

Online Grace Bible School

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**Online Grace Bible School
Phase 4
Your Helper the Holy Spirit**

1) Having Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen' (2 Cor.13:14). Communion = *Koinonia*, i.e. fellowship. The Holy Spirit is a real Person. He is a divine Person. He is equal with the Father and the Son, yet subordinate to them.

When Jesus left He promised to send the Spirit, Jn.14:16-18. Note:

The Father will give us the Holy Spirit (Lk.11:13)

- ✓ The Holy Spirit was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. The apostles had to wait; we have received (Rom.8:9).
- ✓ Jn.16:7. We may think it would be great to have Christ with us in the flesh, or an angel. But this is carnal thinking. It is expedient for us that He goes away that we might receive the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Note: God gave His Son for us, His Spirit to us.
- ✓ Jn.20:17. Now we do not know Christ according to the flesh, but the glorified Christ living in us by the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor.5:16.
- ✓ When the apostles preached the gospel they asked for a response to each member of the Trinity. Repentance towards the Father; faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; receive the Holy Spirit.

He is our *Parakletos*

- ✓ One called alongside to help. Another, like Christ, yet working on the inside.
- ✓ Everything God wants to get done in us and through us is done by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Everything Jesus accomplished for us is applied to and effected in us by the Spirit.
- ✓ This dispensation is called the ministry of the Spirit, 2 Cor.3:6-8. Take away the Spirit and Christianity becomes a dead letter. There is nothing done by us that is acceptable by God, except by the Spirit.
- ✓ We are saved, sanctified and fruitful by the Spirit. We work out what He works in. We will never beat flesh with flesh, only with Spirit.

He will abide with us forever

- ✓ In the OT the Holy Spirit came upon individuals. He did not abide with them.
- ✓ He now comes not merely *upon* believers but *into* their lives to remain until death or Christ's return.

He is the Spirit of Truth

- ✓ The Holy Spirit is our Teacher. He teaches us about Jesus (Jn.14:26; 15:26; 16:3-15).
- ✓ He does not speak to us about the law, or our fleshly ability. He always speaks of Jesus.
- ✓ He teaches us what it is to be in Christ and have Christ in us. These are the things of the Spirit, Rom.8:5.

The world cannot receive Him

- ✓ 2 attitudes of unbelievers towards the Holy Spirit: resisting, Acts 7:52 & blaspheming, Matt.12:31-32.

He dwells in each one of us

- ✓ Our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. We have received Him abundantly, Titus 3:5-6.
- ✓ We are regenerated by the Spirit.

He will supply us with Christ's presence

- ✓ He has come to dwell in us in order to live Christ's life through us, Gal.5:22-23
- ✓ We need to be aware of Him, learn to listen to Him and be sensitive to Him, 1 Thes.5:19, Eph.4:30.
- ✓ What kind of things grieve the Spirit? See 4:31&32. The Holy Spirit is like a dove. The dove is a symbol of love. *"The love of the Spirit"* (Rom.15:30). See also Rom.5:5.

2) Led by the Spirit

Learning to hear His voice is how we develop a relationship with Him. 90% of all we need to know about God's will is found in His Word. These are often in broad principles. But what about the details?

1) We learn to recognize God's voice through experience

- ✓ 1 Sam.3:1-7. How can you differentiate the voice of God from other voices? Like counterfeit money the counterfeit voice is best recognized by studying the genuine, John 10:3-5.

2) We will only know the voice of God by living as sons

- ✓ 1 Sam.3:1-7. We must learn to differentiate the voice of God from other voices, Jn.15:15.
- ✓ Under the New Covenant there is a new level of intimacy based on a new kind of relationship.
- ✓ The further away from the Spirit you are the more you will behave like a servant. You will need rules and someone to tell you what to do, Gal.5:18.
- ✓ The Spirit helps us to make the transition from a servant-mentality to a son-mentality, Rom.8:14. This week we will look at learning to hear the voice of the Spirit. But foundational to that is that we know our status as sons, not servants.
- ✓ Gal.3:23-25. During the OT period, the law was like a child custodian, i.e. a pedagogue, who was employed until the child came of age and was adopted as a son. (Adoption = son-placing).
- ✓ Paul uses this analogy because it typifies the role of the Law. Its purpose was to restrain, chasten and protect Israel until Christ; in fact it was to bring her to Him.
- ✓ Under the pedagogue a child had had less freedom than that of a slave, even though he was heir.
- ✓ Some pedagogues were tough disciplinarians, even using severe treatment. They abused their position by over-disciplining the children in their care in ways which the father never intended.
- ✓ In a similar way Satan has exploited the Law in order to tyrannize the people of God in ways God never intended. God intended for the Law to reveal sin and drive people to Christ; Satan uses it to reveal sin and drive people to despair.
- ✓ God intended for it to be a preparatory step to justification; Satan uses it for our condemnation.
- ✓ Usually there was a ceremony to mark the occasion when the child entered into the fullness of his position as a son and the pedagogue's responsibility ceased and he was dismissed.
- ✓ Gal.4:4-5. The defining moment in history when God's people became sons of God was the Cross.
- ✓ There is freedom and intimacy in our relationship with God because we are now sons and heirs.
- ✓ Gal.4:6-7. The Spirit helps us to feel like sons and to relate to the Father as Jesus did, (Lk.2:49; 23:46).
- ✓ The Spirit's role is to bear witness to our sonship.
- ✓ It is not fitting that we who are sons should be made subject again to the restraints of the Law, Gal.5:18.

3) We become acquainted with the voice of God by becoming acquainted with the God of the voice

- ✓ Christ lives on the inside. When Christ speaks it is from the inside.
- ✓ A stranger's voice comes from the outside, with an urging; no time to reason.
- ✓ It is a still, small voice. Not usually a spectacular voice. Don't look for God in the spectacular voice. It's a still small voice. The norm is for parents to speak in a quiet voice to their children.
- ✓ It is characterized by peace. *'Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...'* Col.3:15. The peace of God will rule, arbitrate, act as a mediator to settle disputes in our course of action.
- ✓ It is gentle. *'The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits...'* Jas.3:17.
- ✓ God leads, Satan pushes. Rom.8:14. There is an urging to act without the use of reason; no power to choose. The Holy Spirit is not pushy or demanding.
- ✓ The content of His message will never contradict Scripture.

3) The Spirit of Truth

- ✓ Jn.16:13-15. Our greatest need is for truth. False beliefs result in every kind of negative emotion, e.g. guilt, fear, shame, alienation, misery and death. Truth sets us free.
- ✓ Repentance is the first step back to God. Repentance = a change of mind.
- ✓ But even after repentance our minds needs to be renewed (2 Cor.11:3&4). It is possible to have a new life but not a new head.
- ✓ Satan is able to: Sow thoughts in believer's minds (Jn.13:2), and take the truth from it (Lk.8:12).
- ✓ To combat this we have been given the Spirit of Truth. He will guide us into "all truth", i.e. concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 20:27. All truth necessary for faith and obedience.
- ✓ Revelation is from the Greek word *apocalypse*, meaning 'to draw back the veil from that which had been previously hidden' (Rom.16:25&26). Apart from revelation, God and His ways would be unknown.
- ✓ The initiative had to be with God. God has revealed Himself to us through the Bible, 2 Tim.3:16.
- ✓ Inspiration is God's work to assure that the revelation is transmitted accurately to others and ultimately inscripturated. God inspired men to write the Bible under the control of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet.1:20&21)
- ✓ Illumination. This is the work of the Holy Spirit by which He opens our spiritual understanding to grasp the meaning of the Scriptures, (Psa.119:18; Lk.24:45).
- ✓ Whilst revelation takes away the veil which hides God's mind from us, illumination removes the veil from our heart by the Holy Spirit so that we understand what has been said, (Jn.14:26).
- ✓ Many of the writers of the Bible did not understand what they were writing about. They had inspiration but not illumination (Dan.12:8&9; Eph.3:8-11; 1 Pet.1:12).
- ✓ Those who receive revelation and illumination are 'blessed' (Matt.13:16-17; 16:17; Lk.10:21-24).
- ✓ Truth is known by revelation, not education. It is not human reason but God's Spirit working with God's Word in human hearts. If a person can be argued into truth they can be argued out of it.
- ✓ Humility is the key to being illuminated with understanding (see Lk.10:21; Psa.25:9; Matt.18:3; Jas.1:21.)

What is the role of teachers?

- ✓ They can be the channel through which we are enlightened or the source of confusion and deception.
- ✓ Teachers are not lords of our faith; they are helpers of our joy.
- ✓ In this way the Holy Spirit is our Teacher. He bears witness to the truth. 1 Jn.5:6.
- ✓ 1 Jn.2:20,27. This anointing is that we might know all things. Before the fall, Adam knew the truth from within. Deception could only access him from without. After the fall, man was indwelt by the lie, and the only way truth could reach him was from without.
- ✓ In salvation the situation is reversed. We are delivered from deception and indwelt by the truth. Our relationship with the truth is much deeper than simply believing it. We are now '*of the truth*' (1 Jn.3:19) and the truth is '*in us*' (3 Jn.3).
- ✓ We do not yet know all truth. We continually discover new aspects of it from God's Word and renew our minds accordingly. But being of the truth and having the truth in us means that when we hear the truth we are able to attest to it. We know the character of truth, because the Holy Spirit bears witness to it.
- ✓ Truth is about Jesus. It teaches us to abide in Him.

Summary (see 1 Cor.2:9-16)

- ✓ 1 Cor.2:9-11. Unless God reveals Himself to us He remains hidden. We cannot discover God by searching or learning. He has chosen to reveal Himself to us. This is revelation.
- ✓ The wisdom of God is different to the wisdom of this world. It is all about Jesus. The princes of this world were ignorant of this wisdom. It is not known apart from revelation of the Spirit.
- ✓ 1 Cor.2:12-13. God has carefully preserved this self-revelation by breathing into the men chosen to record it the exact words that will give an adequate representation of Himself. This is inspiration.
- ✓ 1 Cor.2:14-15. But the things of God are not naturally discerned by man. He is incapable of understanding this inspired revelation, unless he is taught by the Holy Spirit. This is illumination.

4) The Holy Spirit and Your Life's Purpose

Lk.1:26&27. Mary was betrothed to Joseph. She was excited about the prospect of marriage. She planned to have a family in the process of time. Her heart was set on her dream...until God stepped in. He had plans for her that were far greater (see 1:28-30). She was 'highly favoured' and chosen to bring forth Christ to the world. Not just a son, but God's Son. This could only be possible as the Holy Spirit came upon her.

Like Mary, we probably have our own plans for our lives. But God wants you to give your life to this one thing... To know Christ and to make Him known. This is possible through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1) Conception (Luke 1:31-33)

- ✓ It takes two to conceive (v34). We can conceive many things without God. But, in order to conceive God's purpose you will need the Holy Spirit. That's how we were conceived spiritually, (Jn.1:12-13).
- ✓ Jn.3:6. That which is conceived of the flesh, is flesh; but that which is conceived of the Spirit is of God.
- ✓ Gal.1:15-16. God's purposes are never brought to birth in conference. That's where they are aborted!
- ✓ Luke 1:34-35. When Mary understood God's purpose for her life she didn't ask *if* it would happen, but *how* would it happen? Answer: The Holy Spirit, (Isa.54:4&5).
- ✓ If you can fulfill the dream you have it is not of God. It will take the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's dream.
- ✓ 1:38. Her faith would be tested. She exposed herself to ridicule, gossip and stoning. She saw beyond this.

2) Preparation

- ✓ The task of carrying that which has been conceived begins. There is nothing visible.
- ✓ The Bible speaks of the trial of your faith. It is a quiet period of preparation. During this period, that which has been conceived is being formed. Many have faith, but not patience. It is a period of testing.
- ✓ Luke 2:6. There is an appointed time.
- ✓ What did God do to encourage Mary in this difficult time? See 1:26. 1:39-40. He sent her to Elizabeth. She was 6 months pregnant with a miracle baby. 1:56. She stayed with her for three months. So she would have been present at the birth of John the Baptist. Like attracts like. See 1:41-45.

3) Intercession

- ✓ Nothing is brought to birth without travail, (Isa.53:11; Gal.4:19; Isa.66:8)
- ✓ It will not happen automatically even though the Lord promised it (Zech.10:1; 1 Kings 18:41; Jas.5:17-18)

4) Separation

- ✓ At birth the umbilical cord is cut and the placenta discarded. The after birth (placenta) does not come over into the new. The placenta played a vital role throughout the duration of pregnancy.
- ✓ If it is retained by the mother it will provide a risk of infection and hemorrhaging. Also, it has no further purpose for the child. It is cut from the umbilical cord.
- ✓ Often, when the Holy Spirit does a new thing, there has to be a transitioning out of the old. There is nothing wrong with the old, but it has served its usefulness and does not come over into the new. It will hinder the new. In fact the after birth is actually poisonous. The placenta develops from the same sperm and egg cells that form the fetus, yet it has fulfilled its purpose and needs to be cast away.
- ✓ New wine required new wineskins to accommodate the new wine so that it could reach its full potential.
- ✓ The wineskin exists for the purpose of containing the wine. So the wineskins are important, otherwise the wine will be lost. But always remember that they exist to contain the new wine. Wineskins have no justification for existence unless they contain wine.
- ✓ The old wine only tastes good to those who have never tasted the new wine.
- ✓ Sometimes we develop systems and structures that help facilitate the flow of new wine. E.g. denominations. But the danger is that we become more loyal to those systems than to the new wine they are meant to dispense.
- ✓ Some things of the old cannot come over into the new, e.g. ways, methods, structures, denominations. Some things are scaffolding. Sometimes people are.
- ✓ The greatest enemy of the new is the old.

5) Praying in the Spirit

'Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication – and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel' (Eph.6:18-19). 'But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit' (Jude 20).

Ex.17:8-16. Amalek came to block Israel's path, preventing them going through their territory. Prior to this they picked off the stragglers at the rear of Israel, when they were weary (Deut.25:18). They now launched a major attack on the main body of the people at Rephidim, resulting in this long battle. This is a picture of Satan coming out to prevent us from entering in to our inheritance.

Moses, Aaron and Hur. If Moses' hands dropped through tiredness, Aaron and Hur quickly lifted them up. It was because of what took place on the top of the hill that the battle was won. Note:

- ✓ Satan will be finally wiped out one day (v.14). But not while we are on earth.
- ✓ Until then Israel will have war with Amalek from generation to generation (v.16). Spiritual warfare.
- ✓ The LORD is our Banner (v.15).

Jehovah-Nissi – 'The Lord our Banner'

- ✓ A banner was a standard or ensign used in battle. It was not always a flag. It could have been a bright shining ornament, as this would have glittered in the sun and easily be seen. A banner was simply an ensign, or standard around which people rallied; a gathering point in the day of battle.
- ✓ The surrender of a flag meant defeat. Thus, when Israel went to battle Moses lifted his hands to the Lord, for the Lord was their Banner. When the victory was won the Lord was credited with the victory.
- ✓ We have a banner: Jesus, (Isa.11:10-12). He is the Captain of our salvation and His banner over us is love.
- ✓ The upraised hand is a picture of prayer, i.e. a token of our confidence in the Lord (Psa.28:2; 1 Tim.2:8).
- ✓ To impress upon the Church the importance of prayer, God made success dependent upon whether or not Moses had his hands raised, (Jas.5:17). This is where the battle was won or lost. “
- ✓ Luke 18:1). Staying power in prayer is important. Lk.11:5-11.
- ✓ Are your hands lifted to the Lord in prayer? Lift up the hands that hang down.

The Two Divine Intercessors

- ✓ 17:12. Aaron and Hur are types of divine intercessors – Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Jesus on that side of heaven, the Holy Spirit on this side of heaven, Rom.8:34, 26-27.
- ✓ Jesus. Rom.8:34; Heb.7:25. He takes our prayers and makes them acceptable to the Father.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit. Rom.8:26-27. We have a problem; there are times when we don't know what to pray for.
- ✓ The immediate context of this passage is suffering. Christians are not immune from suffering. The problem is that we don't know what we should pray for. We don't know what is best for us. Deliverance or grace? Even Jesus and Paul at times did not know what to pray for, (Jn.12:27&28).
- ✓ The Holy Spirit 'helps' us with our problem. 'Help' = to take hold of anything, together with another. Same word as in Luke 10:40. He makes intercession for us, i.e. is an advocate on our behalf. It is the role of an advocate to dictate to his clients what he should say, how they should present their case.
- ✓ We don't know what to pray for, but the Holy Spirit teaches us. He gives us heaven's perspective.
- ✓ This gives us confidence because we are praying consistently with God's will, 1 Jn.5:14&15.
- ✓ Prayer is like an electric circuit. It starts with God and ends with Him.
- ✓ So then the Holy Spirit intercedes for us by leading us in the way we should pray.
- ✓ Rom.8:28. Result = all things work together for good. Not just some, but all.
- ✓ 1 Cor.2:9-12. God alone knows what is good for us and what is best for us. He knows too the things that He has prepared for us. He reveals them to us by His Spirit.
- ✓ The Spirit makes supplications in us according to the will of God. He formulates strong desires in us to do His will. He unites us with God's will and purpose.

6) Be Filled with the Spirit

Acts 1:1. Luke wrote a two volume work – Luke’s gospel and Acts. Each covers 33 years. Vol. 1 = all that Jesus *began* to do. Vol. 2 = all that Jesus is *continuing* to do. How? See 1:8 – by the Holy Spirit. Acts should be called ‘The Acts of the Holy Spirit’. It is the only NT book without a proper ending. Chapters are being added each day. Will we add a chapter?

1:9-11. ‘See Him go, see Him come’. In between don’t stand gazing up to heaven. Jesus left 120 disciples with an incredible commission. The completion of the mission task and the 2nd Coming will coincide (Mt.24:14).

1:4-8. ‘Power’ (*dunamis*) = ability. God lets us see our inability so that we might depend upon His ability. See how Luke describes Jesus’ His ministry (Lk.4:14,18). This is how the Church carried out its ministry. Don’t do anything until you are baptized in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is mentioned 40 times in Acts 1-13.

Baptism in the Spirit

- ✓ 1:8. Is this a secondary experience in the Holy Spirit, as we Pentecostals teach? See Jn.20:22.
- ✓ The Greek word for ‘breathed’ here is *emphusao*. This is the only place where it is used in the NT, but in the Greek translation of the OT it is used in Gen.2:7.
- ✓ As God breathed into Adam, he was given life. This was the creation of man. Likewise, when Jesus breathed into His disciples, they were given new life. This was the work of re-creation, or regeneration.
- ✓ Then the command in Acts 1:4&5 and the promise in Acts 1:8.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit comes in to bring the life of Jesus (Rom.8:9). Yet, there is a subsequent experience - the baptism in the Holy Spirit - in which the Holy Spirit comes in His own office to empower, (Jn.7:37-39)

Receiving the Spirit

- ✓ 2:37-38. Those who preached the gospel in the NT often asked for a three-fold response: 1) Repentance towards the Father; 2) Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; 3) Receive the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Believing and receiving are separated in time. E.g. Jesus was born of the Spirit, but at the age of 30 the Spirit came upon Him in a new way. It was then that He began His ministry. The change was so radical that His family thought He had gone mad! Before, He knew who He was; after, others knew who He was.
- ✓ 8:12-17. The whole city of Samaria repented, believed and was baptized in water. But something was missing. The Holy Spirit.
- ✓ They knew they had not received the Spirit because everyone who had experienced an outward manifestation, e.g. prophecy, tongues, power, etc.
- ✓ The word ‘baptize’ means to completely fill with or cover with. It does not necessarily mean to do so from the outside. It can also mean to suffuse, i.e. saturate, permeate, or flood from within.
- ✓ The human spirit is a reservoir into which the Holy Spirit flows when we are saved. But when we are baptized in the Spirit there is an overflow of that which is on the inside. Our bodies, minds, emotions become available to Him for powerful and even supernatural ministry.
- ✓ 19:1-6. When Paul found some disciples who were not going very well he would ask: Did you receive the Holy Spirit? If not have you believed in Jesus and been baptized? If not have you repented?
- ✓ The first experience of the Holy Spirit is an incoming; the second an outflowing. The first experience we know about it, the second others do.
- ✓ God has chosen tongues as a distinct sign of the NT age. It is the only one of the gifts, together with interpretation of tongues, which did not operate in the OT era.
- ✓ The purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. Pentecost was a reversal of Babel. At Babel man tried to ascend to heaven. At Pentecost, heaven came to earth.
- ✓ Eph.5:18. The Gk verb here is a continuous present sense. Literally, ‘be being filled’; ‘keep on being filled’
- ✓ To fill is synonymous with being drunk, or under the control of.
- ✓ Paul was not exhorting the Ephesians to seek another experience of the Holy Spirit coming into them. He was commanding them to be under the control of one who already indwelt them.
- ✓ We have all there is of the Holy Spirit. The question is, “Does He have all of us?”. How much access does the Holy Spirit have to you?

7) The Gifts of the Spirit

1 Cor.12:1-11. The gifts are manifestations, i.e. a showing forth, making visible or making known, various aspects of the love and power of God. Nine gifts are listed which can be divided into three groups of three:

- 1) The gifts of utterance. These operate in the *vocal* sphere and are prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues. Their purpose is to *say* what God wants to say. Power to say.
- 2) The gifts of revelation. These operate in the *mental* sphere and are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits. Their purpose is to *reveal* that which otherwise would be unknown.
- 3) The gifts of power. These operate in the *physical* realm and are faith, gifts of healing and the working of miracles. Their purpose is to *do* what God wants to be done.

The gifts of utterance.

- ✓ 1) Prophecy. 1 Cor.14:1,39. Prophecy is an inspired utterance. It is to speak forth a message in one's own language to the Church, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is for edification, exhortation and comfort. 2 extremes to avoid – glib acceptance (1 Cor.14:29) and outright rejection. (1 Thes.5:19-21).

The gifts of revelation.

- ✓ 1) The word of knowledge. God is omniscient. He comprehends all things. - past, present or future. Since a word is a *fragment* of a sentence, a word of knowledge is a fragment of God's knowledge. A word of knowledge is informative. Its main purpose is to impart knowledge, information, facts, revelation concerning a specific problem or situation. Examples: Jn.4:16-19, 28-30; 13:38; Acts 5:1-11.
- ✓ 2) The word of wisdom. The word 'wisdom' means to have prudence or to know how to act in a situation or how to deal with a problem. Whilst the word of knowledge reveals facts to the recipient, the word of wisdom informs them how to act upon the knowledge they have received. The word of knowledge is *informative*, but the word of wisdom is *directive*. Often both work together. E.g. Jn. 11:11-15.
- ✓ 3) Discerning of spirits. There are 3 sources of inspiration. Holy Spirit, 1 Jn.4:2, human spirit, Ezek.13:2-3 and an evil spirit, Acts 16:16-18. Discerning of spirits enables us to know what spirit is operating.

The gifts of power.

- ✓ 1) Faith. This is faith to believe God for miraculous intervention or provision in a given situation.
- ✓ 2) The working of miracles. This is the supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature by the Holy Spirit through a Spirit-filled believer. It often involves the temporary suspension of natural laws. The gift of faith helps us to *receive* the miraculous; the gift of miracles helps us to *do* the miraculous. Daniel had a gift of faith when he was in the den of lions; Samson worked a miracle when he slew a lion.
- ✓ The Gifts of Healing. Note the double plural, 'gifts' for different people and 'healings' for different diseases. There are three different aspects of healing:

Moving In Spiritual Gifts

The Holy Spirit is sovereign in His manifestation of the gifts, 1 Cor.12:11. The Holy Spirit is likened to wind, Jn.3:8. The wind blows where it chooses. Spiritual gifts do not operate according to human will, but as the Spirit chooses. Yet, they are manifestations through human channels. 2 Cor.4:7. We are involved. We are not passive. So there is divine operation and human co-operation.

What is our responsibility?

- ✓ 1) Seeking the gifts. 1 Cor.12:31; 14:1, 39. Don't seek them selfishly, or even individually, but seek them collectively, as a church. The gifts are for the profit of the church. 1 Cor.12:25,26; 14:5, 12,26.
- ✓ 2) Setting The Sails. The captain of a ship cannot dictate to the wind, but he can set the sails. Prepare for them by: Love, faith and a willingness to be ministered to by others.
- ✓ 3) Sensitivity to the Spirit. There is no formula to operating in spiritual gifts. No two healings of Jesus were the same. Ministry, like the Christian life, is the result of a relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit. Learn to be sensitive.

8) Walking in the Spirit**1) Know Your Position****A) Our position is that we are 'in Christ' (Rom.8:1)**

- ✓ Do we go back into Adam when we sin? There is nothing more ridiculous than that you can be in Christ one moment and out of Him the next.
- ✓ Since a Christian is a person who has been taken out of Adam he has also been removed forever from the realm of condemnation. There is no condemnation to those in Christ. Not now, not ever.
- ✓ Because God deals with us on the basis of representation.

B) Our position is that we are in the Spirit. We are free from the law (Rom. 8:2-4)

- ✓ Everything the law demanded Jesus performed therefore the law has no further claim on us.
- ✓ If we want to be delivered from sin we must first be delivered from the Law, 1 Cor.15:56. Don't go back!
- ✓ The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is now God's way of living. We walk by the Spirit. He is the guarantor of our holiness. He will make it happen. He will reproduce the life of Jesus in us.

C) Our position is that we are righteous, and because we are righteous we will be holy (Rom. 8:5-7)

- ✓ Holiness is not something you get by doing; it is the outworking of something you already have.
- ✓ Phil.2:12&13. Holiness is the outworking of righteousness, Rom.6:19&22.
- ✓ When we walk according to the Spirit we set our mind on the things of the Spirit. We don't ask, 'How am I going to do this?' But, 'How is the Spirit going to do this?'
- ✓ To be spiritually minded is life and peace (in contrast to enmity against God – see Rom.8:7).
- ✓ Peace is a consequence of righteousness. The two go together, Rom.5:1; 14:17.

D) Our position means that we are pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8-9).

- ✓ Those in the flesh cannot please God. Through faith in Christ we are not in the flesh but in the Spirit.
- ✓ You can't please God except by believing in His Son, Heb.11:6.

2) Understand the Nature of the Christian Life

- ✓ We are body and spirit. Rom. 8:10-11. '*The body is dead*'. It is a mortal body, Rom.6:11. The seed of death is in our bodies. There is a principle of physical decay and of death already operating in us.
- ✓ Even our body, will be delivered from sin and death, Rom.8:22-23. As our spirits are, so our bodies will be. My body will be sown in weakness, raised in power; sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body.
- ✓ All this is certain because the Spirit dwells in us. His indwelling in the guarantee of our final redemption.
- ✓ Though the body is dead, our spirit is alive toward God on account of righteousness.
- ✓ Because of this we can mortify the deeds of the body. Sin cannot reign in us; we have been delivered from it once and for all, (Rom.6:13). Sin remains in the body and the Christian battles against sin there.
- ✓ This struggle is not at the heart of who a Christian is, Rom.7:2-23. He is at peace with God, hates sin and is saved. But the problem is in his body.
- ✓ The flesh wars against the Spirit and vice versa. The flesh wants us to behave in the same manner we conducted ourselves before we were in Christ. But the Spirit wants to live Christ's life through us.
- ✓ This conflict is without condemnation. God is not angry with us when this struggle takes place in our lives. It is an indispensable part of the Christian walk.

3) Learn to Live by the Spirit

- ✓ Rom. 8:12-13. Paul urges us to be careful not to live *according* to the flesh.
- ✓ These two verses are the application of 8:1-8 – 'therefore'.
- ✓ Paul's approach to practical Christianity is first doctrine then application. Work out what He has worked in. First, discover what He has worked in, then work it out.
- ✓ We are under no obligation to the flesh whatsoever. But, by yielding our bodies to the Spirit we put to death the deeds of our body. This is just a repeat of 6:11-13.
- ✓ Don't focus on fighting sin but on walking in the Spirit. Don't fight the darkness, turn on the light. We will not overcome sin by attacking the flesh but by engaging the Spirit, Rom.8:2.