



The Church of God International

HOME BIBLE

Study Course

16

Understanding The Holy Spirit

Doctrinal Statement

The Holy Spirit is the essence, power, mind and spiritual extension of God. God begets Christians as His sons through this Spirit. It strengthens a Christian spiritually, converts his mind and serves as an earnest or guarantee of eternal life.

The Holy Spirit is described in the Bible as, “the Spirit of God,” “the Spirit of the Lord,” “the Spirit of truth, & “Comforter” or “Advocate.” It is the power of God, the mind of God and the extended means by which God accomplishes His work throughout the universe. As such, the Holy Spirit is not a separate being; it has no independent existence as an individual entity or person within the Godhead.

It was through His Spirit that God created the earth (Genesis 1: 2). It was through this Spirit that David received his moral strength (Psalms 51: 10-13), and by it Elijah and Elisha - men with normal physical proclivities and weaknesses, were made into powerful prophets of God (2 Kings 2: 9, 15). Even though these men and others had access to God’s Spirit, it is also clear that they were among the relative few who in the Old Testament era were blessed with the privilege of actually having the mind and power of God work with or dwell within them.

God uses His spirit to accomplish all His work. Whether causing prophets to prophesy, kings to reign, craftsmen to create (Exodus 31: 3), bodies to be moved (Ezekiel 3: 12, 14) or people to keep His laws (Ezekiel 36: 26-27), everything God does is through the power of His Spirit.

God is spirit (John 4: 24); both members of the Godhead “Elohim,” Father and Son, are literally composed of spirit; they are wholly made of spiritual essence, in the same fashion as we are made of physical particles. Yet God the Father and Jesus Christ are separate beings: each maintains His own distinct identity and independent existence; and each, therefore, utilizes His own “Spirit,” though both the Father’s Spirit and Christ’s Spirit are an integral part of the common Holy Spirit. The Being who later became Jesus Christ was the God who revealed Himself to the patriarchs and prophets and worked with them. When He utilized His mind, His nature and His power, He was doing so through His Holy Spirit which was the projection of His own unique, perfect spiritual power. God the Father was unknown in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ came to reveal Him in the New. God the Father was the One who begot

Jesus Christ; He did so through His Spirit, which is the same Spirit He begets spiritual children through today. Indeed God the Father has retained to Himself the unique capacity to beget new spiritual beings.

Under the New Covenant the Spirit of the Father has been made available in a universal way, as was explained by Peter on the day of Pentecost when the Church began (Acts 2: 17-18). Before His death, Christ promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit, which then worked with them should be given to them and should actually be in them (John 14: 17). This “Comforter” should teach the disciples all things and remind them of all that Christ had said to them (John 14: 26).

This same Spirit which was given to the disciples on the day of Pentecost is available to all whom God calls. Upon true repentance granted by God and upon true belief in Jesus Christ, one may be baptized and then receive God’s Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands ceremony performed by God’s ministers (Acts 2: 38; 8: 12-17). God further states that He gives His Holy Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5: 32). God’s Holy Spirit is efficacious—it creates deep changes within the individual, actually converting or changing the type of mind that the person possesses. The Holy Spirit generates within Christians its very fruit, which “is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (Gal 5: 22-23). It encourages us through trials and empowers us to do the Work of God.

Once a person receives the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, he must put it to use in his life in order to grow in the knowledge and grace of God. God’s Spirit gives Christians the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2: 16) to enable them to view life from a godly perspective

instead of from a selfish one. It is this power that gives us the capacity to obey God. The deep mystery of the plan of God for mankind cannot be completely and totally understood without the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2: 2-10).

Of even greater significance is the fact that through this Spirit we are actually “begotten” as sons of God and become members of the body of Christ-- the Church (1 Corinthians 12). The seed of this Holy Spirit, planted by God after baptism, grows and develops spiritually within us as we grow in obedience and submission to God’s law. The Holy Spirit is dynamic: it flows from God to and through the Christian and is expressed in his attitudes and actions. The more we use God’s Spirit the stronger our new spiritual life becomes. Finally, at the resurrection, this spiritual part of us becomes the totality of our composition and essence and overtakes the physical, so “that mortality (our physical essence) might be swallowed up of (spiritual life)” (2 Corinthians 5: 4).

God’s word reveals that the Holy Spirit is an “earnest,” a formal pledge or assurance,” of eternal life which God has implanted within us making us sons and daughters. As long as this Spirit is living within us, we are actually sons of God and brothers of Christ. “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8: 9). “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8: 14). Indeed, the presence of the Holy Spirit, is the best criterion to define the true Christian: it is his only real ratification, for one cannot be a true Christian without it. As long as we nurture the Holy Spirit, and continue to renew it daily within us (2 Corinthians 4: 16) through prayer and diligent study of God’s Word, then this earnest of God’s Spirit is the guarantee that we will be resurrected to spiritual life (Ephesians 1: 14).

Holy Spirit of Creation

God is a spirit (John 4: 24). God is also Holy (1 Peter 1: 16). Therefore, He is the personification of the Holy Spirit. Since Christ is also very God, He, too, is a “Holy Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3: 17).

But there is much more to it than that. The Holy Spirit not only was used in the original creation, but is something we need for salvation and to live a Christian life.

Matter can exist in various states, and have different uses or purposes in each state. Water, for example, can be used differently when in the solid state as opposed to the liquid state. Spirit also has different “states.” One of its states, or purposes, is the very composition of God. “God is Spirit” (John 4: 24).

The Father and the Son, though composed of spirit, each have separate, definite form and shape. They look like men (or we could say we look like them, for it is we who have been created in the image and likeness of God), with eyes, ears, arms, head, and torso, etc. Many Bible passages confirm this (Genesis 1: 26-27).

God’s Spirit according to the scriptures permeates the entire universe, much the same way the atmosphere permeates the earth’s surface, (Psalms 139: 7-11).

As energy can be used to change matter from a solid to a liquid, so God can send forth His Spirit to apparently create *ex nihilo*, something, by human reckoning, out of nothing. God transformed this creative energy into the physical world we see around us. “Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth (Psalms 104: 30).

Notice, in all of God’s creative work, He never “sent forth a person” of the Godhead! “...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water” (Genesis 1: 2).

This “Spirit” obviously was an energy source used in the creative work, as a tool by the member of the Godhead that actually did the creating.

The Scriptures clearly show in both the Old and New Testament that Jesus Christ is the actual personage who did the creating. He did it by “Speaking.” He is called the “Word” in (John 1: 1) who made all things (verse 3). The Greek word translated “Word” in these verses is “Logos,” and it literally means “Spokesman,” or “one who speaks” (Colossians 1: 15-17;

Revelation 4: 11; Hebrews 1: 2,10). These Scriptures reveal Jesus Christ as the one who actually performed the work of creation. “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: He layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalms 33: 6-9).

If the Spirit as a person, as is commonly supposed, did the creating, why did it not speak for itself? And where then does Christ fit and enter into the creation picture?

The only possible method or way to avoid a head on conflict in the above scriptures is to admit that the “Spirit” is the power Christ used, the source of energy out of which the physical creation was brought into being. Besides being an energy source that fills and pervades the whole universe, God’s Spirit is also known as, and is called a power in many passages. Prior to His crucifixion, Christ told His still unconverted disciples that after His death and resurrection, they would be “endued with power from on high.” The Book of Acts plainly shows this power to be the Holy Spirit, which was made available to mankind in general for the first time on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1: 5, 8; Acts 2).

During the arrest and trial of Jesus Christ the disciples had been so weak that they fled and even denied Christ. However, now, on the Day of Pentecost after receiving the Holy Spirit, they are filled with power and spoke out boldly about the plan of salvation. (See Acts 4: 31- 33 and 6: 5,8,10). This is the same power Christ was filled with (Luke 4: 14). Those who are obedient to Christ can have this same power (Romans 15: 13, 19). When we receive the Spirit, it is not a person we receive, but a Spiritual Power and essence, an energy source directly from God, that “witnesses with our human spirit” already present in our minds (Romans 8: 16). When that happens, we are imbued with a portion of the very nature of God. With this energy source we are enabled to resist Satan, and his ways (Ephesians 3: 16, 20). The receiving of

this power source, is an earnest of the Spirit (Ephesians 1: 13- 14). Those that believe on Jesus Christ, and receive Him, now have the power to become the sons and daughters of God, and that's a lot of power (John 1: 12).

Review

1. *God is Spirit.*
2. *The Father and the Son are composed of Spirit.*
3. *The Father and Son each have separate form and shape.*
4. *We were created in the image and likeness of God.*
5. *God's Spirit is everywhere in the universe.*
6. *God can create something out of nothing.*
7. *God never sent forth a person, in all of His creative work.*
8. *The Spirit is an energy source by which Jesus Christ created all things.*
9. *Jesus is the Word, Logos, Spokesman, or one who speaks.*
10. *The Spirit never speaks for itself.*
11. *The Spirit is the power or energy source Christ used in the creative process.*
12. *The Holy Spirit is the power made available to mankind on the day of Pentecost.*
13. *The Holy Spirit is the power source we need to resist Satan and Sin.*
14. *By accepting Christ and receiving the Spirit we have the power to become the Sons and Daughters of God.*

The Saving Power

This Spirit of Power is an invincible force in our day-to-day, often difficult Christian lives. However, it also plays an important and vital part in the process of our Salvation. So vital, in fact that without it, we would be helpless in attaining salvation. All those who have died will be resurrected from the dead by this power (1 Corinthians 6: 14). Because of this power of God, Christ is

alive today (2 Corinthians 13: 4). And the same verse gives us the assurance that we will live with Christ and reign with Him in His Kingdom by this same power (Revelation 20: 4).

It is through the indwelling of this Spirit that Christ lives His life in us (2 Corinthians 13: 5).

Through many statements of the Apostle Paul it is shown to us how Christ dwells in each converted Christian through the Spirit, accomplishing salvation in us, and as well affirming us with the hope of salvation (Gal 2: 20; Ephesians 3: 17-20; Colossians 1: 27).

For the most part, Romans the eighth chapter is dedicated to the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of salvation. Verses 29 and 30 describe the various stages of the process.

First, God gets to know us, by closely observing our attitudes, our reactions in various circumstances, and searching our innermost feelings (Jeremiah 17: 10). After God searches out our hearts, He may say in effect, "This person will probably live my way of life if I make it known. So He begins to lead us by His Spirit using it to open our minds to understand spiritual things (Romans 8: 14). Until this time it is utterly impossible for the natural mind to understand spiritual matters. (1 Corinthians 2: 11, 14). They are foolishness to him (verse 14).

At this juncture, God calls us into His service, and upon our acceptance of the calling, He considers us joint heirs with Christ (but not yet inheritors) of everything in the entire universe. Compare (Romans 8: 17 with Hebrews 2: 7-8).

Paul used the law of adoption in Roman culture to illustrate the believer's new relationship with God.

The adopted person in Roman culture lost all rights in his old family and gained all the rights of a legitimate child in his new family. He became a full heir to his new Father's estate. Likewise, a person who accepts Christ as Savior, becoming a Christian, will gain all the privileges and responsibilities of a child in God's family. We truly gain sonship and the outstanding

privilege of being led by the Spirit (Gal 4: 5-6).

Christ has already qualified for His position as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17: 14). He has also gone on before us as a pioneer in Salvation (Hebrews 2: 10).

God intends to add many sons and daughters to His divine Family, and Jesus Christ is our older brother (Hebrews 2: 10-11).

We are told in the Book of Romans how this is accomplished. It is by God's Spirit "witnessing" with our human spirit that is in our mind (Romans 8: 11-19).

Review

1. *We will be resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
2. *Christ is alive today because of this power.*
3. *All will be resurrected by this power.*
4. *We will reign with Christ by this same power.*
5. *Christ lives His life in us by this indwelling Spirit (Holy Spirit) of power.*
6. *Through the Spirit, Christ affirms our hope of Salvation.*
7. *God uses His Spirit to open our minds to understand spiritual things.*
8. *Once we accept God's calling, we are considered joint heirs with Christ.*
9. *Accepting Christ as our savior gains us all the privileges and responsibilities of a child in God's Family.*

Begetting and Birth

In Romans chapter eight we are called "children of God." However, when reading verse 17 we see a confusion factor thrown in, for it uses the term "Heir." There is a great deal of difference between being heir to a fortune, say, of a rich uncle, and being the actual inheritor of the fortune.

We are no longer fearful slaves of a cruel master, but we are the children of a loving and benevolent Father. Because we are God's children, we will share in great treasures as "Joint-Heirs" with Jesus

Christ. We must be willing to suffer whatever necessary to remain obedient children of God while on this earth (Romans 8: 14- 17).

Though we are “Heirs” we have not yet, and cannot actually inherit the Kingdom of God while we are yet mortals (1 Corinthians 15: 50). We must remain heirs. And yet, we have received Jesus Christ, forgiveness, and eternal life, plus the privilege of asking God to supply our needs, all of which are great treasures.

Numerous scriptures speak of a time when Christ will literally assume the reigns of the government of God over the whole earth, replacing ALL earthly governments (Daniel 2: 44; Daniel 7: 18, 22, 27; Revelation 11: 15). And at this time the Saints also are to reign with Christ (Daniel 7: 22, 27; Revelation 5: 10 and 20: 6). This is an indication to us that there must be a definite time when the *change* occurs from mortal to immortal, and as Saints we inherit rewards.

Both Jesus Christ, and the Apostle Paul explained when this thrilling change would take place.

Jesus said the Saints would inherit the Kingdom at His Second coming (Matthew 25: 31-34). Paul continues to add additional understanding about this monumental event telling of an instantaneous change from mortal to immortal for those “Saints” still alive at Christ’s return (I Corinthians 15: 49-53). For those converted Christians who have died there will be a resurrection from the dead as immortal, spirit-composed, literal sons and daughters of God, ready in all respects to inherit the Kingdom (Revelation 20: 4-6).

Analogies can be used to explain profound truths, but we must be careful and realize an analogy will break down if carried too far.

However, the process by which the above takes place can be looked at as analogous to the human physical begetting and birth. God says we can understand everything about Him by looking around us at the physical creation, even spiritual matters, including His power and Godhead (Romans 1: 20).

Jesus was asked about this business of a second “birth” by the Pharisee Nicodemus, in the third chapter of John. He confirmed the fact that once a spiritual birth has taken place, the individual is no longer composed of flesh, but is literally a spirit being, entirely composed of Spirit (John 3: 3-8).

First let us consider how the physical process works. There is a time when the ovum of the woman is impregnated by the sperm of the male. A child is begotten or conceived. But that tiny germ of life is not nearly prepared to face the world outside of its mother’s womb. It must grow and develop until (1) a certain amount of time has passed; and, (2) it is mature enough to survive in the outside world.

There are many obvious similarities in the spiritual process. We are the ovum. God’s Spirit impregnates us with the “germ” of Eternal Life, called the “earnest” or “token amount” of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 1: 22 and 5: 5; Ephesians 1: 14). At this point we are far from a mature spirit being, just as the human embryo is far from a fully developed baby. Spiritual growth and development must take place. The actual birth occurs, as we have seen, at Christ’s second coming (1 John 3: 2). Then, and only then, could the “mystery” Jesus revealed to Nicodemus be resolved. Then, that which is born of the spirit will be spirit, and the individual can see, and enter, or inherit, God’s Kingdom, ready to take his place as a king and priest with Christ (compare John 3: 6, 1 John 3: 2, Revelation 5: 10)

As Christians, we cannot be so rash as to say we are already a mature spirit being, who looks like Christ now looks (Revelation 1: 13-16), who cannot sin (1 John 3: 9), and cannot die, for he is immortal (1 Corinthians 15: 49, 52, 53).

This end result of being glorified as literal sons of God, composed of spirit as Christ already is (1 John 3: 2), can come only because we have been justified (Romans 8: 30), Christ’s shed blood having washed away all our past sins once we have repented of them (Romans 5: 9; Acts 2: 38-39). Once justified, we then need to reorient the course of our lives, determined from that time

forward to follow the example of Christ and all the prophets and apostles. God will give us His Spirit as a free gift to help us live as we ought to, and if we endure to the end, our salvation will become a reality (Matthew 10: 22 and 24: 13, Mark 13: 13).

Review

1. *Though we are heirs, we are not yet inheritors.*
2. *Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.*
3. *In the near future, Christ will rule over all governments on earth.*
4. *We will be changed from mortal to immortal.*
5. *We shall reign with Christ.*
6. *When we are changed from mortal to immortal, we will be the sons and daughters of God.*
7. *As God’s children we shall inherit the Kingdom.*
8. *Jesus explained to Nicodemus that a man must be born again to see the Kingdom.*
9. *A person born again is no longer physical, but is composed entirely of Spirit.*
10. *Spiritual growth and development take place now in our lives.*
11. *Our Spiritual Birth takes place at Christ’s coming.*

Fruit of the Spirit

As we endure (mature), we need to produce the fruit of a spirit lead life, which proves, and is a manifestation of obedience and spiritual growth. Christ emphasized this in a number of places (Matthew 7: 15-27; 12: 33; 13: 3-8; Luke 3: 8-9; 6: 43-44; John 15: 2, etc.). These are contrasted to the “works of the flesh”, which will prevent us from even being a candidate for God’s Kingdom (Galatians 5: 17-26; 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10). If we are living our lives after the evil “works” of Galatians five, we cannot please God (Romans 8: 8). It is obvious that such persons do not have God’s Holy Spirit, and are “none of His” (Romans 8: 9).

Christ promised to reward us according to these works, or the

fruit of the spirit we have produced through His indwelling Spirit (Matthew 16: 27), though of course we are not saved by them. However, if we are not willing to obey God, He won't give us His Spirit at all, and it is required for salvation as we have seen (Acts 5: 32; Romans 8: 13). Job knew works were a consideration when God gives us our reward (Job 34: 11), as did David (Psalms 62: 12), Solomon (Proverbs 24: 12), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 17: 10), Paul (Romans 2: 6; 1 Corinthians 3: 8; 2 Corinthians 5: 10), Peter (1 Peter 1: 17), and John (Revelation 2: 23 and 22: 12).

Paul stated it plainly, that humanly speaking, he was unable to produce anything other than the fleshly carnal works that lead to death (Romans 7: 18-21). But then he continued the discussion of the same topic in Romans eight to show us that God's Spirit in our minds can help us overcome our sinful ways. One reason Christ referred to the Spirit as a "Comforter" is because it gives us comfort and assurance to know we have a way out of this apparent dilemma Paul was stating. Paul himself said so, though he didn't use the word comforter, in (Romans 7: 25; 8: 1).

The lucid words of Christ stated that only the "overcomers" would receive rewards in His Kingdom (Revelation 2: 7, 11, 17, 26 and Revelation 3: 12, 21). With God's Spirit, we can overcome our natural tendency to carnality, under the sway of Satan. So we see it is a spiritual power at work in our mind that can be exercised to produce good "fruit" or "works" in or lives. Our minds then become more like Christ's (1 Corinthians 2: 16 and Philippians 2: 5), and we begin to see things more and more clearly, from God's viewpoint (1 Corinthians 13: 12). We only have this "mind of Christ" if we have His Spirit dwelling in our mind (1 Corinthians 2: 11, 14).

Review

1. As we mature and produce the fruit of the Spirit we manifest a life of obedience and spiritual growth.

2. Manifesting the works of the flesh will prevent us from being a candidate for God's Kingdom.

3. A life patterned after the evil works of the flesh cannot please God.

4. Christ has promised to reward us according to the fruit we have produced through His indwelling Spirit.

5. With the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit we can overcome our natural tendency to carnality.

6. We can use the power of the Holy Spirit to produce good fruit or works in our lives.

7. We have the mind of Christ if His Spirit dwells in our mind.

The Power of Christ

Jesus Christ, the Word, became human flesh and blood with all its human fleshly nature (Hebrews 2: 9, 14; John 1: 14; Hebrews 4: 14, 15). Jesus became a human being. He was miraculously begotten by the Holy Spirit of Power (Matthew 1: 18-20).

In His flesh was the same human carnal nature that all human beings must contend with. Jesus did not inherit the sinful nature of His mother Mary. He was miraculously begotten both physically and spiritually by the Holy Spirit of Power.

Though we are not humanly conceived in this way, nevertheless Jesus begetting is a type illustrating *Our Spiritual Begetting*. By it this Power of the Holy Spirit will convict our minds changing us and strengthening us in a similar manner as it did Jesus.

God the Father did not give Jesus only a token or earnest amount of the Holy Spirit with Power, but rather, Jesus was completely filled with it (John 3: 34).

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power, God being with Him, He went around doing good and healing those who were oppressed by the devil (Acts 10: 38).

Jesus performed many breathtaking divine miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in Him. Turning water into wine was the beginning of miracles that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. Just as the wine Jesus made was the best, so life in Him is better than life on our own. When the disciples saw the miracle Jesus performed, they realized He had

power over nature, and they believed (John 2: 1- 11).

Jesus was different than the Priests, Scribes, Sadducees, and Pharisees, in that when He spoke or healed He performed His works with "Authority," therefore, the people were astonished at His doctrine and were amazed that even the unclean spirits obeyed Him (Mark 1: 21-28).

A man came to Jesus asking to be healed of leprosy. Jewish leaders declared lepers unclean and unfit to participate in any religious or social activity. Some even threw rocks at lepers to keep them at a safe distance so as not to be made unclean by any contact.

Jesus had compassion upon this particular man and put forth His hand touching him and healing him (Mark 1: 40-42).

In a sense we are all unclean sinners, but God sending His Son Jesus, has touched us giving us the opportunity to be healed and forgiven. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit in Christ that we are cleansed, healed, and resurrected (Romans 5: 8; John 3: 16)

In Matthew we read of Jesus and His disciples entering into a fishing vessel. Jesus promptly went to sleep. Once out to sea a sudden storm struck, stirring the water into violent twenty foot waves. The disciples panicked, and displayed a lack of faith. Jesus calmed the storm, and the disciples marveled at His ability to control the storms of nature. Jesus can also control the storms in our life and our troubled heart with His great power, if we will ask Him (Matthew 8: 23-27).

Two blind men cried out to Jesus. "Thou son of David, have mercy on us." At first Jesus ignored them, perhaps because of the political implication their words implied which expressed that He was the Messiah come to deliver them from their Roman oppressors, or He was testing their faith. Whatever the reason, He did heal them according to their faith. Healing them according to their faith does not mean according to the "measure of their faith," but rather in response to their faith large or small (Matthew 9: 27-31).

Another puzzling incident for some was the healing of the blind man of Bethsaida. It is puzzling because Jesus healed the man in two stages.

After the first stage of healing the man said he saw men as trees. This would indicate that at a young age he probably could see, therefore he knew what trees looked like. However, a person in this situation needs more than eyesight restored. In most cases of this kind the newly sighted need time for the development of some new pathways in the visual cortex of the brain.

This blind man had the additional complication of “agnosia,” he could not make sense of what he was seeing. Jesus, having miraculously given the man his eye sight, now in the second stage heals his agnosia.

Giving this man back his eye sight and healing his agnosia would have involved restoring or creating eye structures, as well as creating new nerve pathways and connections in the brain. All of this being done nearly instantaneously by Jesus with the Power of the Holy Spirit (Mark 8: 22-25).

Jesus performed many miracles by the Power of the Holy Spirit within Him, such as feeding the Five Thousand (Matthew 14: 15-21). Calling forth Lazarus from his grave after being dead four days (John 11: 39-45). Jesus possessed such Power of the Holy Spirit that just touching His garment was all that was necessary to heal the sick (Matthew 14: 34-36).

The miracle working Power of God’s Holy Spirit was amply demonstrated through the human body of Jesus Christ. That same Power can work in all those who obey Jesus, believing on His name, allowing them to become the sons and daughters of God (John 1: 12).

By Jesus own words we find He was powerless to do anything by His own strength (John 5: 30).

Jesus went on to say, it was His Father that did all these marvelous works (John 14: 10).

Jesus could do no great works by His own human power, but by the divine power of the father He could do all things.

Jesus had emptied Himself of the divine glory and power He had with the Father from eternity, and became fleshly just as we are. Only His begetting by the Spirit made Him different. He plainly said He could, Do Nothing! Neither can we. However, with the Power of the Holy Spirit we can do all things, as God the Father directs.

Even though Jesus was as human as we are He was able to keep the minutest Spiritual intent of God’s law perfectly (Hebrews 4: 14; 1 Peter 2: 22).

Through Jesus it was revealed that God’s law is a spiritual law. Not to commit murder is not good enough, we are not to harbor hate of any kind in our heart for our brother. The mental hate in our heart for anyone or, for that matter, any thought that is contrary to God’s law, breaks the spiritual intent of God’s great law which is a law of love summed up in the basic Ten Commandments. One of the great revelations of the New Testament is the expansion of God’s law to its spiritual intent and purpose!

Jesus lived and breathed a perfect example for us in all things, and we should be imitators of Him (1 Peter 2: 21; Matthew 19: 17). By keeping the commandments we will be abiding in the love of Jesus (John 15: 10).

Jesus was in every way tempted in all points like we are. He was composed of the same fallible, carnal, fleshly nature. He was tempted through the lusts of His human nature, but without sin, He resisted sin because He was filled with the spiritual strength the (Power) of the Holy Spirit.

Review

1. *Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit of Power.*
2. *Jesus had power over nature.*
3. *Jesus spoke and performed His works with authority, not as the scribes.*
4. *It is through the power of the Holy Spirit in Christ we are cleaned and healed.*
5. *Jesus has power to control the storms in our troubled heart as well as the storms of nature.*

6. *Jesus heals us according to our Faith large or small, not according to the measure of our Faith.*

7. *Jesus healed the blind which would also involve the restoring and creating of new pathways in the visual cortex of the brain.*

8. *Those who receive and believe Jesus are given power to become sons and daughters of God.*

9. *Jesus was powerless to do anything by His own strength.*

10. *Jesus said, it was the Father who did all the works. We abide in Christ by obedience*

11. *We should be imitators of Jesus.*

The Spiritual Man

When man was created in Eden he was only complete in the physical sense. He was a perfect human specimen, but not a perfect spiritual creation. God made him empty of the divine spiritual power.

God has plans for making man a spiritual creation, and we must understand this plan and process of God.

God is in the process of forming and molding man as a potter works with clay (Isaiah 64: 8).

Even Job understood this special creation God was forming out of his life (Job 14: 14-15).

“Thou wilt have a desire for the work of thine hands.” (Job 14: 15). The “Work” mentioned was Job. Job knew that he was simply a piece of divine *workmanship* in the hands of the Creator. Nothing more, and nothing less, than a piece of pliable clay in the hands of the *Master Potter*.

In the New Testament this theme of workmanship is continued. “For we are His *workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2: 10).

We are now being created “unto good works.” God is actually creating in Spirit directed humans His *Greatest Masterpiece*. He is in the process now of creating billions of sons

and daughters with perfect Spiritual Godly Character.

God is creating His Masterpiece by two steps. Man, the clay material creation (Genesis 1), is only the first part. Man the clay model must then be fashioned and molded by experience and with the aid of God's Holy Spirit within him, into the finished spiritual creation masterpiece of all God's creation. Remember, by analogy a follower of Christ is compared to a newly begotten babe in its mother's womb that begins to grow.

When the Father begets us with His Spirit, bestowing His love upon us we are then called "Sons" of God (1 John 3: 1).

After this begetting we are led by the Spirit of God, therefore, we are sons of God. Paul used a Roman analogy of adoption to show how we have given up our old way of life, old family, and have gained all the rights and privileges of the new family, "The Family of God!" However our spiritual begetting is to "Sonship," not adoption. When we come up in the first resurrection we will experience being born again, receiving new spiritual bodies and Eternal Life, being joint heirs with Christ, being sons and daughters, spirit beings just like Christ, also glorified together (Romans 8: 14-17). Another very important fact about our begetting is that we partake of the divine nature and characteristics of God. The power to grow doesn't come from within us, but from God. God makes us "partakers of the divine nature" to keep us from sin and help us live for him. To enjoy the privileges God offers us freely, we have to combine getting to know Him better ("Knowledge of God with complete trust (2 Peter 1: 3-4).

The fundamental characteristic of God's nature is love (1 John 4: 16). This is the "same love" that will enable us to fulfill and obey God's laws (Romans 13: 10; 5: 5).

The Holy Spirit of God imparts God's love to us. God's love enables us to channel our human will into causing us to perform works, Acts, which are pleasing in God's sight, therefore,

fulfilling God's Law of Love. If you have God's love, you will, by the Power of God, and not by your own human strength, keep His Commandments. However, we do have a personal obligation in all this to aid the real changing agent, "The Holy Spirit," as much as humanly possible. We must not resist the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is our part in strengthening our will and building Godly Character.

If we have God's Spirit in us, then God's nature which is His Love, will naturally manifest itself in good works and obedience. If we are faithful, we cannot help but grow up in Christ (2 Peter 3: 18). Then when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, in stature, likeness, and composition (1 John 3: 2).

The changing process that takes place in spirit begotten Christians is what produces the new "creation" (2 Corinthians 5: 17).

Our impregnation by the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit and attitude of God Himself, will plant within us the seed of the divine nature of God. It will develop His Character within us.

By receiving God's Spirit we will begin to think as God thinks, see things as He sees things, and act as He acts. Our whole attitude will change. We will become more like God every day because you will have the same mind that Jesus Christ had when He also was a Spirit begotten human being.

Review

1. *In Eden, man was a complete physical specimen, but was not complete spiritually.*

2. *Man in Eden was empty of divine spiritual power.*

3. *God has a Plan for all mankind and is in the process of molding and forming him.*

4. *Man is a piece of divine workmanship in the hands of the creator.*

5. *We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works.*

6. *When the Father begets us we are then the Sons and daughters of God.*

7. *After this begetting we are led by the Spirit.*

8. *We will experience being born again in the First Resurrection.*

9. *In our begetting we partake of the divine nature and characteristics of God.*

10. *The power to grow comes from God not from within us.*

11. *The fundamental characteristic of God's nature is love.*

12. *We keep the commandments by the power of God, not by our human strength.*

13. *We must not resist the power of the Holy Spirit.*

14. *If we are faithful, we will grow up in Christ.*

15. *When Christ appears, we shall be like Him in stature, likeness, and composition.*

16. *The changing process going on within us is what produces the "New Creation."*

17. *With God's Spirit within, we will begin to see, act, and think as He does.*

Immortality by the Spirit

Having the Holy Spirit within us is the key to our gaining Eternal Life and Glory. When Jesus Christ died, He was raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15: 3, 4).

From the Scriptures we learn it was God the Father who raised Jesus from death to immortality, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1: 17-20).

Jesus Christ had the Holy Spirit within Him. See also (Romans 8: 9). In the book of John Jesus explained that no man could take away His life. He laid His life down voluntarily. Also, He said He had the Power to lay His life down, and power to take it up again (John 10: 17-18).

The Apostle Peter informs us that though Jesus Christ was put to death in the flesh, He was quickened "Made Alive" by the Holy Spirit which was in Him (1 Peter 3: 18).

There are many proofs of Christ's resurrection from death to immortality (1 Corinthians 15: 5-8). Jesus Christ is the first one of the many to be resurrected to eternal life (Acts 26: 23; 1 Corinthians 15: 23). Christ is the "*Firstborn of many Brethren*" (Romans 8: 29).

The Father has given a magnificent promise to all Spirit-begotten Christians, that He will also raise them to immortality if His Holy Spirit is within them, just as He resurrected Jesus (Romans 8: 11; 1 Corinthians 6: 14).

Paul explains, that at the Last Trump, and in the twinkling of an eye we shall be changed (1 Corinthians 15: 51-52). When we are changed at this first resurrection we will become as Jesus Christ is today (Philippians 3: 20-21; 1 John 3: 2).

We will also be given a Spiritual Body of the same composition as Christ has now (1 Corinthians 15: 44-45).

In the resurrection we will give up this mortal or natural body we have now and receive a Spiritual body. If we are alive at the time of the resurrection, our mortal bodies will suddenly be changed. If we have died, our character will come forth out of the dust of the ground into a Spiritual Body which God will give us from Heaven! (2 Corinthians 5: 2).

Jesus, with His Spiritual body was able to suddenly appear and disappear (Luke 24: 36-37, 31). He also was able to pass through barriers or walls (John 20:18).

When we become Spirit, we will also be able to perform these miraculous feats just as Jesus did. Once we have received Spiritual bodies we will not be subject to physical laws because we will not be composed of matter, but of Spirit, the Spirit of Power.

Jesus was able to travel to His Father in heaven, and then return to earth all on the same day. This is another example of the Power of God's Spirit (John 20: 17 Matthew 28: 9).

Jesus apparently was able to manifest Himself to His disciples in His

physical fleshly body whenever He wanted to (Luke 24: 37-39).

Once we are made Spirit, we will be unable to die any more (Luke 20: 36).

Notice that Jesus was to be glorified again after His resurrection (John 17: 4-5). For a description of Jesus Christ's glorified body now, read (Revelation 1: 13-18).

This man "like the Son of man" is Jesus Himself. The title Son of man occurs many times in the New Testament in reference to Jesus as the Messiah. John recognized Jesus because he lived with Him three years and had seen Him as the glorified son of God at the transfiguration (Matthew 17: 1-8)

The whiteness of His hair represents absolute purity and holiness. His eyes like a flame of fire speak of His penetrating wisdom and His righteous judgment. His feet speak of strength and of the brazen altar and thus of the sacrifice of Christ. In this vision Jesus presented Himself as the one Mediator between God and man as well as the One in whom dwells "the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2: 9).

The many miracles Jesus Christ performed on earth, glorified God the Father by showing to man some of God's Great Power.

Christ was not in His glorified body when He appeared to His disciples for 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1: 2-4, 9). But He is now.

God will glorify His Spirit-begotten children at the resurrection by giving them this same great power and glory (Romans 8: 17; Colossians 3: 4).

If we remain faithful, we also can have Spiritual bodies that *Shine as the Sun*. That's what the Great Power of God's Holy Spirit can accomplish.

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall *SHINE AS THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE FIRMAMENT*; and they that turn

many to righteousness as the *STARS* forever and ever (Daniel 12: 2-3).

Review

1. *The Key to gaining Eternal Life and Glory is having God's Holy Spirit.*
2. *God the Father raised Jesus from death to immortality.*
3. *Jesus had the Holy Spirit within Him.*
4. *Jesus had power to lay His life down and pick it up.*
5. *Jesus was quickened, made alive, by the Holy Spirit within Him.*
6. *Jesus Christ is the "Firstborn" of many brethren to be raised to Eternal life.*
7. *We shall be changed at the Last Trump, and be given a Spiritual body of the same composition as Christ's body.*
8. *We will be able to accomplish the same things in our spiritual body that Christ accomplished in His.*
9. *We will not be subject to physical laws, because we will be composed of Spirit not flesh.*
10. *John recognized Jesus in His glorified form because he had seen Him as the glorified Son of God at the Transfiguration.*
11. *God will glorify His begotten children at the resurrection.*
12. *They that are faithful and wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars forever.*

Summary

It is very inspiring to think about, this great plan of God, a "Creation" that is still going on today, and can even be going on in our lives today, if we are willing. At this time we are clay images of God, created out of the dust of the ground (Genesis 1: 26; 2: 7).

It is the Holy Spirit of Power that will enable man to keep the supreme spiritual law of love, the Ten Commandments. This same Holy Spirit resides in both the Father and the Son and

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Understanding The Holy Spirit

Test Yourself

Write your answers
on a separate piece
of paper.
Check your answers
with the answers
found at the end of
the test.

HOME BIBLE Study Course E

True or False Questions

1. Many Old Testament people were blessed with the Holy Spirit dwelling within them.
2. God is spirit.
3. Many true Christians do not yet have the Holy Spirit within them.
4. The Spirit created all without God
5. Christ lives in us via the Spirit.
6. The Spirit is never mentioned in Paul's writings.
7. Being "born again" involves being composed of spirit
8. The Holy Spirit is a free gift.
9. Spiritual birth occurs six months before Christ's coming.
10. Our reward is based upon good fruit or works produced in our lives.
11. Jesus used the power of the Spirit to perform miracles.
12. Jesus (while human) was given a limited amount of the Holy Spirit.
13. When Jesus performed healings he often thanked the Spirit.
14. We should imitate Jesus.
15. We cannot resist the Spirit.
16. God completed mankind's physical and spiritual creation in the Garden of Eden.
17. Spirit begotten Christians are seen by God as a new "creation".
18. We experience being "born again" at the second resurrection.
19. As spirit, we cannot die.
20. Spirit bodies shine as the sun.

We encourage you to continue your study through daily Bible reading, by taking advantage of our free literature and CD offers, and by attending Sabbath and festival Services when possible. For information on the Church of God International congregation nearest you, write to The Church of God International, 3900 Timms St. Tyler, TX 75701, call the home office at (903) 939-2929, or visit www.cgi.org.

Answers to True or False Questions: Score Yourself: Miss 0-3 = Excellent; Miss 4-6 = Good; Miss 7-9 = Fair

Answers: 1. False 2. True 3. False 4. False 5. True 6. False 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False 13. False 14. True 15. False 16. False 17. True 18. False 19. True 20. True