

In other words, neighbor, if I sincerely confess a sin to Him, and He DOESN'T forgive and cleanse me -- then He is unfaithful and unjust! God's faithfulness and justice cause Him to forgive the confessing Christian.

In the human realm, to forgive means to "lift the penalty." Let's suppose that Betty and Don (a couple in the Church) have a fight. They've probably never had one in their lives! (Laughter!!)

Let's suppose they have a fight. And let's suppose it is Don's fault. And Betty has a penalty to give Don for "erring" against her. And that penalty might be, "I'm not going to talk to you now!"

What happens when Betty FORGIVES Don for "sinning" against her? She merely lifts the penalty. That is all you can do! You can't go back and undo what has already been done. You can't go back and undo history. You can't change the past.

And so when a human being forgives another human being, it is merely a matter of LIFTING THE PENALTY. "I remember what you did, and I don't have the power to blot it out of my memory, but I am going to ACT as though you had never done that. I'm going to lift the penalty that I have placed upon you for sinning against me." That is human forgiveness.

However, DIVINE FORGIVENESS is different. Divine forgiveness -- or God forgiving the erring one -- IS NEVER AN ACT OF lenience. I repeat: **GOD FORGIVING A SINNING HUMAN BEING -- SAVED OR UNSAVED -- IS NEVER AN ACT OF LENIENCE!**

Why? Because God cannot righteously forgive until the full satisfaction of His holiness against that sin has been met. Let me ask you a

question. What is the wages of sin? What is the only penalty of sin that satisfies God? ***“The wages of sin is DEATH.”*** (Romans 6:23).

“The soul that sinneth, it must surely DIE.”

There is only ONE payment for sin, and that is DEATH, separation from God! Picture a sinner: God cannot forgive that sinner and save Him until His holy, just demands on sin have been met. So the sinner goes to Calvary, where they were met, and gets forgiven. That is judicial forgiveness, judicial cleansing, whole cleansing.

However, when a Christian, a child of God, born into the family of God by the new birth, sins, God cannot forgive you and me until the just demands of His holiness have been met against that sin! So what do I do as the sinning Christian? I go to Calvary! NOT to get saved again; BUT to “wash my feet!” NOT to be washed all over again, but merely to wash that portion that has been stained and soiled by the world. And I get family forgiveness there, too -- at the same place: Calvary!

I’m saying that God’s forgiveness is never an act of lenience. Now the word for “forgiveness” is a word that means “remission.” It has to do with God separating the sin from the sinner.

When Jesus died on the cross for your sins, He TOOK AWAY your sins. When you got saved, He took away your sins. NOW that you are saved, God is in the process of taking YOU away from your sins! And that is the difference between “judicial” forgiveness and “family” forgiveness.

True confession must be prompted by heart repentance. How many times have you sinned, and then real quickly, without even thinking about the evil of what you had done in your heart you just sort of lightly and superficially prayed, “Dear God, forgive me. I’ve sinned. I’m sorry” -- and then wondered why you felt guilty about it again later on?

One of two things has happened. Either you have confessed and gotten forgiveness and cleansing, and the Devil is intimidating you -- OR, your confession was not prompted by heart repentance. Did you know, my precious friend, that repentance is necessary for salvation; but the Bible talks about individual repentance, and it talks about group repentance. A nation can repent. A church can repent. And an individual can repent.

Then there is also repentance unto salvation; and there is repentance by a person who is already saved. The word “repent” merely means “to change the mind.” It is a turning in the heart and mind to God. TRUE confession has got to be prompted by the repentance in the heart of the Christians. I’m saying, my friend, that when you are going to confess a thing to God, you need to spend a little time with Him in your heart dwelling on

how that sin has violated the holiness of Almighty God. Only then can you really confess with a heart—felt repentance.

Now, the word “confess” is the Greek word “homo-logeo.” “Homo” means the same. “Logeo” means “to speak or to say.” You don’t get forgiven when you ask for forgiveness. No place does the Bible ever say, “He that asks for forgiveness will get it. You get forgiveness when you “confess,” when you “say the same thing” about your sin that God says.

And that is not just with your lips; that’s with your heart. In order to say the same thing with your heart that God says about your sin, you must feel the guilt and awfulness of your sin. Now, according to the Bible, there is only one thing that will save a sinning Christian from chastisement. The Bible teaches in Hebrews 12:5-11 that God spans all of his erring children. And there is only one thing that will save a believer from chastisement.

Let’s look at I Corinthians chapter 11. Paul was talking in this passage to the Corinthian saints about the order of the Lord’s supper. He was rebuking them for their misuse of the Lord’s supper. Some were getting drunk. Some were just taking it lightly. And Paul said, because of this, “...*many are sick, many are weak, and many*” have died -- sin unto death.

Then Paul capsules this whole thing by saying in verses 31 and 32, “*If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*” By whom? By God.

“But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”

Now what is Paul saying? He is saying that when you sin, as a Christian, God the Father will wait at first for you to judge yourself. Have you ever sinned, and then you were not chastened immediately -- it came later on? And God is saying, that when we sin He will wait and watch us and give us an opportunity to repent -- He’ll give us an opportunity to dwell on what we have done, and to come to Him and confess to Him. But He said if we don’t come, then He will spank us. That’s what He is saying in verses 31 and 32.

“if we would judge ourselves, God won’t have to judge us.”
When He does judge us, He chastens us for our sin.

When God chastens, when God spans His children, He has a definite purpose in view. That purpose is THAT YOU AND I MIGHT BE MORE LIKE CHRIST. We are never condemned for our sins.

Many times parents make that mistake when they spank the children for their disobedience. You ought to spank your children -- you should spank them consistently, firmly, lovingly, in a quiet spirit of authority,

and you ought to be consistent and firm about it -- that is what the Bible teaches. However, one mistake that we parents sometimes make is, we condemn the child when we discipline him. We are to **CONDONE** the child while **CONDEMNING** the sin.

That is what Jesus did. Jesus never condemned the sinner. He condoned the sinner. He said to the woman caught in the act of adultery, ***“Woman, where are thine accusers?”***

She said, ***“No man, Lord,”***

He said, ***“Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more.”***

What was He doing? He was not condoning the sin. He was condemning the sin -- but He was condoning the sinner.

And God does that with us in the Father-child relationship. He never condemns us, but He does chasten us.

Chastisement is God’s correction and training of a sinning child of His. We’re not going to take the time to study Hebrews 12:5-11, but you will notice that that passage says that God spans every child whom He receives. Nobody -- nobody -- **NOBODY** -- who is saved gets by and doesn’t get spanked. The Bible says, ***“If any man be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”***

The question is asked: How does God spank? Well, God spans in a number of ways. Sometimes He spans through a loss of health. That doesn’t mean that every person that is sick is being spanked by God. Sometimes sickness is the will of God, for His own glory. But sometimes God spans through loss of health. He gave sickness to some of the Corinthian saints for misusing the Lord’s supper.

Sometimes lie chastens by a loss of property. Again, that doesn’t mean that everybody who is poor is being chastened by God, or everyone who has a house burn down is being spanked by God. That is not necessarily so. But certainly, if that ever happens to me, I ought to question to see if my heart is right with God.

The fact is, sometimes God does spank through a loss of property. In Amos 4:6 God spanked the Israelites by withholding from them property that would have otherwise been theirs. And if God did it with them, He will do it with you.

Sometimes God spans through a loss of loved ones. Ask King David all about it. David sinned with Bathsheba, and God took his baby. Now, again, that doesn’t mean that every time a relative or loved one dies that God is spanking you. It doesn’t mean that at all! But sometimes He does.

By the way, if it happens to me, you shouldn't question, "I wonder if Andy has sinned." But I ought to question it. And if it happens to you, I shouldn't ask, "I wonder if you have sinned?" But YOU ought to question it.

Sometimes God spans through a loss of life. I John 5:16 says, ***"There IS a sin unto death."***

Sometimes God spans merely by a loss of joy. God takes the lilt, the spring, the joy of life away. And you have to pray with King David, ***"Restore unto me the JOY of thy salvation."*** This is usually one of the first ways God gets your attention.

But you remember that chastisement is God's correction. It is not punishment. God does not punish His children. Jesus took all of that on the cross two thousand years ago. There is only ONE punishment for sin, and that is death: separation from God. Jesus bore the punishment.

God corrects His children. PUNISHMENT is what you do TO somebody; CORRECTION is what you do FOR somebody. God does not punish His children, He corrects them. ***"There is therefore NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus..."*** (Romans 5:1).

Now let's take a look at two examples and then we're finished. First, look, at II Corinthians chapter seven. In I Corinthians, Paul had written to the saints at Corinth -- he had some stories from reliable sources. He had no doubt checked them out, and realized that they were true. So he wrote to the Corinthians, rebuking them for some sins. One sin he attacked was: in their midst they were tolerating immorality. A man was living in an immoral relationship with his step mother. And the Corinthian Church was not dealing with the problem -- they were just sort of letting it get by and not dealing with it.

Now, the Holy Spirit used Paul in I Corinthians to bring conviction. He rebukes them for it in I Corinthians chapter five, gave them instructions, and then in II Corinthians 7 we read that they had heeded his instruction, and had repented. They had done what he had suggested that they do.

You will notice that the Holy Spirit used Paul to bring conviction, and that repentance had a transforming affect on them. Remember, now, the word "repent" means "a change of mind." But you have never changed your mind about anything, but what it didn't ultimately change your actions also.

II Corinthians 7:8 says, ***"For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same***

epistle (First Corinthians) *hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.*”

Paul is saying, “When I wrote, by what I said you became sorrowful in your heart. And I might have had some second thoughts about having written to you at one time, but after thinking about it, I am not sorry that I wrote to you about the matter.

In verse 9 he said, “*Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance...*” He is talking to the saved, remember.

“*Ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...*” Now he is not talking about salvation of the soul, but rather deliverance, salvation, from the penalty of their actions. He is talking to those who are already saved.

“*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not ot be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort...*” So, what happened to these children of God? What happened to these believers in I Corinthians five?

They had tolerated sin in their midst — sin of the basest sort. They had not dealt with it, and Paul rebuked them for it. In their hearts was where the repentance took place. And IN YOUR HEART is where the confession must take place!

I wonder how many times we confess with our lips, but we don’t confess with our hearts -- and we wonder why five minutes we feel guilty about the thing again. Because that repentance is only real repentance when it is motivated by “godly sorrow” about a matter.

I think in the Old Testament about David. Look at Psalm 51. David was a saved man when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and conspired to have her husband, Uriah, killed. Psalm 51 is the expression of David’s confession. Let’s read the first three verses: “*Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my TRANSGRESSIONS. Wash me thoroughloy from mine INIQUITY, and cleanse me from my SIN. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sins is ever before me.*”

You will notice three different words used to describe David’s sin. He used three different words to describe his deed. These three words illustrate three different aspects of sin.

One word that he used, the first word, is the word TRANSGRESSION. He said, “*Blot out my TRANSGRESSION...*” Let’s do

a little word study: The Hebrew word for “transgression” is “pasha.” It means “A SPIRIT OF DEFIANT DISOBEDIENCE AGAINST GOD.”

Isn't that what ALL sin is? And this word emphasizes not so much the breaking of the law (“sin is the transgression of the law”), not merely the violation of God's will or God's commandment; but, more than that, it emphasizes the attitude of defiance that is behind that sin. And that is what all sin is: a rejection of God's right to rule over us. “Transgression is a spirit of defiant disobedience against God.

When I was preaching in a Church in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, one day, two ladies got up after the song service and went out and sat on the stairs so they wouldn't have to listen to the preaching. They did this constantly! We don't have any ladies that do that here.. just three Deacons. (Laughter!!)

I was preaching, and I don't know what possessed me -- maybe I know Who. but I don't know what, possessed me -- but while I was preaching I was using the illustration of those two ladies who would leave in defiant disobedience against the Word of God. I was talking about how some folks dig their heels in before they ever sit down. They are determined with a defiant attitude, “I'm not going to do whatever the preacher says, even if it IS in the Bible!” They are determined. They have already dug their heels in about the thing!

I was preaching. In the middle of my sermon, this guy with sort of a ‘dippity-do’ hair cut -- he played the piano, was the son-in-law of the former pastor -- he jumped and screamed out, “I'm digging my heels in!” And he got so mad that he left hurriedly, and later had to come back and get his family -- he was so mad he stormed out, forgetting his own family.

Now, what was that? Long before he ever said a word, there was a spirit of defiant disobedience. And, neighbor, you mark it down: There is a spirit of defiant disobedience that underlies all sin.

Let me give you this illustration. This might put it a little closer to home, though I hope not. Here is a fellow who goes out and buys a “fuzz buster.” That's not an electric shaver. It is a radar detector.

Here's a guy who buys a radar detector. Why does he buy it? Because he wants to get away with breaking the law. If he accidentally breaks the law, he still wants something to get him out of the penalty of breaking the law.

Now, let's suppose that guy never speeds. That doesn't make any difference. What has he got in his heart? A spirit of defiant disobedience. In some states they are outlawed. They ought to be outlawed in every state.

Anyway, that is what the word “transgression” illustrate: “Pasha.” It is a “spirit of defiant disobedience.” By the way, that’s whether God says, “Don’t do this,” and you in your heart want to do it -- or God says, “Do this,” and you in your heart don’t want to do it. It is still the spirit of defiance, whether you act it out or not.

It is sort of like when David said, ***“If, I REGARD iniquity in my heart.”*** He said, “If I even have the ATTITUDE of defiance, whether I ever commit the sin or not, God will not hear me.” It is the spirit of defiance against God.

Then there is another word that David used in Psalm 51, and it is found in verse number two. It is the word “INIQUITY.” ***“Wash me thoroughly from mine INIQUITY...”***

While “transgression is “pasha,” “iniquity” is “awon” in the Hebrew. And it means “a perversion or distortion of that which is right.”

Most sin, when acted out is merely right done at the wrong time. That’s what immorality is. It is right done before, or outside the bonds of, marriage. If it were done within the bounds of marriage, it would be holy and beautiful.

Most sin is nothing more than a distortion of that which is right. This is not talking so much about the attitude of sin, not even the action of disobeying the law of God. It is talking about taking something that is meant to be good, and doing that thing in a distorted manner so as to make it evil.

Then there is a third word David used in Psalm 51. That is the word “sin” found in verses two and three. ***“Cleanse me from my SIN...my SIN is ever before me.”***

Where “transgression” is the Hebrew word “pasha,” a spirit of defiance against God, the attitude; and where “iniquity” is the word “awon,” a distortion or perversion of that which is right, a changing of right into wrong: “SIN” is the word “chattah.” And it is the Hebrew word that means, “a missing the mark; a deficiency with respect to intent or purpose.”

This is not merely the action. It is illustrated in part by Romans 3:23, ***“...all have sinned, and COME SHORT of the glory of God.”***

That is sort of a picture of an archer shooting his arrow at the bulls-eye in the target, but his arrow falls short -- it hasn’t gone quite far enough.

But that is only part of this word. “Sin” means a “missing the mark, a deficiency, not merely with respect to action, but with respect to the INTENTION...” Do you know, you can do the right thing for the wrong reason?

Let's suppose you sing in Church for the wrong reason. You are doing the right thing, but you do it for personal glory: sin. That's what the word "chattah" is. Preaching, same thing.

You can even go soul winning for the wrong reason. Now, it is better to do the right thing for the wrong reason, rather than having the wrong reason AND the wrong action. BUT, if the motive is distorted or perverted, it is still wrong. And that's what the word "sin" is. Chattah means "a deficiency with respect to intent or purpose."

Now you will notice that David, in his confession, was already saved. In verse 12 he said, ***"Restore to me the joy of ...salvation."*** You can't have the joy of salvation unless you have salvation. David was saved.

You will notice also that when David made his confession, he anticipated restoration. Look at verse 13, ***"THEN I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee."*** ***"THEN --*** when you have restored to me the joy, given me back the power of the Holy Spirit, when you have forgiven me of my sins, iniquities, and transgression -- ***THEN..."***

Really, all of what we have said thus far in this message is really nothing more than I John 1:9 in sort of a blown up form. ***"If, we. CONFESS..."*** Not with the head, but with the heart, with godly sorrow that leads us to not only confess it, but repent of it.

That is the very reason why many times we confess a sin and go right back to it again. Because we confessed it in our heads, but we didn't confess it down in our hearts.

God said, "If you will confess your sins, I will forgive you of your sins, and I will CLEANSE YOU OF YOUR SINS." Now, what is the difference?

Well, let's suppose Becky (my daughter) puts on a white dress that was bought for her for Easter. Let's suppose we tell her, "Becky, you may go outside, but you must stay on the porch. Don't get in the mud!"

But, you know Becky, she has been hanging around with the Deacons' kids and they've been rubbing off on her. (Laughter!!) She goes outside and she darts right for the mud hole. She goes straight for the mud.

She comes in. What does she get? Well, she gets chastened first. After the chastisement, she gets forgiveness because she prays and repents and gets it right.

But she is still dirty. She still ought not to go church in that condition -- better in that condition than not at all -- but she still needs to be cleaned up. Though she is forgiven, she is not cleansed. She still has the effects and results of that sin.

Cleansing is a CURING OF THE EFFECTS. What do we do? Toss her in the tub. When she starts to thrash in the tub because she doesn't like to take a bath, what do we do? We throw in the dirty laundry and add a cup of Tide. (Laughter!!) I'm saying, there is a difference between forgiveness and cleansing.

By the way, confession can come from the heart, and not from the lips, but it MUST come from the heart. God is more concerned about the heart attitude more than the lip service.

But it can also come from the lips and not from the heart. And one of the very reasons, if not THE foundational reason, that we confess with our mouth and then go right back to it again, is because we didn't give God time with an open heart to deal with that thing. Do you know what you ought to do about those things? You ought to steal away -- get alone in a prayer closet some time -- no distractions, no disturbances. Dwell on the Word of God, and let Him send deep conviction and reproof to your heart.

And then, as He does it, weep out that broken heart of confession and repentance, and God said, "I'll forgive, and I'll cleanse."

In Isaiah 1:18, by the way, there were a lot of believers that He wrote that to, as well as unbelievers. ***"Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."***

We have talked tonight about getting back into fellowship with God if you are out of fellowship. But how do you STAY in fellowship with God? There is a two-fold key to staying in fellowship with God.

(1) CONSTANT SELF EXAMINATION

"Dear God, is there anything at all in my heart -- show me, Holy Spirit -- is there anything at all that is not pleasing to Thee?" It takes constant self examination.

(2) QUICK CONFESSION

And that doesn't mean "fast" confession. It means "IMMEDIATE" confession.

The longer that dirt stays on the dress, the harder it is to get out. And the longer dirt stays in your heart, the more difficult it is to get out.

I was down at a Fellowship Meeting this last week in Monroe, North Carolina. I was wearing that double breasted coat that I have. They had

some Styrofoam trays in the Dining Hall that you got your food in. Now, when you pack those things, they have a tendency to bow in the middle. I had on one end of one of my tray a bowl of chili. I had on the other end a bowl of salad. In the middle, right on the top, I had a cup of coffee. I was walking to the table, and just as I got to the table, I reached down with one hand -- and all of a sudden that bowl of chili slid, and about a handful of that chili jumped out of the bowl and attacked my coat right here.

I forgave myself for spilling that chili. But my coat is still in the cleaners getting cleansed. There is a difference between forgiveness and cleansing. So if you don't get cleansed, you didn't confess thoroughly.

HOW TO CULTIVATE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMPANIONSHIP

Our Lesson today is on HOW TO CULTIVATE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMPANIONSHIP. Always keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is as much God as Jesus is. He is as much God as is the Father.

We have somewhere picked up some misleading terminology: "The First Person" of the Godhead is the Father; "the Second Person" is Jesus; and the Holy Spirit is "the Third Person." But the Bible doesn't use that language: "First, Second, and Third Person."

That language seems to indicate that the Son is less important than the Father, and the Holy Spirit is less important than the Son or the Father. But that is not true.

It's not: Father

Son

Holy Spirit.

It is: Father--Son—Holy Spirit.

One is just as much God as the other. Each One standing alone is 100% God. And that's the Trinity. Three Persons all completely God, and yet only one God. We don't understand that, but we know the Bible teaches that.

And the Holy Spirit, keep in mind, is as much God as the Father and the Son. Now, there is a place in the Bible where it says, "*Christ in you.*" In another place it says that the "*Father*" dwells in you. And yet there is another place where it says "*The Holy Spirit*" dwells in you. If you will keep in mind that all three Persons of the Godhead dwell in you IN THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, you won't have any trouble with that.

There are a number of things that you and I have got to actively do -- not things we have to sit back and passively learn -- things that we must actively do in order to cultivate a proper relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Bible warns us not to "*grieve*" the Holy Spirit, not to "*quench*" Him, not to hurt His feelings, not to drive Him off into a corner, not to hinder His power. And if we are going to get the benefits, if you pleas; from the Holy Spirit -- if He is going to have His work in us like He is supposed to have in us -- we have got to cultivate a proper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

How do you get promoted on the job? One way is to maintain a proper relationship with your boss. How do you get along good in your family life? You maintain and cultivate a proper relationship with one another. And

it's the same in any area of life, and it is true also of your spiritual life. You have got to learn to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

We have read the passages of Scripture that tell us why the Holy Spirit is come, and we have looked at Amos where it says, ***“Can two walk together, except the be agreed?”***

We are going to study in this message SEVEN THINGS that you have got to do in order to CULTIVATE THE COMPANIONSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Before we begin, let me make a couple of foundational statements. Why is it that when we pray, we often pray to the Father, we often pray to the Son, the Lord Jesus, but seldom do we address the Holy Spirit in our prayers? Why?

Did it ever occur to you that there is no jealousy in the Godhead? When you talk to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit do not get jealous. When you talk to the Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit are not jealous. And when you talk to the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son do not get jealous. There is no jealousy in the Godhead.

The truth of the matter is, my dear friend, the Holy Spirit is your closest Friend. You have no closer Friend. Let me illustrate: Where is the Father? Well, He is everywhere because He is omnipresent. But where is His headquarters presence? He is in Heaven seated on His throne.

Where is the Lord Jesus, God the Son? He is also everywhere because He is omnipresent. But where is His home, his local headquarters presence? He is also in Heaven, seated on the right hand of the Father's throne.

But, where is the Holy Spirit? Well, He is also omnipresent. therefore He is everywhere. But where is His local headquarters presence? Where does He live? HE LIVES IN THE BODY OF THE BELIEVER. Do you see what I am saying? THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR CLOSEST FRIEND. The Holy Spirit is with you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. He is always in you, and will never leave. He is your closest Friend.

Now, let's look at seven things that you must do in order to CULTIVATE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMPANIONSHIP.

1. BE THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

You MUST be convinced that the Holy Spirit, your closest Friend, is a real Person. You cannot cultivate His companionship if you are not convinced of His personality.

Did you ever try to fellowship with a tree? Did you ever try to fellowship with a rose bush? I don't suggest you get too close. Did you ever try to cultivate a companionship with a chair? Did you ever try to cultivate a companionship with an animal?

Now, you can be friends to an animal. You can love an animal. Compared to the Philippines, I go there every year, we treat animals like kings. Over there, out in the streets, they have all sorts of animals running wild: mules, water buffaloes, dogs, etc.. The dogs are as skinny as a rail. Everyone of them look like a dog skeleton with the skin stretched over them. All they get to eat is the food scraps that the Filipinos eat. In fact, if you ever see a fat dog, you can count on it, he will become somebody's dinner some day because over there they eat dogs.

But, the truth of the matter is, though you can share love even to a certain extent with an animal -- yet you cannot cultivate a real companionship with an animal. An animal does what he does out of instinct. He responds out of instinct. He is not a person. He doesn't possess intellect, emotions, and a will of his own, as a person does.

Now you can cultivate a proper relationship in the full sense of the word, including fellowship, only with another personal being. If that is the case, and it is, then in order to cultivate a proper relationship and companionship with the Holy Spirit, you must be fully convinced HE IS A REAL PERSON.

The "Jehovah's Witnesses," so-called, believe that the Holy spirit is nothing more than a force or a breath or an influence that God uses in the world. Now, one reason they believe that is, the word for Spirit in the Bible is the same word for "breath," "pneuma." The Holy Spirit is the "hagios pneuma."

However, if you will study what the Bible says about Him, you will find that He is more than a force. He is a real, living Person. He is as much a Person as God the Father and God the Son. In fact, the Bible says a lot about the Holy Spirit's personality.

A. HE CAN BE GRIEVED

In Ephesians 4:30 the Bible says, “*Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*” You cannot “grieve an inanimate object. You can only grieve someone with feelings, a person.

B. HE CAN BE LIED TO

The Bible says in Acts chapter five that the Holy Spirit can be lied to. In the first three verses Ananias came in and lied to Peter the Apostle about how much money he had given. God smote him dead and they took him out and buried him. Pretty soon Saphira, his wife, came in. She lied also. And Peter said, “*Why hath Satan filled thine heart to LIE unto the Holy Spirit?*” And in another verse Peter said, “*Ye have not lied unto man, but unto God.*”

Now, the truth is, you cannot lie to an inanimate object. You can only “lie” to a person. And the Bible says the Holy Spirit can be lied to. He is a Person.

C. HE CAN STRIVE

In Genesis 6:3 the Bible says the Holy Spirit can “strive.” That is, He can contend, He can fight. “*My Spirit shall not always STRIVE with man.*”

D. HE CAN TEACH

In John 14:26 Jesus said the Holy Spirit would “*TEACH you all things.*” A tree can’t teach. You can learn by studying a tree, but that tree cannot actively “teach” you anything. It must be an animate person in order for it to actively teach you.

E. HE GUIDES

In John 16:13 the Bible says the Holy Spirit “*speaks*” and “*guides you into all truth.*” Only a real, living, personal Being can do that.

F. HE GLORIFIES GOD

In John 16:14 the Bible says that the Holy Spirit “*glorifies God.*” The Holy Spirit, in and through us, as well as TO us, purposely brings glory to God.

G. HE COMFORTS

In John chapters fourteen through sixteen you will find numerous occasions where Jesus called the Holy Spirit our “*Comforter.*” He comforts us.

H. PERSONAL PRONOUNS USED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

All throughout the Bible, the Holy Spirit is spoken of being a “*He, Him, His,*” not “*it.*” Now you will find one place in Romans chapter eight, where our English Bible does refer to the Holy Spirit as “*it.*” However if you will study the language, you will find that it should be rendered “*He.*”

The first thing you MUST do in order to be able to cultivate the companionship of the Holy Spirit Who dwells within you, you have got to be fully convinced beyond doubt that He is a PERSON. He is not a force. He is not an influence. He is not some kind of a spirit-being way out in the sky somewhere. He is not a figment of someone’s imagination. He is not a subject of somebody’s theology. HE IS A REAL PERSON!!

He weeps. He cries. He laughs. He is made happy. He is made sad. He craves. He strives. He grieves. The Holy Spirit is a real Person! You must be convinced of that -- it is a Bible fact.

He is not only a real Person. He is God. Look at Acts chapter five. The first three verses say, “*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to LIE to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, BUT UNTO GOD.*”

Wait a minute. Verse three says they lied to the Holy Ghost. But in verse four Peter said they had lied TO GOD. Why does it say that? Because the Holy Spirit IS God, just like the Father and the Son is God.

But while you remember that He is God, and never minimize His Deity, remember also that He is a real Person. If you are not convinced of that, and if that ground work is not laid, then you cannot cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit. You cannot enjoy fellowship with one until you are convinced that that one is a real person.

2. BE ENGROSSED WITH JESUS CHRIST

Secondly, in order to cultivate a companionship with the Holy Spirit, you **MUST BE TOTALLY ENGROSSED WITH JESUS CHRIST**. What does that have to do with it? Well, the Bible says in John 16:14 that the Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ. What makes the Holy Spirit happy is when you partake and assist the Holy Spirit in His work.

You can cultivate a real relationship with one whom you can have a part in making happy. You cannot cultivate a companionship with one whom you make sad or angry. If you don't believe me, wait until you get home. Make your spouse angry, then try to cultivate his or her companionship. It just doesn't work that way. But you spend and be spent making that person happy and you will go a long way in cultivating an intimate companionship with that spouse. You must make the one whose companionship you want to cultivate happy.

The Bible says the Holy Spirit came to glorify Jesus (John 16:14). Therefore, if I become totally engrossed with Jesus Christ, I will make the Holy Spirit happy. And I will therefore be able to cultivate His companionship.

The Bible says in John chapter seven that we are to honor the Lord Jesus. John 7:37-39, ***“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”*** What was Jesus talking about? He was talking about the Holy Spirit.

In verse 39 the Holy Spirit interpreted what Jesus said, ***“But this spake of he OF THE SPIRIT, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost (at this time) was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.”***

Now, let's make an application to that passage. The Bible teaches that during the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did not indwell every believer.

You will find two or three times when the Bible say in the Old Testament something like, ***“Daniel...IN WHOM is the spirit.”*** Most of those

times, it is an unsaved person talking. But once in a while you will find the Holy spirit IN a person, but the Holy Spirit did not indwell in the Old Testament. More than indwelling, the Holy Spirit came upon believers for empowerment for service, and then left again until His enduement was needed again for another emergency of service. But He did not indwell believers until Jesus was glorified.

Now, some people think the Holy Spirit initially indwelt believers at the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. I think not. The Bible says here that the Holy Spirit would indwell believers when Jesus was **“glorified.”** When was Jesus “glorified?” When He arose from the dead, He then received His glorified body.

By the way, on the resurrection day, in John 21, the Bible says Jesus walked into the upper room, **“where the disciples were gathered together for fear of the Jews.”** and He breathed, **“pneuma,”** on them and said, **“Receive ye the Holy Spirit (hagios pneuma).”** He breathed on them and said, “Receive ye the Holy Spirit.”

Now, someone comes along and says, “But that is prophetic. He meant for that to happen on the Day of Pentecost.” Well, there is only one thing wrong with that. That is not what He said!

He said, **“Receive ye the Holy Spirit!”** And that is in the present tense. And they received the Holy Spirit.

THEN Christians were initially indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Then what was the significance of the Day of Pentecost? That was the “POWER” of God for soul winning and evangelism. Acts 1:5 and 8 show us that. That was the power of God for Christian service. That was not some kind of a Birthday of the Holy Spirit in believers.

But anyway, you will notice that the Holy Spirit would not come in His physical presence until Jesus was glorified. Now, if the mind of the Holy Spirit is not to come in His physical presence, until Jesus in His physical presence is honored or “glorified,” don’t you think the Holy Spirit will come in more power and influence in your life when, in your life, Jesus is “glorified.” If that’s what makes Him come!

I’m not talking about His local presence. EVERY believer has the Holy Spirit in His presence. However, you will have more of His power, and more of His influence, and more of His companionship if you will learn to be totally engrossed with the One Whom the Holy Spirit is sent to honor. **BECOME FULLY ENGROSSED WITH THE LORD JESUS.**

“Now,” you say, “Preacher, what IS ‘honoring Jesus’?”

Well, what is “honoring the Law?” Obeying the Law.

What is “honoring the policeman?” Obeying the policeman.

What is “honoring” your parents? Ephesians 6:1-3 says “obeying” them is “honoring” them. What does it mean to HONOR somebody? You treat them as precious and OBEY them!

If that is the case, THEN “HONORING” JESUS IS “OBEYING” JESUS. Someone who says, “Well, I’m just honoring Jesus,” but is not obeying what Jesus said to do -- that person is not honoring Jesus. If anything, he is DISHONORING Jesus by his disobedience.

In order to honor Jesus, you must do what He said to do. What did He say to do? ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”*** (Matthew 28:19). That is honoring Jesus.

Jesus said, ***“As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”*** He said, “Now, I am leaving. And I am now sending you to do exactly what the Father has sent me to do: seek and save the lost.”

Honoring Jesus is doing what He said to do. You will find that if you will get busy about the Master’s business of obeying specifically the Great Commission, you will have much more of the Holy Spirit’s companionship than you ever had before. MUCH MORE!

Honoring Jesus is, doing the thing which He has told you to do. Now, when you honor Jesus, the Holy Spirit becomes glad within you. He becomes happy and excited.

Look at John 16:13 and 14, ***“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. HE SHALL GLORIFY ME: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.”***

Why did the Holy Come? ***“HE SHALL GLORIFY ME...”***

Alright, if the Holy Spirit came to live in my body in order to glorify Christ in me == then if I will get involved in what the Holy Spirit is doing, if I will begin to allow the Holy Spirit to use ME to honor Jesus, it will make Him happy, won’t it?

When you honor the Lord Jesus, when you glorify Christ in your life, the Holy Spirit IN you get’s excited about that. He becomes glad. Let me ask you a question: If you make that One Who lives in you glad and happy, won’t you have better companionship with Him? You certainly will!

If you will go home and make your spouse happy, you will find it will put a little bit of honey back in the “honeymoon.” They say you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar. And that’s true. We are not

catching flies, but we are ‘catching’ companionship. You have got to learn to cultivate the companionship of the Holy Spirit, and you can’t do that unless you become engrossed with Jesus Christ. Because when you honor Jesus, the Holy Spirit becomes glad in you.

3. WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Watch your daily walk. Let’s look at Titus chapter two. Verse 12 says, *“Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts...”* Godliness is an attitude -- worldliness is an action, for the most part. We are to deny improper attitudes in our lives. We are to deny improper actions.

“That we “should live...” And then it gives three words to describe how we are to live. *“...Soberly...”* That has nothing to do with getting drunk.

“...Righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Those are three adverbs that tell us HOW we are supposed to live as God’s children. The Bible says that sin grieves the Holy Spirit. It displeases Him. Sin cuts short, or quenches, makes ineffective, His power and ministry to and through the believer.

If sin grieves Him, then righteousness will help you to cultivate a closeness to Him. Notice the three words that describe how we are supposed to live.

(1) SOBERLY. The Bible says we are to live *“soberly.”* The word “sober” in the Bible refers to THE EXERCISE OF SELF-RESTRAINT THAT GOVERNS ALL PASSIONS AND DESIRES.

That is the opposite of letting your morals, and thoughts, and desires be thrown to the wind. That’s the opposite of, “If it feels good, do it.”

That is God’s way of saying, “If it is RIGHT, do it.”

When I live soberly, I am relating to myself. Soberness in the Christian life is an inward attitude that is expressed in a right relationship with my innermost being. Living soberly has to do with my own passions and desires. The result is seen by others, it will affect my relationships with others, but when I live soberly I am relating to myself.

(2) RIGHTEOUSLY. What does the word “righteous” mean? Well, what is the root word of “righteous?” The root word is “right.”

“Righteous” means “right—wise.” I am to live “right—wise.”

“Soberly” has to do with my relationship with myself. “Righteously” has to do with my relationship with others. If I am living right-

wise, in a right manner, I will treat you like you ought to be treated. My social relationships with others will be right.

So the Bible says we are to live “soberly,” and that has to do with self. We are to live “righteously,” and that has to do with each other.

(3) GODLY. What does it mean to be “godly.” It means to have a “God-ward” attitude. It means to recognize His presence, walk in His fellowship, and dwell in His power. It has to do with a God-ward attitude.

Everything that we do ought to be motivated by the fact that God IS. Now, “soberly” has to do with myself; “righteously” has to do with my fellow man; and “godly” has to do with God.

Let me ask you a question: Can you purposely violate God’s will for your life style and be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit? Of course not! If that is the case, then in order for you to cultivate a companionship with the Holy Spirit -- not only must you be convinced that He is a real Person with feelings; not only must you be totally engrossed with Jesus Christ and honoring Him; but you must also learn to walk soberly, righteously, and godly.

Soberly — the exercise of that self—restraint that governs all passions and desires.

Righteously -- right-wise.

Godly -- having a God-ward attitude.

4. MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS A CLEAN SANCTUARY.

Make your thoughts a clean “sanctuary.”

Somebody has said that your brain, or your mind, is the computer that controls your body. And that is true. But there is not a computer in the world that can compare with the one that God built in your head. There’s not a comparison in the world.

The mind is absolutely something that medical science have never been able to understand. The more they try, the farther away they get. All the doctors in the world will never understand and figure out the workings of the human mind. It seems like the harder we try to understand the human psyche, the farther away we get from the truth.

But the Bible does say a lot about your thoughts. Your thoughts are those things which develop your attitude, which in turn develops your actions. The Bible says a lot about your thoughts.

To God, your thoughts are real, tangible things. They are not immaterial to Him. Your thoughts are the decorations that decorate the sanctuary of your body, where God the Holy Ghost lives. The Bible says in I Corinthians 6:19, 20, ***“What? Know ye not that your body is the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which you have of God...”***

Now, the word “temple” doesn’t mean “house.” although He does live there. Romans 8 says, ***“If any man have not the Holy Spirit, he is none of His.”***

It means “shrine,” or “sanctuary.” In some more formal churches they call the church auditorium the “sanctuary,” because they consider it a holy place. In the Old Testament that was true. The Temple, or the Sanctuary where God lives, is the Holy of Holies. The Holy Spirit lives today in you, the believer.

The Holy of Holies in the Christian is your spirit. He dwells in your body; inside of your body is your soul; and inside of your soul is your spirit. That’s where the Holy Spirit lives: in your God-consciousness.

Your thoughts are the things that decorate that Sanctuary. They are real things to God. They are the decorations inside the Sanctuary, where He lives. Your thoughts decide the mood, weather, and climate of your life.

What is it that determines your motives, your attitudes, your goals, your climate? What is it that determines all of that? It is YOUR THOUGHTS! You can take two people with the same intellect, the same education, the same opportunities, the same family, the same blood -- put them in a room together, and the whole climate of their two lives are entirely different. Why? Because of their thoughts. The things that you have put, or allowed to enter, into your mind decide the mood, weather, and climate of your life.

Proverbs 4:23, ***“Out of the heart (thoughts) flow the issues of life.”*** The Bible says, ***“As a man THINKETH in his heart, so is he.”***

Philippians 4:8 says, ***“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS.”***

What kinds of things are we supposed to think on? Things that are TRUE. Things that are HONEST. Things that are JUST. Things that are PURE. Things that are LOVELY. Things that are OF GOOD REPORT. Things that are VIRTUOUS. Things that are PRAISE WORTHY. ***“...Think on these things.”***

That's why the Bible says in Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."*

That's why it says in the Old Testament, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."*

God knows the importance of your mind being on the right things. Your thoughts are the things that decorate God's home, His Sanctuary, the Holy Spirit's Temple, your body.

That's also why Paul talked in Romans 12:2 about *"renewing...your mind..."* Every day our minds need a "renewing" in the Word of God. Keep your mind holy, for it decorates God's Sanctuary.

5. SEEK TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORD OF GOD

Seek to know the Holy Spirit. You cannot know the Holy Spirit outside of this Book, the Bible. There is nothing else that reveals the will of God for the Christian. You can't get that from an experience. You can't get it from another book. You can't get it from an atmosphere of people. You can only found out Who the Holy Spirit, and what He is like, out of the Bible.

Therefore, if you are going to know the Holy Spirit, **APPROACH THE BIBLE WITH THE VIEW OF FINDING WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LIKE.**

You can have much better companionship with one with whom you are acquainted. When I was in the Philippines, after preaching in one service where thirteen people got saved, Jun Jun (the Pastor's son) was sitting in the back talking to a young lady. He told me that she wants a pen pal. They found out that some of the students in our school are writing letters back and forth with some of the students in the Philippines.

I said, "Alright. Write your name and address down and write on the paper whether you want a male or female pen pal, and your age."

She wrote down, "Twenty five and single." By the time she had brought the paper it had six names on it. And by the time I came home I had about 25 or 30 people wanting a pen pal. We don't have that many single people in our church.

They wanted a pen pal. Why did they want a pen pal? Because they know you can't develop a companionship with one whom you don't know.

You can't develop a companionship with the Holy Spirit if you don't KNOW the Holy Spirit. And the ONLY place to get to KNOW Him is in the Bible. So spend time every day seeking to know the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. Look for Him. Find out what He's like. Watch how He moves. See how He works. Feel His heartbeat. Look for Him in the Bible.

6. THE CULTIVATE THE ART OF RECOGNIZING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EVERYWHERE

God the Holy Spirit dwells locally in the body of the Christian. However, He is also OMNIPRESENT. He, being God, is everywhere all at the same time. He is not part here, and part there. He is EVERYWHERE, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

Everywhere you go, and whatever you do, discipline your heart to look for His presence and be sensitive to His leading in every step of your life. David said, *“the STEPS of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord.”* So, look for the presence and leadership everywhere.

The Holy Spirit's job is to minister to the believer, and to help us. In James 4:5 we are told that *“the Spirit that dwelleth in us LUSTETH TO ENVY”*

What does that mean: the Holy Spirit “lusts to envy?” When we think of the word “lust,” we usually think only of sensual passions. However, that is not the meaning of the word. “Lust” simply means “cravings; desire.” But what does it mean that the Holy Spirit “lusts” even to the point of “envy?”

When Jesus ascended into Heaven after His resurrection from the dead, He ascended primarily for two reasons. (1) One, to take up His new ministry of interceding for the saints. And (2) secondly, He ascended to GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT HIS NEW MINISTRY of indwelling believers.

The Holy Spirit is sent to teach us, to comfort us, to guide us, to remind us of the teachings of Christ, to help us, to reprove us, to empower us for witnessing effectiveness, etc.. However, being a Gentleman, the Holy Spirit will not force His work and ministry to the believer on anyone. We must solicit His help (Romans 8:26, 27, for example) and submit to Him so He CAN perform His work to us and through us.

However, when I, for instance, try to study and understand the Word of God without soliciting His help and relying upon Him, He “craves;

lusts” to do His job. But since I don’t let Him -- I try to do it myself -- and He “lusts to envy.” I make Him envious to do His work.

The same could be said about witnessing, praying, or any work the Holy Spirit is sent to help me with. When I ignore the presence and availability of the Holy Spirit’s help, He craves to do the job for me, but I hinder Him and He “*lusts to envy.*”

Cultivate the art of recognizing the presence of the Holy Spirit everywhere.

7. REALIZE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU IS JUST LIKE JESUS ON EARTH

In John 14:16 the Jesus said, “*and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you ANOTHER COMFORTER, that He may abide with you forever.*”

In the English language, we have only one word for “another,” and that is “ANOTHER.” However, in the New Testament Greek language they have TWO words for “another.” (1) One means “another of the SAME KIND.” (2) And the other means, “another of a DIFFERENT KIND.”

For instance, I am a human being and my wife is a human being of a different kind. I am a human being, and my friend Joe (a man) is a human being of the same kind.

The Apostle Paul used both of these words when he rebuked the Galatian Christians for accepting a false Gospel. In Galatians 1:6 he said, “*I marvel that ye are soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto ANOTHER Gospel: which is not ANOTHER Gospel...*”

It sounds at first like Paul is contradicting himself, but he is not. He uses two different words for another in this sentence. The first “another” “another of a DIFFERENT kind,” and the second “another” is “another of the SAME kind.”

Paul said, then, “*I marvel that ye are soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto (ANOTHER GOSPEL OF A DIFFERENT KIND): which is not (ANOTHER GOSPEL OF THE SAME KIND).*” Two different words used.

In John’s Gospel, when Jesus said He would send us “*ANOTHER Comforter,*” our Lord used the word for “another” that means “*another of THE SAME KIND.*” He said, “I will send you ANOTHER Comforter, JUST LIKE ME.”

The word for “**Comforter**” is “**Parakletos**.” “**Para**” means “along side of,” and “**kletos**” is from “**kaleo**,” meaning, “**one called**.” “Comforter,” then literally means, “**One called along side to help, in time of need**,”

It is interesting to note that the VERY SAME word translated “**Comforter**” in John 14:16 is also translated “**Advocate**” in I John 2:1. In John 14:16 the “**Parakletos**” is the Holy Spirit, and in I John 2:1 the “**Parakletos**” is the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is plain to see, then, that when Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit from the Father, He was saying, “I will send you another Comforter (Parakletos) **JUST LIKE ME!**” **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU IS JUST LIKE JESUS ON EARTH!!**

With this in mind, John 14:12 is easy to understand. “**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works not the “miracles,” just the “works”) that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**”

What “works” was Jesus talking about? The “work” that Jesus spent Himself for on earth was the “work” of keeping sinners out of Hell. In Luke 19:10 He said, “**For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”

In John 4:34 Jesus said that “**his work**” was reaping the harvest of souls that He had come to save.

In John 6:28-29 the Pharisees had come to Jesus and asked, “**What shall we do, that we might WORK THE WORKS OF GOD?**”

Jesus’ answer in verse 29 was, “**This is the work of God, that ye BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent.**” Since you and I already “believe on Him whom He hath sent,” then OUR work is to GET OTHERS TO “BELIEVE ON HIM WHOM HE HATH SENT.” That is the work of God.

Then, when Jesus said “**the WORKS that I do shall He do also; and GREATER WORKS than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.**” He was saying that because the Parakletos (the other Comforter, the One just like Jesus) would indwell all believers we could do the works of Jesus in “greater” quantity than He did when He was on earth, because He was only Person- -- we are many, and the Holy Spirit indwells us all and is available to fill us all (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18).

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU IS JUST LIKE
JESUS ON EARTH!!**