

Studies on the Holy Spirit



By
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If You Ask for the Holy Spirit

If you ask for the Holy Spirit
He will make you be so good.
God will fill you with His Spirit,
He promised that He would.

If you ask for the Holy Spirit
He'll be with you all the day.
Though you may not even hear it,
He'll be with you all the way.

If you ask for the Spirit Holy
He'll be with you all the day.
He will give you all His glory
In His own special way.

--Kari Wilfley, Age 9

The Past

In the spring of 1979, my senior year of Theology training, I sat on the steps of my apartment and read from the book, *They Found the Secret*, by V. Raymond Edman concerning Oswald Chambers:

"God used me during those years for the conversion of souls, but I had no conscious communion with Him. The Bible was the dullest, most uninteresting book in existence, and the sense of depravity, the vileness and bad-motiveness of my nature, was terrific. I see now that God was taking me by the light of the Holy Spirit and His Word through every ramification of my being.

"The last three months of those years things reached a climax, I was getting very desperate. I knew no one who had what I wanted; in fact I did not know what I did want. But I knew that if what I had was all the Christianity there was, the thing was a fraud. Then Luke 11:13 got hold of me -- 'If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?'

"If the four previous years had been hell on earth, these five years have truly been heaven on earth. Glory be to God, the last aching abyss of the human heart is filled to overflowing with the love of God. Love is the beginning, love is the middle and love is the end. After He comes in, all you see is "Jesus only, Jesus ever."¹

On the bottom of that page I had written, "I need to pray for the Spirit too!" for I felt his testimony applied to my own condition, and I longed for the same outcome. However, I did not give too much thought to the Holy Spirit at that time because of two factors.

First, from the time I was a child my parents had warned me about strange beliefs and experiences happening in Christian churches that were supposedly the result of seeking the Holy Spirit. Thus, I had some fear about the work of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, I had believed that since the Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of truth" then I must have the Holy Spirit if I had the truth. Elwood Boyd, the Seventh-day Adventist pastor of the church I attended, invited me to accompany him to visit a Pentecostal pastor who had requested Bible studies. At one point during that Bible study the Pentecostal preacher leaned forward and pointed straight at Pastor Boyd saying: "You Adventists have the truth, but you need the Holy Spirit." Afterwards Pastor Boyd asked me what I thought about that. I said, "He has to be wrong." "Why?" my pastor queried. "Well, if we do have the truth we must have the Spirit, because the Spirit leads us into all truth." But my inner emptiness and spiritual lack testified otherwise. I didn't stop to think at that time that there is a very powerful being who knows the truth better than anyone, but he is not filled with the Holy Spirit. He, the devil, or Satan, is evil incarnate. Knowing the truth and being transformed by the truth are two entirely different things.

These two factors made it very difficult for me to be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit. Fear of the unknown and prejudice, or pride effectively stifled any inclination I had to look deeper into this important aspect of Christian living for many years. So, I laid aside Edman's book, and my inner longings for the security of my familiar fear and pride. Nevertheless, God was not finished with me on the subject of the indwelling of the His Holy Spirit.

¹ V. Raymond Edman, *They Found the Secret*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pg. 46.

My mother was raised in the Assembly of God faith, and my father came from the First Christian Church. In fact, my grandfather was a lay preacher in the First Christian Church in the little town of Aurora, Missouri. When my mother and father married neither of them were very committed to their churches, so it was easy for them to get caught up in raising a family and making a living after World War II. However, though my parents did not practice much religion in our home as I grew up, they still raised all of us to believe in God. They taught us to respect the Bible and all things religious. Occasionally we would pray as a family, and I can remember how moving those rare experiences were. I felt something during those moments that was distinctly not of this world.

My mother told me her brother, my uncle, married a Seventh-day Adventist and soon afterward announced to her that he was going to prove to her from the Bible that the seventh-day Sabbath was no longer obligatory for Christians living under the new covenant. Several months later he was baptized and became a Seventh-day Adventist. Being honest in heart he could not deny the truth the Bible taught regarding the Sabbath. Of course he began to share his newfound faith, but it was not welcomed in our home – at least not by my father or we children. Nevertheless, from time to time, he was allowed to have a Bible study in our home. On those occasions the word of God, in spite of my resistance, had a special allure to me, and I never forgot the lessons I heard. The one that troubled me the most was the Sabbath. As far as I was concerned keeping the Sabbath was going to ruin my whole life.

Hard as I would try I could not find arguments to disprove the Sabbath. I studied everything I could find and asked people for help, but to no avail. The more I studied the more convinced and convicted I became that God expected all mankind to keep His commandments, including the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. I hardened my heart against it, and gave my mother a lot of grief whenever she would suggest that we ought to keep the Sabbath.

Not long after my 13th birthday my mother, unbeknown to my father had arranged for a Bible study with the Seventh-day Adventist pastor from the Palmdale, California church where we were living at the time farming 2,000 acres of alfalfa. I was not pleased to find the pastor and his wife in our home that evening, and my father was visibly angry. My mother won the battle that evening and the minister stayed to give us a Bible study on the origin of evil. In spite of my desire to resist the Bible I was drawn to truth. The Bible was extremely interesting to me and I was intrigued by the Bible study. At one point, just to be obnoxious, I raised my hand to ask a question. “Yes,” the minister offered. “God knows everything, right?” I asked. “Yes,” he does, the minister agreed. “Then, if God knows everything why did He create Lucifer for He must have known that he would become the devil?” I challenged. I was sure I had cornered the pastor with a question he could not possibly answer. However, to my amazement he did answer the question with the Bible and common sense so persuasively that anyone would have to admit it made sense.

At that very instance I heard the voice of God speak to my soul with these words: “Kevin, someday I want you to become a minister and do what this pastor is doing.” “No!” I replied in my heart. “I do not ever want to become a pastor!” Thus began another battle in my heart. The first battle was over the Sabbath, and the second was over the call of God to become a pastor. Neither the Sabbath nor a career as a pastor was attractive to me, and I fought those convictions with all my heart.

When I was 17, after four long years of inner struggle, I sat at the kitchen table listening as my mother read a letter from her brother, uncle Harold, in which he gave a short Bible study on heaven. As I listened to that letter a powerful conviction grew in my heart that I was following a terrible path that would end in the destruction of my soul without hope of ever reaching the wonderful place being described. At that time I was heavily involved in high school sports, in particular football. For the first time in my life I had found something I was good at that earned me the respect and admiration of others. Previously my school experience had been very painful. My parents moved a lot in search of prosperity, thus I went to 16 different schools in 12 years. I was always the new kid. In addition to that, for most of my young life I was very overweight, thus I was often the brunt of cruel comments, jokes, and even physical attacks. Therefore, the popularity I was receiving at my high school through sports was highly prized in my heart. But that night, listening to the Bible as presented through the letter of my uncle, the Holy Spirit, whom I did not know by name, but whose influence I had so fiercely resisted, spoke clearly and distinctly to my heart showing me the foolishness of pursuing perceived earthly gain at the expense of eternal life and heaven. Then I heard His voice in my heart as clearly as if someone sitting next to me had spoken to me saying, "Kevin, either you will give your life to me tonight or you never will." A terror gripped my heart. I knew this was the turning point of my life.

As I sat there in stunned silence I saw my condition clearly. I got up from my chair and went into my room. Closing the door I knelt down to pray, but what should I say? I wasn't sure how to give my life to God. Then the two convictions I had fought for so long came to my mind. I knew what I had to do. "Dear Jesus," I prayed, "I want to be what You want me to be, I want to do what You want me to do, and I want to go where You want me to go." I would become the pastor Jesus wanted me to be. I would keep the Sabbath He had created, and I would cheerfully go wherever He would send me. A peace and joy I had never known came flooding into my heart. It warmed my whole body. Jesus had come into my heart just as I would later learn He had promised to do. He put a song in my heart and a smile on my face that has never left me to this day.

The very next Saturday I began to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Junction City, Oregon. I was baptized on February 24, 1973, in the Eugene Seventh-day Adventist Church during an afternoon program because the little church I attended had no baptistry. That was the happiest day of my life. The people of that church were so friendly and supportive of me that I was completely taken by surprise when a stranger spoke to me in the foyer of that little church saying, "You're pretty excited about all this aren't you." Thinking this person was happy for me I quickly responded, "Yes, I am!" His reply shocked me, "Well, just wait a couple of years and you'll be like the rest of us." I didn't know what "the rest of us" meant but it sounded bad.

Over the years I have found that many Christians, including Seventh-day Adventists are not happy. They are often frustrated with their Christian experience, and find the world's entertainments much more appealing. Of course, in such circumstances, they are not sharing their faith. Unfortunately, the words of the stranger came true in a few short years. I too had become frustrated with my Christian experience. At times I struggled with the assurance of my salvation, and found it difficult to obey what I knew to be the will of God. And so it was that I wrote on the bottom of Oswald Chamber's testimony, "I need to pray for the Spirit too!" In short, I felt ineffective, powerless, and trapped.

After college I wanted to be a successful minister, as I believe every young minister does. I did not want to just keep the status quo going. I wanted to do great things for God, not for any selfish gain, but to advance the kingdom of the Christ I loved. But as I began to work in the ministry questions began to form as I compared the lives of the apostles, and the lives of other great Christians with my experience and the church of today. More specifically, as I read the testimonies of the early Seventh-day Adventists and saw the great power that attended the beginnings of my church I was driven to ask, "Where is the power of the Holy Spirit today?" Matthew 10:8 says, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." It seemed as if we were trying to accomplish by learning, methods, and the programs of the church what the apostles and others did without them. I read about other Christians such as Charles Finney, and Dwight L. Moody, and found that the change in their lives and service had been the result of seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

In my ministerial experience I encountered tremendous family troubles I could not counsel away. There seemed to be little response to my preaching. Sometimes terrible attitudes and conflicts would arise in meetings. I was not seeing many people commit their lives to Jesus.

I seriously considered quitting one night after a particularly bad board meeting. As I walked alone that summer night I prayed, "Lord, why did you call me into the ministry. I don't seem to be doing much good for you." As I poured out my heart an impression came to me over and over again saying, "Read Testimonies to Ministers," a book written by Ellen White, one of the early founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I don't trust impressions and feelings because they can come from anywhere including the devil, but I didn't think the devil would tell me to read "Testimonies to Ministers"! As I read that book the constant solution offered was, "You need the Holy Spirit."

About that time I was reassigned to another church. For me a new church is an opportunity to put past failures behind and do better. I longed to get off to a good start and really see God do great things, but one day I had an experience as a result of my own ignorance that cast me into the depths of despair. This experience was the last straw physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. I entered into depression. I couldn't sleep, nor eat. I did not want to see anyone, and if I went out I had to have my wife with me. I couldn't make my mind process thoughts as it should. I seemed to be in a daze, and fear gripped my heart as I had never felt it.

For the first time in my life I felt what David wrote in the Psalms. However, at times he would say something like, "For no fault of my own has this trouble come upon me." But I couldn't say that. It was because of something I had done, even though it was an accident, that my trouble had come upon me, so even the comfort of the Scriptures seemed to be taken away from me.

Then it was as I was pleading with God for help, and searching in trusted books, that I came upon this statement:

"If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not

a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy." Ministry of Healing, pg. 249.

As I read those words that so aptly fit my case I literally felt a tall, divine presence that standing over my right shoulder. It felt as though he placed a hand on my shoulder as I read, and I felt a change go through my body. I held that book to my chest in great joy and began to memorize the above passage. From that moment I began to heal.

The words, "The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us," went deep into my heart and brought back to my mind all the previous wonderings and longings. It was as if a flame was ignited in my heart. Once and for all I had to know for myself what the Bible taught about the Holy Spirit. And for me, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, I also had to know what Ellen White had to say about this subject.

I laid aside every other duty possible and poured myself into a study of the Scriptures. What I found changed my life, and it is my hope that as you study your life will be changed too until the words of John will be true for you, "But we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." 1 John 3:2.

It was the Holy Spirit, moving on my heart from the outside, that drew me to prayer and the study of the Bible. It was the Holy Spirit who spoke to my heart that night the pastor studied with us about the origin of evil who was calling me to become a pastor. It was the Holy Spirit who drew me to the importance of the Sabbath of the Ten Commandments. It was the presence of Jesus in my heart through the Holy Spirit that gave me such peace and joy when I surrendered my heart to God. And it was the Holy Spirit living within me that drove me to the point of desperation to know and understand Him and His work in my life more thoroughly. I believe the Holy Spirit is moving in your life right this moment as well. May you not rest until you are completely filled with His presence.

The Change

In 1 Samuel 10:6 it says, "Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man." That's what I have needed. To be turned into another man--to be changed, and that is exactly what the Holy Spirit has been sent to do.

As I studied the truth about the Holy Spirit I discovered that what I needed was to be baptized, or filled with the Holy Spirit. Biblically there is no difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. In Acts 1:5 Jesus said, ". . . you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." He was, of course, referring to Pentecost. Now notice how Acts 2:4 records that event. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . ." The words "baptized" or "filled" are both used to explain the same experience.

What do you think--is it possible for a person to appear spiritual and yet be empty inside? I came to the conclusion that Luke 11:24-26 was true for me--I was well garnished but empty. I was adhering to church doctrine and standards, but inwardly I was struggling. How happy I was to learn that Jesus had sent me a Helper!

In John 16:7 we are assured that the Holy Spirit would be our Helper. I discovered the Holy Spirit would strengthen my assurance in Jesus, give me victory over sin, transform my devotional life, and empower me for service. But, as good as all this seemed to me I was concerned. After all, I had never heard anyone in the church speak about the Holy Spirit. Was I getting into some kind of heresy? This troubled me greatly, for not only did I not want to embrace error myself, but I did not want to lead others astray.

"I saw that the shepherds should consult those in whom they have reason to have confidence, those who have been in all the messages, and are firm in all the present truth, before they advocate new points of importance, which they may think the Bible sustains. Then the shepherds will be perfectly united and the union of the shepherds will be felt by the church. Such a course I saw would prevent unhappy divisions, and then there would be no danger of the precious flock being divided and the sheep scattered without a shepherd." Early Writings, pg. 61-62.

In keeping with the above counsel I requested time with my ministerial director to have him review the things I had studied. I was pleasantly surprised when he not only agreed to give me some time but gave me a whole afternoon! When we got together I carefully covered the conclusions I had come to. At the end I asked him what he thought, and he replied, "It's all true." In great relief and mounting joy I said to him, "If this is true, then my whole life will be changed." And that's just the reason the Holy Spirit has come--to change my life, and yours into a beautiful reflection of the character of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

1. Rom. 8:16 - The Holy Spirit will convict us of the assurance of salvation, just as Jesus was assured that He was the Son of God.

"The Holy Spirit is a Person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God." Evangelism, pg. 616

"God has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illumine our minds and purify our hearts." Prophets & Kings, pg. 660.

2. Eze. 36:25-27 - The Holy Spirit will give us victory over our sins and make us obey like Jesus did.

"It is through the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit that the government of Satan is to be subdued and subjected. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin and expels it from the soul by the consent of the human agent. . . Through the merits of Christ men may be able to exercise the noblest powers of his being and expel sin from his soul." My Life Today, pg. 43.

"The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit." Evangelism, pg. 617.

3. John 7:38-39 - The Holy Spirit will fill us with love, joy, peace, and the other fruits to reflect the character of Jesus.

"It is evident that truth has been planted in the heart by the Holy Spirit when it is loved and cherished, and regarded as a sacred endowment. Love will then spring up in the heart like a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting. When this love is in the heart, the worker will find no weariness in the work of Christ." Review & Herald, Vol. 3, pg. 121, Feb. 13, 1894.

4. Acts 4:13, 31 - The Holy Spirit will impel and empower us to witness for Jesus.

"All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 33.

"The church is not now the separate and peculiar people she was when the fires of persecution were kindled against her. How is the gold become dim! How is the most fine gold changed! I saw that if the church had always retained her peculiar, holy character, the power of the Holy Spirit which was imparted to the disciples would still be with her. The sick would be healed, devils would be rebuked and cast out, and she would be mighty, and a terror to her enemies." Early Writings, pg. 227.

"The hearts of the disciples were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth testifying. . . . They were filled with an intense longing to add to the church of such as should be saved." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 31.

5. John 16:13 & 2 Thess. 2:10 - The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth and give us a love for the Bible, the words of Jesus.

"May the same Holy Spirit which inspired the Bible take possession of your hearts, leading you to love His word, which is spirit and life." Counsels on Stewardship, pg. 52.

6. Romans 8:26-27 - The Holy Spirit will give us a meaningful prayer experience.

"Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man's behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, pg. 1077-78.

"The Holy Spirit will be given to those who seek for its power and grace, and will help our infirmities when we would have audience with God." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, pg. 1078.

By the power of God we all may become a new creature in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). The Bible promises, "For this promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." The promise of a changed life, and the power of the Holy Spirit is for everyone.

"I saw that it is the privilege of every Christian to enjoy the deep movings of the Spirit of God. A sweet, heavenly peace will pervade the mind, and you will love to meditate upon God and heaven. You will feast upon the glorious promises of His word." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 159.

When we consider the wonderful power God has made available to us through the Holy Spirit no wonder Satan has worked so hard to keep God's people in ignorance and fear such as he has done to me. For:

"Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 50.

Should we study about and pray for the Holy Spirit?

Some have thought that we should not teach concerning the Holy Spirit because the King James Version says in John 16:13 "He shall not speak of Himself." However, the KJV also says in John 12:49-50, & 14:10 that Jesus did not speak of Himself, but that does not mean we should not teach about Jesus.

Others have been concerned that if we pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit we may receive a false spirit. Jesus addressed this in Luke 11:11-13. He said: "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" The best advice in the study of any topic of Scripture is: "Test all things; hold fast what is good." 1 Thess. 5:21.

"Christ, the Great Teacher, had an infinite variety of subjects from which to choose, but the one upon which He dwelt most largely was the endowment of the Holy Spirit. What great things He predicted for the church because of this endowment. Yet what subject is less dwelt upon now? What promise is less fulfilled? An occasional discourse is given upon the Holy Spirit, and then the subject is left for after consideration." Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 156-57.

"The Holy Spirit is to be presented in every discourse. What wonderful statements Christ has made concerning His Representative to the world! This is the theme of encouragement to be kept before the people." Ms. 8, 1898.

"Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit, since this is the means by which we are to receive power? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, preach concerning it?" Testimonies for the Church, vol 8, pg. 22.

"Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train." The Desire of Ages, pg. 672.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

When Paul paid a visit to Ephesus he asked a group of 12 Christian brethren, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They replied, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." (Acts 19:1-6).

The Ephesian brethren were missing great blessings because they were ignorant of the Holy Spirit and His work. Recognizing their need, Paul instructed them, and after baptizing them in water prayed for them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. As a result of receiving the promised blessing their lives and ministries were changed.

"There are today many as ignorant of the Holy Spirit's work upon the heart as were those believers in Ephesus; yet no truth is more clearly taught in the word of God." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 284.

As mentioned earlier, in my own life there were two factors that kept me from gaining a fuller understanding of the Holy Spirit and His work--prejudice and fear. As a boy I was warned about peculiar behavior among some Christian groups that was supposedly a demonstration of the Holy Spirit's presence and power. The descriptions I heard made me fearful of the Holy Spirit. Later, after becoming a Seventh-day Adventist, I assumed that I and the rest of the church must have the Holy Spirit because, after all, we had the truth!

An understanding of Who the Holy Spirit really is has helped to alleviate my fears, and prejudice, and awakened a desire to have Him in control of my life.

The Holy Spirit has the Attributes of God

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit has the same characteristics, or attributes as God the Father and God the Son.

7. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent. That means He has the ability to be present in every place at the same time. "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me." Psalm 139:7-10.

Before Jesus left this earth to ascend to heaven He told His disciples that it was to their advantage for Him to go away. He said, "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." John 16:7. At least one of those advantages is the continual presence of the Holy Spirit with every true believer.

When Jesus walked the earth He was not able to be everywhere at the same time. When He was beyond the Jordan He could not be with Lazarus when he died (John 11).

Now Jesus is in heaven (Acts 1:11) as our High Priestly Advocate (Heb. 4:14-16, 1 John 2:1) forgiving our sins and praying for us (Heb. 9:11-15, 7:25). And yet He promised,

"I am with you always." Jesus is with us continually through the Holy Spirit. According to John 14:16-18,21,23 the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all dwell in the true believer.

It is amazing, yet true. Not only does the Holy Spirit abide in us, but Jesus and the Father live continually with us as well. Concerning Jesus the Bible says, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Col. 2:9. We are to be filled with all the fullness of God - Eph. 3:14-21. "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.

"By His Spirit He [Christ] is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men." My Life Today, pg. 48.

"The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high." The Desire of Ages, pg. 669.

8. The Holy Spirit is omniscient. That means He has the ability to know all things. "For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." 1 Cor. 2:10.

The Bible calls the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17, 16:13). The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible (2 Peter 1:19-21), and it is His purpose to "teach you all things", and "guide you into all truth" (John 14:26, 16:13). Furthermore, He will "bring to your remembrance all things that I [Jesus] said to you." The Holy Spirit works through the truth, the Bible. He will never lead a person in a path contrary to Scripture.

What does 1 John 5:6 tell us about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and truth? Consider also John 14:6. The word of God is the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). "For the word of God is living and power, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12-13.

"And since it was the Spirit of God that inspired the Bible, it is impossible that the teaching of the Spirit should ever be contrary to that of the word. "The Spirit was not given--nor can it ever be bestowed--to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested." Great Controversy, pg. vii.

"Yet the operations of the Spirit are always in harmony with the written word." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 284.

"Even the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is to be tested by the Word of God. The Spirit which inspired the Scriptures always leads to the Scriptures." Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 43.

"God's holy, educating Spirit is in His word. A light, a new and precious light, shines forth from every page. Truth is there revealed, and words and sentences are made bright and appropriate for the occasion, as the voice of God speaking to them." Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, pg. 171.

9. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent, or all powerful. That means He has the ability to do all things. He assisted in creation--Gen. 1:2 & Ps. 104:30. He keeps us alive from

day to day--Job 33:4. Demons are cast out by His power--Matt. 12:28. By His power Jesus was resurrected--1 Peter 3:18.

"The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ to permit to pass under the enemy's power." The Desire of Ages, pg. 490-91.

These characteristics have very important and practical meaning in our lives. Because He is omniscient the Holy Spirit knows all about you. He knows your longing to be free from sin's power and reflect the character of Christ. He knows about your disappointments and frustrations in the Christian life, and since He has the ability to be everywhere at once, or omnipresent, He is with you now, and He wants to use His infinite power, omnipotence, to set you free, for 2 Cor. 3:17 says, ". . . where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Why not say a prayer right now where you are and ask God to forgive your sins, and give you the assurance of the Holy Spirit's presence, and the victory over your doubts and sins.

The Holy Spirit is Called God

Not only does the Bible show us that the Holy Spirit has the same attributes as God the Father and God the Son, it also plainly declares the Holy Spirit to be God, and makes Him equal with God the Father, and God the Son.

10. Acts 5:1-4, 9 records the story of Ananias and his wife Sapphira who made a pretense of offering to God all their property when, in truth, they offered only part. Sadly they both lost their lives because they lied "to the Holy Spirit," verse 3, "to God," verse 4.

11. John 4:24 says, "God is Spirit."

12. 2 Cor. 3:17 plainly says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit. . ."

One may wonder if the phrase, "Spirit of God", such as in Gen. 1:2, indicates the Holy Spirit is in some way subordinate to the Father. Jesus was referred to as the "Son of God", as in Matt. 16:16, and yet there is no doubt that He is fully God (John 1:1-3, 14; 10:33; Hebrews 1:8).

Though it is a mystery the Bible teaches there are three divine Persons who are all called God--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

13. We are to baptize in water by the authority, and with the blessing of all three members of the Godhead - Matt. 28:19.

14. The special work of each member of the Trinity is called upon by Paul to minister to the believer - 2 Cor. 13:14.

"There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ." Evangelism, pg. 615.

"The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three holy dignitaries of heaven, have declared that they will strengthen men to overcome the powers of darkness. All the facilities of heaven are pledged to those who by their baptismal vows have entered into a covenant with God." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, pg. 1110.

When Jesus came to this earth He demonstrated to the entire universe through His loving life, and sacrificial death what the Father is like (John 14:9). Because of Jesus we see even more clearly that the Father loves us (John 16:27), and that we may trust ourselves completely to Him.

Just as the Son was a revelation of the Father and glorified Him (John 17:4), so the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus and reveals His lovely character and truths (John 16:13-15). So, I need not be afraid of the Holy Spirit, for He will treat me just as Jesus would, for He is the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:17). You can trust Him to be in control of your life.

"The gift of Christ and the illumination of the Holy Spirit reveal to us the Father and the Son." Fundamentals of Christian Education, pg. 391.

The Holy Spirit is a Person

Just as the Father and the Son are real Persons and have individual personalities, so also the Holy Spirit is a real Person and has a personality all His own.

15. The Holy Spirit can be grieved - Isa. 63:10.
16. The Holy Spirit may be insulted - Matt. 12:31.
17. The Holy Spirit can assume a bodily form - Luke 3:22.
18. The Holy Spirit hears - John 16:13-14.
19. The Holy Spirit can be lied to - Acts 5:3-4.
20. The Holy Spirit can speak words - Acts 8:29.
21. The Holy Spirit thinks - Acts 15:28.
22. The Holy Spirit understands knowledge - 1 Cor. 2:10-11.

Sometimes people think of the Holy Spirit as a mere power, influence, or energy, but nothing could be further from the truth. You can't grieve an influence, for an influence has

no feelings, but a person does have feelings. Mere power does not think, nor hear, nor speak, but a person does. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit in ways that could only apply to a person.

The popular misconception of the Holy Spirit being an influence, or power, has allowed His work to be misunderstood as emotionalism. This idea if cherished will, on the one hand, lead some to ignore the Holy Spirit because they are wary of anything emotional, and, on the other hand, will lead others to become involved in fanaticism, believing the rush of feelings, or impressions to be evidence of conversion, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

When we realize that the Holy Spirit is God, and that He is a Person, then we realize that we must relate to Him as we relate to Jesus and the Father--by reason, principles of truth, and submission to His will for our lives. This does not mean there will be no feelings, or impressions involved in the Spirit's work in our lives, but every emotion we experience, every impression we receive, if it originated with the Spirit will be in harmony with the Word of God, for He is the Spirit of truth (John 16:13).

"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.

"The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. . . .

"The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. 'For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of a man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.'" Evangelism, pg. 616-17.

"The mighty power that works through all nature and sustains all things is not, as some men of science claim, merely an all-pervading principle, an acutating energy. God is a spirit; yet He is a personal being, for man was made in His image." Education, pg. 131-32.

"As in humility they [disciples] submitted to the molding influence of the Holy Spirit, they received of the fullness of the Godhead and were fashioned in the likeness of the divine." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 49-50.

"Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the third Person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled." My Life Today, pg. 36.

The Witness of the Holy Spirit

In October, 1735, John and Charles Wesley took a ship from England to Georgia [U.S.A.] as missionaries. During their third month at sea their ship, the *Simmonds*, was caught in a terrible storm.

Other passengers on the ship included a group of Moravian Christians. In the midst of the storm the Moravians remained calm and conducted a religious service.

At one point the sea broke over, split the main-sail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks. A terrible screaming began among the English, but the Moravians calmly san on.

The behavior of the Moravians both before and during the storm deeply impressed John Wesley and he wondered, "Could it be that there is more to Christianity than the mere reading of prayers and the quoting of Scripture?"

After reaching the Savannah river on February 5, 1736, Wesley approached a Mr. Spangenberg, one of the Moravian pastors, and questioned him about the serenity of his people. "In reply the pastor said, 'My brother, I must first ask you one or two questions. Have you the witness within yourself? Doest the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?'"

Numbed by the question, Wesley remained silent. "Then Spangenberg had another question. 'Do you know Jesus Christ?' 'I know that He is the Saviour of the world,' replied John after a pause. 'True,' replied the German. 'But do you know that he has saved you?' . . . Finally, John Wesley gulped, 'I hope . . . He . . . died to save me.' But his words had a doubtful ring in them." (The above taken from "Susanna Wesley", by Charles Ludwig, pg. 170-72).

John Wesley eventually received the assurance of his salvation, and the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. If John Wesley were here today you might hear him ask, "Does the Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?" If he did what would your response be?

The Witness of the Spirit is Conviction

God, through the Holy Spirit, is constantly trying to communicate to us. He has given us His Word, the Bible, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:19-21). It is the Holy Spirit that teaches us the truth the Bible contains (John 16:13), and it is the Spirit that brings the truth we have learned to our memories (John 14:26). The Bible is the standard by which all spiritual communication and experience is to be tested (1 John 4:1, Isa. 8:20, 1 Cor. 14:32, Acts 17:11).

The Holy Spirit also communicates to us by the conviction of our conscience (Rom. 9:1). God has given some light to every person (John 1:9), and He has also given every person a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3). Even in nature God's voice is heard and impressions are made on our conscience (Ps. 19:1-4 & Rom. 1:20). "For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things contained in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their

hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them." Rom. 2:14-15.

"Conscience is the voice of God, heard amid the conflict of human passions; when it is resisted, the Spirit of God is grieved." Testimonies, vol. 5, pg. 120.

But the conscience is only a safe guide if it is educated correctly. A person can be convicted that something is right, such as Sunday keeping, even though the Bible says "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Ex. 20:8. There is a way that seems right, but in reality is wrong (Pro. 14:12).

Our consciences can become hardened and unimpressionable to the truth (1 Tim. 4:2). Or sometimes people are convicted that something is wrong such as having the assurance of salvation even though the Bible says, "That you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13.

The only way a person can know whether or not their convictions are accurate is by the Word of God, the Bible. "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17.

"Truth, Bible truth, is to become the authority for the conscience and the love and life of the soul." Evangelism, pg. 542.

"When the Bible is made the study book, with earnest supplication for the Spirit's guidance, and with a full surrender of the heart to be sanctified through the truth, all that Christ has promised will be accomplished. The result of such Bible study will be well-balanced minds. The understanding will be quickened, the sensibilities aroused. The conscience will become sensitive; the sympathies and sentiments will be purified; a better moral atmosphere will be created; and new power to resist temptation will be imparted." Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, pg. 357.

We are to "test the spirits, whether they are of God." (1 John 4:1), and see whether the teaching or the conviction received is according to the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).

The conviction of our conscience on the basis of truth by the Holy Spirit is the witness of the Spirit. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

When it says "our spirit" it is referring to our mind, specifically our conscience. In 1 Cor. 2:11 it says, "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?" Obviously the "spirit of the man" here refers to our mind. Romans 9:1 mentioned above refers to the witness of the Spirit to the conscience. Therefore, the witness of the Spirit with our spirit means to have the conviction, the confident assurance of conscience, that we are children of God – to know with certainty that we are accepted by God as His child, and that we have eternal life.

Three Steps of the Holy Spirit's Work

A witness in court is a person who testifies concerning what they have seen or heard for the purpose of bringing conviction of either guilt or innocence. In John 16:13 it says the Holy Spirit "will not speak on His own authority, but whatever he hears He will speak;

and He will tell you things to come.” According to John 16:8-11 there are three things the Holy Spirit wants to convict us of by His witness.

Step 1 – The Spirit Convicts of Sin

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin . . .” John 16:8. The sense of guilt we feel from a violated conscience when we have sinned is the Holy Spirit seeking to correct us as a loving Father would do (Hebrews 12:5-11).

The law of God, the ten commandments, defines sin (1 John 3:4) both in principle and in action. God’s law witnesses, or testifies to us, and tells us when we have sinned. In fact, the Ten Commandments are referred to as the “testimony”.

The word “testimony” in Hebrew for the Old Testament and in Greek for the New Testament is the same word translated “witness”, so that witness and testimony could be used interchangeably.

According to Exodus 25:16 & 31:18, the law, or testimony was put inside the ark. The ark then became known as the ark of the testimony (Ex. 25:22). Since the ark was housed in the tabernacle it became known as the tabernacle of the testimony, (Num. 17:7-8 & 18:2).

As we compare our lives with the law of God, and the rest of the Bible (Matt. 4:4), the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (Rom. 3:20, 4:15, 5:13 & 7:7), and thus we are driven to exclaim, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” Rom. 7:24.

“But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God’s holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth. The ‘Light which lighth every man that cometh into the world,’ illumines the secret chambers of the soul, and the hidden things of darkness are made manifest. Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart. The sinner has a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah, and feels the terror of appearing, in his own guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts. He sees the love of God, the beauty of holiness, the joy of purity; he longs to be cleansed, and to be restored to communion with Heaven.” Steps to Christ, pg. 24.

When a person is convicted of their sins and feels bad because of their past life, and the evil tendencies of the present, this is proof that Satan’s delusions are being broken by the power of the Holy Spirit (Eze. 36:26-31 & Zech. 12:10), even if they have never heard of Jesus (Acts 19:1-6).

If you are aware of the fact that you are a sinner and feel yourself to be “poor in spirit”, if you “mourn” over this, and are “meek” because of it, and you “hunger and thirst for righteousness”, this is proof that the Holy Spirit is working on your heart, and you “will be filled.” Matt. 5:3-6.

“The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature. This is evidence that Satan’s delusions have lost their power; that the vivifying influence of the Spirit of God is arousing you.” Steps to Christ, pg. 64-65.

It is the hardened heart of a person that is not right with God that does not feel its sinfulness (Rev. 3:17 & 1 Tim. 4:2). The Holy Spirit strives with us (Gen. 6:3) trying to make us see our sinfulness and cause us to repent. When we refuse to admit our sins to God and confess them we are resisting the Holy Spirit, and making our hearts harder still (Acts 7:51 & Heb. 3:7-8).

This is what the Egyptian pharaoh did when God commanded him to let Israel go. He refused to acknowledge God's authority. Plague after plague fell until Egypt and Pharaoh's army were destroyed. So shall it be in the end of the world. People would rather refuse to acknowledge the authority of God in their lives and confess their sins, even though it means death, than to accept forgiveness and salvation.

To constantly refuse to submit to God and continue in sin is what the Bible calls grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).

A person may be surprised to find when they pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit that instead of joy and ecstasy they become aware of their sinfulness as never before. When He comes He will convict of sin.

Every person in the world has the work of the Holy Spirit taking place in their lives. Because God loves His children, all the children of the world, and because He is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Pet. 3:9) He seeks to separate them from the sin that will destroy them.

The law of God, convicting us of our sin, drives us to Jesus (Gal.3:24). In Ps. 19:7 it says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Each person should meditate within themselves to see if their conscience is at rest, or if they know themselves to be a sinner in violation of God's expressed will. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God." 1 John 3:18-21. Each person should consider whether their inner thoughts "accuse or else excuse" them (Rom. 2:15). Peace comes when we listen to the still, small voice of God (1 Kings 19:11-13) and submit to His will.

"To-day this Spirit is constantly at work, seeking to draw the attention of men to the great sacrifice made upon the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God to man, and to open to the convicted soul the promises of the Scriptures." Gospel Workers, pg. 286.

Step 2 – The Spirit Convicts of Righteousness

The Holy Spirit does not want to convict us of sin only, but also of righteousness. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness . . ." Not our righteousness, for the Bible declares that "there is none righteous, no not one." Rom. 3:10. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8.

Not only that, but we do not have the power to be good (Jer. 13:23), and even our best deeds are called filthy rags (Isa. 64:6). The Bible says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight." Rom. 3:20.

Therefore, since we are sinners and have no righteousness of our own the Holy Spirit, having awakened in us a sense of our need, seeks to direct us to Christ and convict us of His righteousness, which is sufficient to cover all our sins (John 16:14, 1 Cor. 1:30, 1 John 1:9). "And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will writ them,' then He adds, 'Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more'" Hebrews 10:15-17.

The good news is that we have a Savior, an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1). We are not righteous, but Jesus is. Our consciences may be condemning us because of our sins, but God "is greater than our hearts" in that He has provided pardon and life as a free gift by faith in Christ (Rom. 8:34).

This is the testimony, or witness that the Holy Spirit seeks to convict us with: that Jesus has died for all our sins, whether inherited or cultivated, that He stands ready to forgive all our sins, and to cleans us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9). "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Rom. 8:16.

This witness is also sometimes referred to in Ellen White's writings as "the blessing". In Numbers 6:24-26 we have an example of a blessing representing God's acceptance and favor. There is no way we can have eternal life by being good, for we have already seen that we have no goodness of ourselves.

Therefore, if we are ever to go to heaven it must be a free gift from God. While Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death," it also says, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Notice that eternal life is a free gift. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not works, lest anyone should boast." Eph. 2:8-9.

When I get to heaven I will not boast of my good works as the reason I have been saved, but I will cast my crown at Jesus feet and say, 'You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power.' Rev. 4:10-11. When I see those nail-scarred hands reaching out to place that crown upon my head my whole being will cry out, "Worthy is the Lamb!" There has never been, is not now, nor ever shall be any human deed that can pay for eternal life. I could never hope to repay a human life were it to be laid down for my salvation let alone the life of the priceless Son of God.

It is the will of God that we have this witness of the Holy Spirit – the sweet assurance, the confident security of our salvation day by day. We will never have this assurance because of anything we have done, but by faith in what Jesus has done. This assurance is received by faith in the promise of God in His Word (Eph. 2:8-9). The Bible says, "And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth . . . If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:6, 9-13.

“Christ has made every provision for us to be strong. He has given us His Holy Spirit, whose office is to bring to our remembrance all the promises that Christ has made, that we may have peace and a sweet sense of forgiveness. If we will but keep our eyes fixed on the Saviour and trust in His power, we shall be filled with a sense of security; for the righteousness of Christ will become our righteousness.” My Life Today, pg. 45.

To refuse to receive the assurance of salvation, the testimony, or witness of the Holy Spirit is to make God a liar. This is a sin (John 16:9). It is just as surely resisting the Holy Spirit when we refuse the assurance of salvation as when we refuse the conviction of sin. It is neither piousness nor humility to doubt our salvation. It dishonors God when we do not believe His promises.

“And the attitude which many assume in expressing doubts and unbelief as to whether the Lord will save them is a reflection upon the character of God.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 631.

“Implicit belief in Christ’s word is true humility, true self-surrender.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 535.

When the Philippian jailer was about to take his life because he was sure the inmates had all escaped the apostle Paul told him not to take his life because the prisoners were all safe. After hearing Paul and Silas sing in spite of their unjust treatment, and seeing their concern for him, the jailer came before them and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” If salvation came by works here was a prime opportunity for Paul to list them!

Instead he proclaimed, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Acts 16:31. No doubt is here expressed to the jailer, only certain assurance.

In his letter to the Romans Paul again expressed the certainty of salvation when he said, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. . . . whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Rom. 10:9-13.

Perhaps you have been like John Wesley believing that Jesus is the Savior of the world (John 3:16), but unsure whether you could claim Him as your personal Savior. Today Jesus is standing at the door of your heart saying, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Rev. 3:20. Jesus has promised that no one who comes to Him will be cast out (John 6:37).

On the basis of God’s word the Holy Spirit wants you to accept the conviction, the assurance of eternal life. Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” That is most important question you will ever answer.

If you would like to receive Jesus as your personal Savior and cast aside your doubts about your salvation by the authority of the Bible then perhaps you would like to pray a prayer like the following.

Dear Father in Heaven:

I know that I am a sinner and I confess my sins to you (confess very specifically to God). In Your Word You promised that if I confess my sins You would forgive me, therefore since I have confessed my sins to You I believe You have forgiven me. I now choose You as my Savior and Lord. Please give me the gift of eternal life You have promised us through Jesus Your Son. Thank you for forgiveness! Thank you for eternal life! I believe it is so not because I feel it, but because you have promised.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

When you accept your salvation by faith in God's word Jesus, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, comes into your life (John 14:16-23). "In Him [Jesus] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Eph. 1:13. This is what is meant by being "converted", or "born again" (John 3:5).

As the Holy Spirit comes in He brings the conviction that we are children of God. We know it. It is a reality. We have the inner witness received by faith in Jesus Christ.

"The Holy Spirit is a Person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. . ." Evangelism, pg. 616.

Jesus received this witness when the Holy Spirit came upon Him. After He was baptized by immersion in water (Matt. 3:13-17) Jesus came up from the water and prayed to the Father (Luke 3:21-22). As a result of that prayer the Holy Spirit came upon Him. He had specifically asked the Father to accept Him in His humanity and give Him power to overcome the unbelief of the people. In answer to that prayer Jesus heard the words, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." That is the witness of the Spirit.

"The Saviour's glance seems to penetrate heaven as He pours out His soul in prayer. Well He knows how sin has hardened the hearts of men, and how difficult it will be for them to discern His mission, and accept the gift of salvation. He pleads with the Father for power to overcome their unbelief, to break the fetters with which Satan has enthralled them, and in their behalf to conquer the destroyer. He asks for the witness that God accepts humanity in the person of His Son. . . . From the open heavens a voice was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. . . . John had been deeply moved as he saw Jesus bowed as a suppliant, pleading with tears for the approval of the Father." The Desire of Ages, pg. 112.

Step 3 – The Spirit Convicts of Judgment

Not only does the Holy Spirit convict us of our sins, and of salvation through the righteousness of Christ, He also wants to deliver us from our sins. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8.

The Bible teaches us that the judgment is now taking place in heaven (Rev. 14:7). Soon the judgment will be over and the case of every person will be eternally decided

(Rev. 22:11). The Holy Spirit wants to convict us of the shortness of time and the urgency of the hour, but the word judgment both in Hebrew and Greek can also mean deliverance.

In the Old Testament a “judge” was not just a person who made decisions in cases brought to court, but he was also the one who delivered the people of God from their enemies.

The book of Judges is full of stories of men and women who delivered Israel through the power of God. Samson delivered his people from the Philistines, Gideon from the Midianites, Deborah and Barak from the army of Sisera. It is also God’s will that you be delivered from your bondage to sin. In John 16:11 it is not we who are judged but “the ruler of this world”, who is Satan (John 12:31, 14:30). Satan and his power is to be broken in your life.

“It is through the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit that the government of Satan is to be subdued and subjected. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin and expels it from the soul by the consent of the human agent. . . Through the merits of Christ men may be able to exercise the noblest powers of his being and expel sin from his soul.” My Life Today, pg. 43.

The Holy Spirit brings mighty power into the life of the believer to deliver us from all sin. “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. . . to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Eph. 3:16-21. We are to know “what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” Eph. 1:18-21.

“Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 671.

Concerning the Gentiles Peter declared that “God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them [“bore witness to”, Margin] by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” Acts 15:8. We are to walk in confidence not only in the forgiveness of our sins, but with the positive assurance that our sins have been overcome and no longer hold us in slavery.

How to Receive the Witness of the Spirit

The way we receive this blessing is to ask for it in faith through prayer and trust in His word. Jesus said to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13). Moses prayed earnestly to be blessed by God (Ex. 33:18, 34:6-7). Jacob wrestled long for the blessing (Gen. 32:22-30).

God has promised, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity." Jer. 29:11-14. If we pray earnestly for the power of God He will help us.

"Do not neglect secret prayer, for it is the soul of religion. With earnest, fervent prayer, plead for purity of soul. Plead as earnestly, as eagerly, as you would for your mortal life, were it at stake. Remain before God until unutterable longings are begotten within you for salvation, and the sweet evidence is obtained of pardoned sin." Testimonies, vol. 1, pg. 163.

"I saw how this grace could be obtained. Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.' Be in earnest, be sincere. Fervent prayer availeth much. Jacoblike, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. Jesus, in the garden, sweat great drops of blood; you must make an effort. Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God; then watch, and just as long as you watch and pray you can keep these evil besetments under. The grace of God can and will appear." Testimonies, vol. 1, pg. 158.

Testimonies from Other Christians

"We continued in earnest prayer until the witness of the Spirit was given that our prayer was accepted, and that light should be given, our disappointment be explained, and made clear and satisfactory." Hiram Edson, Tell it to the World, Mervyn Maxwell, pg. 49.

"I had continued to seek this faith, though with some strange indifference, dullness, and coldness until May 24. In the evening of that day, I went very unwillingly to a prayer meeting in Aldersgate Street. About 8:45, I was listening to a reading of Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. While he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt that I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation. An assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." The Nature of Spiritual Growth, John Wesley, pg. 24-25.

"True religion is not only righteousness, but also peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. What peace? The peace of God, which God only can give, and the world cannot take away. It is the peace which passes all understanding – all rational thinking. This peace is a supernatural sensation, a divine taste of the powers of the world to come. . . . It is a peace that banishes all doubt, all painful uncertainty. It comes from the Holy Spirit bearing witness to the spirit of a Christian that he is a child of God." The Nature of Spiritual Growth, John Wesley, pg. 35.

“As soon as God speaks to your heart, ‘Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven,’ His kingdom comes into you and you have righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” *The Nature of Spiritual Growth*, John Wesley, pg. 41.

“I have been able to make the full surrender of all to God, and as I have confessed my sins to God and those with me, and united with them in prayer for pardon, and restoration to peace of mind, faith, hope, and physical strength and health, the Spirit of God has come upon us in a wonderful degree. At one time, while we were knelt in prayer, and Mrs. White took my arm and bade me rise and go free, as I arose, the Holy Ghost came upon us in such a measure that we both fell to the floor.

“I now feel sure that God has forgiven my sins, so far as I have seen them, and confessed them in the spirit of true repentance. My sins do not longer separate me from God. And as I have made a determined effort to draw nigh to God, He has come very nigh to me. That terrible weight of discouragement and gloom that has been upon me much of the time for the past two years is gone from me, and hope, courage, peace, and joy have taken its place.” James White, *The Progressive Years*, pg. 429.

Additional Statements from Ellen White

“The office of the Holy Spirit is distinctly specified in the words of Christ: ‘When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.’ John 16:8. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. If the sinner responds to the quickening influence of the Spirit, he will be brought to repentance and aroused to the importance of obeying the divine requirements.

“To the repentant sinner, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, the Holy Spirit reveals the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. ‘He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you,’ Christ said. ‘He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.’ John 16:14, 14:26.

“The Spirit is given as a regenerating agency, to make effectual the salvation wrought by the death of our Redeemer. The Spirit is constantly seeking to draw the attention of men to the great offering that was made on the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God, and to open to the convicted soul the precious things of the Scriptures.

“Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. ‘He will guide you into all truth’ (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul. By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein.” *Acts of the Apostles*, pg. 52-53.

“Wherever the word of God has been faithfully preached, results have followed that attested its divine origin. The Spirit of God accompanied the message of His servants, and the word was with power. Sinners felt their consciences quickened. The “light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” illumined the secret chambers of their

souls, and the hidden things of darkness were made manifest. Deep conviction took hold upon their minds and hearts. They were convinced of sin and of righteousness and of judgment to come. They had a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and felt the terror of appearing, in their guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts. In anguish they cried out: 'Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?' As the cross of Calvary, with its infinite sacrifice for the sins of men, was revealed, they saw that nothing but the merits of Christ could suffice to atone for their transgressions; this alone could reconcile man to God. With faith and humility they accepted the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. Through the blood of Jesus they had 'remission of sins that are past.'" The Great Controversy, pg. 461.

"We can seldom see our sins in the grievous light that God can. Many have habituated themselves to pursue a course of sin, and their hearts harden, under the influence of the power of Satan. And their thoughts are brought into captivity to his evil influences; but when in the strength and grace of God they place their minds against the temptations of Satan, their minds are made clear, their hearts and consciences by being influenced by the Spirit of God are made sensitive, and then sin appears as it is-- exceedingly sinful." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, pg. 1150.

"At the time when Philip called him, Nathanael had withdrawn to a quiet grove to meditate upon the announcement of John and the prophecies concerning the Messiah. He prayed that if the one announced by John was the deliverer, it might be made known to him, and the Holy Spirit rested upon him with assurance that God had visited His people and raised up a horn of salvation for them. Philip knew that his friend was searching the prophecies, and while Nathanael was praying under a fig tree, Philip discovered his retreat. They had often prayed together in this secluded spot hidden by the foliage. . . .

"It was enough. The divine Spirit that had borne witness to Nathanael in his solitary prayer under the fig tree now spoke to him in the words of Jesus." The Desire of Ages, pg. 140.

"You need not be painfully indefinite because you are living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You may walk and work in confidence." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 211-12.

"God has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts. He provides opportunities and opens channels of working. If His people are watching the indications of His providence, and are ready to co-operate with Him, they will see mighty results." Prophets and Kings, pg. 660.

"God will bless those who thus prepare themselves for his service. They will understand what it means to have the assurance of the Spirit, because they have received Christ by faith. The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means that sin is taken away, and that the vacuum is filled with the Spirit." Review & Herald, June 10, 1902.

“Simple faith in the atoning blood can save my soul; and with John, I must call the attention of all to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. Jesus has saved me, though I had nothing to present to him, and could only say,— ‘In my hand no price I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling.’” *Review & Herald*, July 14, 1891.

“Carefully and solemnly those who received the message came up to the time when they hoped to meet their Lord. Every morning they felt that it was their first duty to secure the evidence of their acceptance with God. Their hearts were closely united, and they prayed much with and for one another. They often met together in secluded places to commune with God, and the voice of intercession ascended to heaven from the fields and groves. The assurance of the Saviour's approval was more necessary to them than their daily food, and if a cloud darkened their minds, they did not rest until it was swept away. As they felt the witness of pardoning grace, they longed to behold Him whom their souls loved.” *The Story of Redemption*, pg. 371.

“I have frequently seen that the children of the Lord neglect prayer, especially secret prayer, altogether too much; that many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise.

True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is swallowed up. But many suppose they have much faith when sharing largely of the Holy Spirit and that they cannot have faith unless they feel the power of the Spirit. Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith. The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds. True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and those only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises.” *Early Writings*, pg. 72.

“We must be much in prayer if we would make progress in the divine life. When the message of truth was first proclaimed, how much we prayed. How often was the voice of intercession heard in the chamber, in the barn, in the orchard, or the grove. Frequently we spent hours in earnest prayer, two or three together claiming the promise; often the sound of weeping was heard and then the voice of thanksgiving and the song of praise. Now the day of God is nearer than when we first believed, and we should be more earnest, more zealous, and fervent than in those early days. Our perils are greater now than then. Souls are more hardened. We need now to be imbued with the spirit of Christ, and we should not rest until we receive it.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pg. 161-2.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

In the past I have compared my life with the lives of the apostles and early Christians and I saw a vast difference. I compared my experience with the experiences of early Seventh-day Adventist pioneers and I saw a vast difference there too. I wondered, "Where is the power? Where are the sick being made well, the lepers cleansed, the demons being cast out, and the dead raised?" (Matthew 10:8). "Where is the power to bring lost men and women to deep and sincere conversion experience in Christ so that they may be saved?"

It seemed to me that we were trying to accomplish by learning and programs what the apostles and pioneers accomplished without them. It was plain to me that not only were we not casting out demons and raising the dead, we weren't even overcoming sin.

I have since learned that although there most certainly are false manifestations of experience attributed to the Holy Spirit, there is a true experience that will transform your life and energize your efforts. The Bible and Ellen White call it "the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

We Need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

23. John the Baptist prophesied concerning it – Matt. 3:11.

24. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received it – Acts 1:4-5.

25. The disciples recognized the need for it in the early church – Acts 8:14-17.

26. Paul asked the Ephesian believers if they had received the Holy Spirit – Acts 19:2.

27. Ellen White saw it as an urgent need in the church of our time.

"Impress upon all the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit . . ." Testimonies, vol. 6, pg. 86.

"There needs to be a waking up among God's people, that His work may be carried forward with power. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Evangelism, pg. 558.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Defined

First, to be baptized in with the Holy Spirit is the same as being filled with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:5 Jesus told the disciples they would soon be "baptized" with the Holy Spirit. When the day of Pentecost came and the Holy Spirit came upon them Acts 2:4 says they were all "filled" with the Holy Spirit. It is simply two different words describing the same experience.

When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit their whole life is changed. The inner motives and desires are transformed. Instead of hate there is love. Instead of anxiety there is peace. Instead of fear there is joy. Instead of timidity there is Christian boldness. Instead of weakness there is strength. They receive power to overcome their sins, and power to witness to others.

Three Steps of the Holy Spirit's Work

Step 1 – The conviction of sin (John 16:8-9). The Holy Spirit is “striving” or “pleading” with every person in the attempt to bring them to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. (Gen. 6:3 & John 16:13-14).

“Today this Spirit is constantly at work, seeking to draw the attention of men to the great sacrifice made upon the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God to man, and to open to the convicted soul the promises of the Scriptures.” Gospel Workers, pg. 286.

Step 2 – The conviction of righteousness (John 16:8, 10), which is the [witness of the Holy Spirit](#). The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus (John 16:14) and lifts up His righteousness (we have no righteousness of our own – Rom. 3:10) as the only sufficient solution to our guilt and sinfulness. When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and receive the free gift of eternal life the Holy Spirit enters into the life of the new believer (Eph. 1:13 – this is called conversion) bringing a sense of peace, that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16). Then the Holy Spirit begins to do a work of cleansing, delivering us from the bondage of each sinful practice Satan has bound us with. The Spirit brings new life – the life of Christ into the heart. The motives begin to change. The Christian begins to love the things of God such as Bible reading, prayer, and worship. The sins of the past are despised and shunned (Eze. 36:31).

“To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness.” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 49.

Step 3 – The conviction of judgment (John 16:8, 11). The baptism of the Holy Spirit intensifies the internal desires to be more and more like Jesus, and eventually brings to perfection/completion the work begun when the Spirit first entered into the heart at conversion (Phil. 1:6, Eph. 4:11-15). This daily baptism, or reconversion, breaks the power of Satan delivering us from the bondage of sin. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) such as love, peace, and joy, abound more and more. Also power is given to the believer to witness, which may include miracles (1 Cor. 12:1-11). A compelling urge to tell everyone about Jesus and what He has done is felt. Acts 1:5,8, 2:1-4; 4:13.

“After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were so filled with love for Him and for those for whom He died, that hearts were melted by the words they spoke and the prayers they offered. They spoke in the power of the Spirit; and under the influence of that power, thousands were converted.” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 22.

“Impress upon all the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the sanctification of the members of the church, so that they will be living, growing, fruit-bearing trees of the Lord’s planting.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pg.86.

The above three steps are clearly seen in the lives of two familiar Bible characters. Peter had a time when he was not converted (Luke 22:32), when the Holy Spirit was convicting him of his need of Christ. He was converted after his denial of Christ when he went out and wept bitterly for his sins (Matt. 26:75). He was baptized by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

Paul had a time when he was not converted (1 Tim. 1:13), and then accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior (Acts 9:5-6). Some time later Ananias came and prayed for him, and he received the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17).

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Accomplishes Victory over Sin

28.1 Sam. 10:6 – The baptism of the Holy Spirit will change us into different men and women. We will reflect the pure character of Jesus.

29.1 John 1:9 – It is the will of God that we be forgiven, yes, but also cleansed from all sin. Not just forgiveness, but victory.

30. Rom. 1:16 – The gospel is the power of God. The word for power in the Greek language is “dunamis”, from which we get our English word “dynamite”. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will give us power, (Acts 1:8) exploding sin out of our lives!

31.2 Cor. 3:17-18 – Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. He will change, or transform us into His image. The word for transform is the Greek word “metamorphao”, from which we get our English word, “metamorphosis”. The process of metamorphosis is the process a caterpillar goes through in the cocoon to become a butterfly. The old creature disappears, and a completely new creature is created. We too may be changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. (2 Cor. 5:17).

32. Jesus is our example. Though Jesus never had the first step of the Holy Spirit’s work of convicting of sin (1 Pet. 2:22), yet He was born of the Spirit (Luke 1:35), and He was baptized by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:16).

Though the Holy Spirit was working in the life of Jesus all through His childhood (Luke 2:40), yet He entered into fuller experience in the Holy Spirit’s power after He was filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:18-19).

It was through the power given Him from above that He was enabled to gain the victories over Satan’s temptations, break down barriers of unbelief, and minister to people through the miracles He performed. In John 5:30 Jesus said He could do nothing of Himself. It was the Father who dwelled in Him through the power of the Holy Spirit that enabled Him to live and work as He did (John 14:10, Matt. 12:28). In fact, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him.” Col. 2:9-10.

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit want to dwell in us as they did in Jesus (John 14:17, 23). Jesus always pleased the Father (John 8:29), and it is our privilege to live in a way that pleases God too (1 John 3:22). By the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus overcame Satan, and so may we.

“From hours spent with God He [Christ] came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit.” Christ’s Object Lessons, pg. 139.

“The Saviour of the world conquered Satan in the wilderness of temptation. He overcame to show man how he may overcome.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, pg. 388.

“The prince of this world cometh,” said Jesus, “and hath nothing in Me.” John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan’s sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ that we may attain to perfection of character.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 123.

33. The heroes of the Bible were made that way by the power of God through the Holy Spirit. How many times do we read, “The Holy Spirit came upon him or upon her.”? Though they were men and women with similar natures and problems as we have (James 5:17, Acts 4:13), yet through the power of God they became mighty workers for Him because they were controlled by His Spirit.

“By the grace of Christ the apostles were made what they were.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 32.

34. Slaves to God – Possessed by the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament Christ is referred to as a servant/slave (Phil. 2:7-8). The apostles often referred to themselves as servants, or slaves. In the Greek Language the word for servant is “doulos” and it is also translated as “slave”. Paul and Timothy in Phil. 1:1, Titus 1:1 and James 1:1 referred to themselves as servants, or slaves. Peter referred to himself in the same way in 2 Pet. 1:1 and Jude 1:1. John called himself a servant or slave in Rev. 1:1.

35. The victorious, fulfilling spiritual life begins when we are baptized, possessed, by the Holy Spirit. We may be Spirit-controlled, or slaves of God. In Eze. 11:19-20, 18:31 and 36:25-27 God says He will cleanse us completely, and He promised, “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Without the Holy Spirit inside our spiritual life will become like the proverbial “hills of Gilboa with neither dew nor rain.” There is no better picture of religion without the baptism of the Holy Spirit than Ezekiel’s valley of dry bones (Eze. 37:1-14). The spiritual condition of God’s people is portrayed as skin and bones but when “breath” enters the body there is life. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10. Without the Spirit of God to give us spiritual life, and power to obey the requirements and high standards of the Bible our religion may seem more like the bones of death than abundant life to us. But when the wind of

the Holy Spirit blows through the open windows of our body temple He brings life – the joyous life of the overcomer. Of course, breath, wind, and air often symbolize the Holy Spirit in the Bible (John 20:22 and Acts 2:1-4).

Romans 6 is an exciting chapter about the control God will assume in our lives if we will give our consent. We may be possessed by the Holy Spirit – become slaves of God. In verse six it says our “old man” may be crucified that we may no longer be slaves of sin, and in verse seven He says that we are to be freed from sin. Verse 12 says, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.” Verse 14 asserts that, “Sin shall not have dominion over you.” We are to become slaves of righteousness (verses 16-19). This is the means by which we are to be set free to live a new life.

The Lord will not force us to become His slaves (Rev. 3:20), but if we choose Him He will work in us “both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” Phil. 2:13. When we give the Holy Spirit permission to take control of us He will make us obey the commandments of God.

36. Slaves are usually acquired in two ways – they are either bought or taken by force. In 1 Cor. 6:19-20 it speaks of being the temple of the Holy Spirit and then it says, “and you are not your own. For you were bought at a price.” We have literally been bought by the Lord at the infinite price of His blood (Acts 20:28).

“For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.” 1 Cor. 7:22-23.

In Mark 3:27 Jesus said, “No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then He will plunder his house. When Jesus died on the cross He overcame the “strong man”, the devil, and by the greater power of God took His people back. Jesus plundered the devil’s “goods”. This is illustrated by the recovery of Lot and his household by Abraham when they had been taken captive by warring kings (Gen. 14).

37. It is not just a coincidence that Jesus is also called “Master”. For Paul, in Col. 4:1 and Eph. 6:9 refer to Jesus as Master in the same context referring to literal masters on this earth. The Greek word here used in both instances is “kurios”, which is widely translated in the New Testament as “Lord”. However, it may also be translated as “Master”, and the translators of the NKJV, NIV, NASB, and RSV all chose to use the word “Master” because of its obvious contextual support.

38. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will make you a victorious Christian. Gal. 5:16 says, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” We are told in Rom. 8:3-4 that the Holy Spirit will fulfill the righteous requirement of the law in us.

If God could speak and cause the worlds to appear, can He not also command my life, with my consent, to appear like Jesus? The Bible says, “By the word of the Lord the

heavens were made," and it also says, "Direct y steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me." Ps. 33:6 and 119:133.

Paul said of himself, "I am crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

The promise of the Lord is, "I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth." Isa. 58:14. Psalm 23:2-3, 5 says, "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake . . . You anoint my head with oil [the Holy Spirit]; my cup runs over."

"Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you." My Life Today, pg. 318.

"This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the Fall given into the control of Satan; and he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man. But the infinite sacrifice of God in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a sacrifice for sin, enables Him to say, without violating one principle of His government: "Yield yourself up to Me; give Me that will; take it from the control of Satan, and I will take possession of it; then I can work in you to will and to do of My good pleasure." When He gives you the mind of Christ, your will becomes as His will, and your character is transformed to be like Christ's character." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 515.

Jesus invites us to come to Him and find rest (Matt. 11:28-29). Like the paralytic by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:6-8) we too are paralyzed – perhaps not physically, but certainly spiritually. The same power that healed him will heal us today. He was full of sin, but he was repentant. He was unable to move, but he was willing. Then Jesus came.

"In like manner you are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You *believe* that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You *will* to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise,--believe that you are forgiven and cleansed,--God supplies the fact; you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. It *is* so if you believe it.

"Do not wait to *feel* that you are made whole, but say, "I believe it; it *is* so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised." Steps to Christ, pg. 51.

All through the Bible our part is to "come" (Matt. 11:28-30), "believe" (Acts 16:31), "watch and pray" (Matt. 26:41). His part is "to will and to do" (Phil. 2:13), "transform" (2 Cor. 3:18), "change" (1 Sam. 10:6).

When we are filled with the Spirit we will have life (John 6:63). Our hearts will be purified (Acts 15:8-9), for He is the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 1:4). The evil deeds of the body are dead (Rom. 8:10-13). We become a living sacrifice that is renewed and transformed (Rom. 12:1-2). We are washed, sanctified and justified by the Holy Spirit (1

Cor. 6:11 & 1 Pet. 1:2, 22). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22 & Eph. 1:13-14). We are strengthened with might by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:16-17).

What power! What peace! Jesus said we may have this power take control of our lives if we will ask for it (Luke 11:11-13). The Gospel is not only freedom in the cross from the penalty of sin, and freedom in the second coming from the presence of sin, but it is also freedom in the Spirit because of the resurrection from the power of sin. Do you want to be victorious over sin in your life? Then receive Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord. Pray to Him. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit and make you whole.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Accomplishes Power for Service

One of the obvious results of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible is the outpouring of power that resulted in healing and other miraculous experiences that produced thousands of converts to Christ. Suddenly the disciples who had once fled in the presence of their enemies (Mark 14:50) became bold to the point of proclaiming Jesus to the very ones who had crucified Him (Acts 4:5-13).

Jesus has said, "Without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5, but it is also true that, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13. Where did this power come from then, and where can it be obtained today?

Jesus told His disciples, "For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. . . . But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:5-8.

The result of that baptism of the Holy Spirit was wonderful. "Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4. "And that day about three thousand souls were added to them." Acts 2:41.

This was the power that made Paul so successful in his ministry (Rom. 15:19), and it was the power of the Holy Spirit that worked through Jesus (Matt. 12:28, John 14:10). No wonder Ellen White said:

"The inworking ministry of the Holy Spirit is our great need. The Spirit is all divine in its agency and demonstration. God wants you to have the gracious spiritual endowment; then you will work with a power that you were never conscious of before. Love and faith and hope will be an abiding presence. You can go forth in faith, believing that the Holy Spirit accompanies you." Evangelism, pg. 299.

It is not programming, nor talent, nor education alone that will win souls and finish the work of spreading the gospel, but the power of the Holy Spirit abiding on the consecrated worker.

In fact, programs, talent, and education without the power of the Holy Spirit may actually delay the spreading of the gospel because they tend to help people look to

themselves instead of to God. Moses said, "Who am I?", but the Lord said, "I Am." Ex. 3:11, 14. Gideon said, "I am the least.", but the Lord said, "I will be with you." (Judges 6:15). Samson killed a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey by the power of the Holy Spirit, Judges 15:14-15. Samson's program was pretty simple! Every prophet who ever prophesied, every disciple who ever spoke or wrote did so because of the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21).

In light of this how wonderful is the promise that any child of God may be baptized in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:39).

"All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do. . . . By the grace of Christ the apostles were made what they were." Testimonies, vol. 7, pg. 32-33.

Additional Statements from Ellen White

"Oh, how much we all need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Then we shall always work with the mind of Christ, with kindness, compassion, and sympathy, showing love for the sinner while hating sin with a perfect hatred." Evangelism, pg. 369.

"God desires to refresh His people by the gift of the Holy Spirit, baptizing them anew in His love. There is no need for a dearth of the Holy Spirit in the church." Christian Service, pg. 250.

"When you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then you will understand more of the joys of salvation than you have known all your life hitherto. 'Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses to Me . . . unto the uttermost parts of the earth.'"--Letter 33, 1890, pp. 9, 10. (To "Dear Brethren and Sisters in Norwich, Massachusetts," December 4, 1890.) Manuscript Releases, vol. 5, pg. 231.

"All need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit; all should refrain from censuring and disparaging remarks, and draw near to Christ, that they may appreciate the heavy responsibilities which the co-workers with Him are carrying." Testimonies, vol. 6, pg. 292-93.

"May the same Holy Spirit which inspired the Bible take possession of your hearts, leading you to love His word, which is spirit and life." Counsels on Stewardship, pg. 52.

"O that the baptism of the Holy Spirit might come upon you, that you might be imbued with the Spirit of God! Then day by day you will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, and in every action of your life the question would be, 'Will it glorify my Master?'" My Life Today, pg. 49.

"From hours spent with God He [Christ] came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 139.

“‘The prince of this world cometh,’ said Jesus, ‘and hath nothing in Me.’ John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character.” *The Desire of Ages*, pg. 123.

“When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God.” *The Desire of Ages*, pg. 173.

“There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. Appetite and passion must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is no end to the warfare this side of eternity. But while there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain; and the triumph over self and sin is of more value than the mind can estimate.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pg. 20.

“Christ rejoiced that He could do more for His followers than they could ask or think. He spoke with assurance, knowing that an almighty decree had been given before the world was made. He knew that truth, armed with the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, would conquer in the contest with evil; and that the bloodstained banner would wave triumphantly over His followers. He knew that the life of His trusting disciples would be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter.

“‘These things I have spoken unto you,’ He said, ‘that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.’ Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged, and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. They are to live as He lived, and work as He worked, because they depend on Him as the great Master Worker. Courage, energy, and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are to go forward. Instead of deploring difficulties, they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything. With the golden chain of His matchless love Christ has bound them to the throne of God. It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, emanating from the source of all power, shall be theirs. They are to have power to resist evil, power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master, power that will enable them to overcome as Christ overcame.” *The Desire of Ages*, pg. 679.

“Those who bear responsibility as managers in the work need to place themselves where they can be deeply impressed by the Spirit of God. You should have as much greater anxiety than do others to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and a knowledge of God and Christ, as your position of trust is more responsible than that of the common worker.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 189.

“I counsel you to tarry at Jerusalem, as did the early disciples, until, like them, you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Never feel at liberty to go into the desk until you have by faith grasped the arm of your strength.” Testimonies, vol. 5, pg. 159.

“Superintendents and the workers in our Sabbath-schools have a very important, broad field to cultivate. They need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit of God, that their minds may be impressed to use the very best methods, and follow the best plans to make their work wholly successful.” Testimonies on Sabbath School Work, pg. 68.

“The church is not now the separate and peculiar people she was when the fires of persecution were kindled against her. How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! I saw that if the church had always retained her peculiar, holy character, the power of the Holy Spirit which was imparted to the disciples would still be with her. The sick would be healed, devils would be rebuked and cast out, and she would be mighty and a terror to her enemies.” Early Writings, pg. 227.

“Through the gift of the Holy Spirit the disciples were to receive a marvelous power. Their testimony was to be confirmed by signs and wonders. Miracles would be wrought, not only by the apostles, but by those who received their message.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 821.

“‘They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.’ This world is a vast lazar house, but Christ came to heal the sick, to proclaim deliverance to the captives of Satan. He was in Himself health and strength. He imparted His life to the sick, the afflicted, those possessed of demons. He turned away none who came to receive His healing power. He knew that those who petitioned Him for help had brought disease upon themselves; yet He did not refuse to heal them. And when virtue from Christ entered into these poor souls, they were convicted of sin, and many were healed of their spiritual disease, as well as of their physical maladies. The gospel still possesses the same power, and why should we not today witness the same results?

“Christ feels the woes of every sufferer. When evil spirits rend a human frame, Christ feels the curse. When fever is burning up the life current, He feels the agony. And He is just as willing to heal the sick now as when He was personally on earth. Christ's servants are His representatives, the channels for His working. He desires through them to exercise His healing power.” The Desire of Ages, pg. 823-24.

How to Overcome Sin

Overcoming sin is not an option for the Christian life. Not only is it God's will that we be victorious over sin, but it brings no glory to God for us to be continually struggling in our weaknesses. Everyone, by the grace of God, should be able to give a testimony of thanksgiving for sins overcome.

I remember a time when I wasn't sure if my sins could be conquered. I used texts such as Rom. 7:14-23 to excuse my weakness.

Perhaps you've seen the bumper sticker: "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven." Our neighbors are glad that God forgives us, but they want to see our lives changed too. If a neighbor of yours kept coming over and kicking your cat and then became a Christian wouldn't you expect him to quit kicking your cat? How ridiculous to think that eh could kick your cat and then tell you, "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven"! The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. The Lord wants to rid our lives of every sin.

The secret to overcoming sin is found in Phil. 2:12-13. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." By combining our efforts with His power we may live in victory. We may be free from the slavery of sin if we will grasp it by faith, and cooperate with the Holy Spirit by doing our part.

"Will man take hold of divine power, and with determination and perseverance resist Satan, as Christ has given him example in His conflict with the foe in the wilderness of temptation? God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan's artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. Man must do his part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a co-worker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of His glory." Testimonies for the Church, pg. 32-33.

God Wills that We Conquer Sin

In 1 John 2:1 God has made it clear that He does not want us to sin. He says, "These things I write to you, that you may not sin." Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more." John 8:11.

Jesus is our example in all things. His life was one of victory. He was an overcomer. His example is given to us to follow (1 Pet. 2:21-22). God required each of the seven churches of Revelation to be overcomers (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). Overcoming sin is the experience of those who inherit eternal life. It is the natural desire of the redeemed (1 John 3:2-3, John 14:15). We can overcome our sins no matter what our circumstances or surroundings (Titus 2:11-12).

God's power is sufficient to help us become "blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine

as lights in the world.” Phil. 2:15. God will deliver us from this present evil age (Gal. 1:4).

We cannot conquer in our own strength, but as we abide in Him through the Holy Spirit we overcome sin (1 John 3:4-9).

“The strongest temptation cannot excuse sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil. Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer.” Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 421.

Three Biblical Steps to Overcome Sin

Step 1 - Be filled with the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:16.

Jesus said He would abide in us (John 15:4-5). When He is abiding in us by the Holy Spirit (John 14:17, 23) we have power to overcome our temptations and habits.

When the Holy Spirit comes in He gives us a new nature like Jesus had (2 Pet. 1:2-4, John 14:10). He writes the law of God on our hearts (Heb. 10:15-16). As the Holy Spirit takes possession of us He enables us to avoid fulfilling the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). We receive a new mind, a new heart, a new life (Eze. 36:25-27), and He will make us obey, even when we are about to unknowingly use wrong words, or exert a wrong influence.

“When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, pg. 363-64.

God has already given us this encouraging promise, “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” Rom. 6:14. He also promised that He is “able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 24.

This blessing of victory power through the Holy Spirit is awaiting our request. Jesus told us to pray for this power from God (Luke 11:11-13), and as with all other requests which we ask from God we are to pray with faith, believing we receive the very thing we ask for (Mark 11:24, Gal. 3:14).

“The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth ‘the fruits of the Spirit.’ Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked. Through the prophet He declared of Himself, ‘I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.’ Psalm 40:8. And when among men He said, ‘The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.’ John 8:29.” Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 372.

“The Holy Spirit seeks to abide in each soul. If He is welcomed as an honored guest, those who receive Him will be made complete in Christ. The good work begun will be finished; the holy thoughts, heavenly affections, and Christlike actions will take the place of impure thoughts, perverse sentiments, and rebellious acts.” *Counsels on Health*, pg. 561.

“The Holy Spirit alone is able to work with us, in us, and through us, giving us a character which God can approve.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, pg. 12.

“The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.” *Evangelism*, pg. 617.

Step 2 – Separate yourself from whatever causes you to sin – Matt. 5:29-30.

Jesus told us that we need to cooperate with Him in ridding ourselves of sin. Whatever is consistently dragging us down in sin must be gotten out of the life. Any “noun” – person, place, or thing that stands between us and victory over our sins must be removed from us.

Not long after I became a Christian the Holy Spirit led me to take a good look at the things I had in my room. After thinking it over I realized that I had books, and music that needed to go. These things did not lead me to Christ, but instead filled my mind with thoughts that were opposed to Christian principles. Also my trophies I had acquired through sporting events had to go because the Lord was now my God, and not sports. Taking these steps helped keep me going in the right direction.

But what if, because of my limitations, I can’t separate myself from certain persons, places or things? In those cases where degrading influences cannot be changed then God has promised to give the strength we need to endure and be victorious. He promised, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Cor. 12:9.

“He who understands well his own character, who is acquainted with the sin which most easily besets him, and the temptations that will be most likely to overcome him, should not expose himself needlessly and invite temptation by placing himself upon the enemy's ground. If duty calls him where circumstances are not favorable, he will have special help from God, and thus go fully girded for a conflict with the enemy. Self-knowledge will save many from falling into grievous temptations, and prevent many an inglorious defeat.” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pg. 517.

“If you will do the work for yourselves which you know that you ought to do, then God will help you when you need help.” *Ibid*, pg. 604.

The Bible says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” Pro. 23:7. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” Pro. 4:23. These verses clearly explain why we need to be so careful about the influences we allow into our lives. Whatever we allow ourselves to think about is what we will become. “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” Rom. 8:6-7.

What is it that makes you think the way you do? Is it not the influences we allow in our lives through our senses? What we see, hear, feel, taste, and smell determine what we

think. That's why advertising agencies spend millions of dollars to figure out what colors, music, and slogans will affect people in order to make them buy a certain product.

The Bible instructs us saying: 1) Do not touch unclean things – 2 Cor. 6:16-18. 2) Set no evil before your eyes – Ps. 101:3-4. 3) Keep your ears from hearing violence – Isa. 33:15. 4) Do not indulge appetite (taste & smell) – Dan. 1:8.

To knowingly put ourselves in temptation's path and expect to escape free is presumptuous and foolish. Einstein said, "To repeat the same procedures and expect different results is folly." The message to all of God's people in these last days is urgent: "Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

"Yet we have a work to do to resist temptation. Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts." Patriarchs & Prophets, pg. 460.

"This is an age when corruption is teeming everywhere. The lust of the eye and corrupt passions are aroused by beholding and by reading. The heart is corrupted through the imagination. The mind takes pleasure in contemplating scenes which awaken the lower and baser passions. These vile images, seen through defiled imagination, corrupt the morals and prepare the deluded, infatuated beings to give loose rein to lustful passions. Then follow sins and crimes which drag beings formed in the image of God down to a level with the beasts, sinking them at last in perdition. Avoid reading and seeing things which will suggest impure thoughts." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, pg. 410.

Step 3 – Surround yourself with positive influences – Rom. 12:21.

In 1 Pet. 1:13 the Bible says to "gird up the loins of your mind." We strengthen our mind and prepare it for spiritual battle with evil by surrounding ourselves with spiritually positive influences through our senses. In this way we "overcome evil with good." Phil. 4:8 provides principles which should guide the experiences we allow to affect our minds. It says we should think on things that are true, noble just, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, and praiseworthy. The command is: "Meditate on these things." As you habituate your mind to think on godly themes it will become easier and more natural with time. "But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day." Pro. 4:18.

"There is no need of being spiritual dwarfs if the mind is continually exercised in spiritual things. But merely praying for this, and about this, will not meet the necessities of the case. You must habituate the mind to concentration upon spiritual things. Exercise will bring strength." Testimonies, vol. 2, pg. 264.

Some positive influences that will help us cooperate with the Holy Spirit are:

39. Singing & Praise – Eph. 5:18-20.

"If you sit in heavenly places with Christ, you cannot refrain from praising God. Begin to educate your tongues to praise him, and train your hearts to make melody to God; and when the evil one begins to settle his gloom about you, sing praise to God. When things go crossways at your

homes, strike up a song about the matchless charms of the Son of God, and I tell you, when you touch this strain, Satan will leave you. You can drive out the enemy with his gloom; his dark shadow will be swept from your pathway by praising God, and you can see, O, so much clearer, the love and compassion of your Heavenly Father." Review & Herald, August 5, 1890.

40. Memorize Scripture – Ps. 119:11. In 2 Pet. 1:3-4 we are told that the promises of God will help us escape evil.

"By what means did He [Jesus] overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation . . . When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the word. All its strength is yours." The Desire of Ages, pg. 123.

41. Associate with Godly Friends – Heb. 10:24-25. "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed." Pro. 13:20.

"It has been truly said, "Show me your company, and I will show you your character." The youth fail to realize how sensibly both their character and their reputation are affected by their choice of associates. One seeks the company of those whose tastes and habits and practices are congenial. He who prefers the society of the ignorant and vicious to that of the wise and good shows that his own character is defective. His tastes and habits may at first be altogether dissimilar to the tastes and habits of those whose company he seeks; but as he mingles with this class, his thoughts and feelings change; he sacrifices right principles and insensibly yet unavoidably sinks to the level of his companions. As a stream always partakes of the property of the soil through which it runs, so the principles and habits of youth invariably become tinged with the character of the company in which they mingle." Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, pg. 221.

42. Simplify Your Life – Isa. 30:15. The Bible urges us to aspire, or study to live a quiet life (1 Thess. 4:11). God directs us, "Be still, and know that I am God." (Ps. 46:10). Learn to say "no" to duties, even good things in too great a quantity, that would cause additional and unneeded stress and labor. Spend more time in nature and listen to the soothing sounds it presents (Ps. 19:1-4).

"Our only security against falling into sin is to keep ourselves continually under the molding influence of the Holy Spirit, at the same time engaging actively in the cause of truth and holiness, discharging every God-given duty, but taking no burden which God has not laid upon us." Counsels on Health, pg. 594.

"Guard against becoming over-wearied, careworn, depressed." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 513.

43. Adopt Healthy Habits – 1 Cor. 6:19-20. Our physical health is directly related to our spirituality. Study the health message and adopt the use of foods and develop habits that promote good health. God takes this relationship between the physical and spiritual very seriously (1 Cor. 3:16-17).

"A large proportion of all the infirmities that afflict the human family, are the results of their own wrong habits, because of their willing ignorance, or of their disregard of the light which God has given in relation to the laws of their being. It is not possible for us to glorify God while living in violation of the laws of life. The heart cannot possibly maintain consecration to God while lustful appetite is indulged. A diseased body and disordered intellect, because of continual indulgence in

hurtful lust, make sanctification of the body and spirit impossible." Counsels on Diet & Foods, pg. 44.

"It is impossible for those who give the reins to appetite to attain to Christian perfection." *Ibid*, pg. 236.

44. Persist and Trust in God – Gal. 6:9. The Bible encourages us to keep going and not give up. Paul said, "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:12-14. We are assured in Gal. 5:1 that everyone may stand fast in the liberating power of Christ. Run with endurance the race that is set before you (Heb. 12:1-2), for if you are faithful until the end you will certainly wear the crown of life (Rev. 2:10). If we fail He will forgive us (1 Jn. 2:1), but He is able to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24).

"Jesus does not desire those who have been purchased at such a cost to become the sport of the enemy's temptations. He does not desire us to be overcome and perish. He who curbed the lions in their den and walked with His faithful witnesses amid the fiery flames is just as ready to work in our behalf, to subdue every evil in our nature. Today He is standing at the altar of mercy, presenting before God the prayers of those who desire His help. He turns no weeping, contrite one away. . . . The souls that turn to Him for refuge, Jesus lifts above the accusing and the strife of tongues. No man or evil angel can impeach these souls. Christ unites them to His own divine-human nature." *My Life Today*, pg. 317.

"He who is endowed with the Holy Spirit has great capacities of heart and intellect, with strength of will and purpose that is unconquerable." *Testimonies to Ministers*, pg. 176.

Like a tree tied to a straight stick, we will become like what we are associated with. If we surround ourselves with influences that promote godliness we will be cooperating with the Holy Spirit and we will surely gain the victory.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Man's Insufficiency

Perhaps there has never been a more energetic and committed and soul winner than Dwight L. Moody. "He was a dynamo of feverish activity and apparent effectiveness in those early years, yet deep in his own heart there was a dissatisfaction that increased to the point of desperation. As is so often the case, the Almighty used a humble man to bring Moody to the end of his own resources, and then to realize the riches of God's glorious power. This elderly man, whose name history has not recorded, was the first to indicate to the rising evangelist that the anointing of God's Spirit was absent from his ministry. . . As he was getting into the carriage to hurry from the Sunday school to another service he was touched on the shoulder by an old man whose white hair was blowing in the wind. With his finger pointing at Moody, he said, 'Young man, when you speak again, honor the Holy Ghost.' 'I got into the carriage,' said Moody, 'and drove away, but the voice was continually ringing in my ears; yet I did not understand it. It was six months afterwards before God revealed to me the meaning of that message – that I was entirely dependent upon the Holy Spirit. From that day to this, I seldom stand before a great audience where I don't see that old man, with his outstretched finger, and hear his voice, "Honor the Holy Ghost.'" *They Found the Secret*, V. Raymond Edman, Zondervan, pg. 82-83.

We all want to do great things for God, and are often led to believe we achieve great things by natural ability, education, or influence. However, the Bible makes clear that Moody discovered in his own life – we are not sufficient, of ourselves, to do the work of God. "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life. And who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Corinthians 2:15-16.

It is God alone who can give us the power we need to win souls for Christ. "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant." 2 Corinthians 3:5.

Jesus said the power we need comes from the Holy Spirit: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:5-8. Only the power of God could qualify the disciples for their work. Think of the significance of that. Even after three and one half years of associating with Jesus and personally witnessing the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead and the crucifixion and resurrection Jesus said they were not ready to go to the world with the gospel. Too often we think it is the good news itself that has power, that by sharing enough good information that people will change their lives and be saved. But even the truth is ineffective without the power of God. Smokers don't quit smoking just because they know smoking is harmful to their health. It is not more information, or better means of dispensing information that will win the world for Christ, but the presence of the Holy Spirit upon God's messengers.

“In Chicago, there were two godly women, Mrs. Sarah A. Cooke and her friend, Mrs. Hawxhurst, who attended Moody’s meetings in Farwell Hall, and upon whose hearts there came a great burden that this precious man of God be filled with the Spirit. . . . At the close of the Sabbath even services they would say to me, ‘We have been praying for you.’ I said, ‘Why don’t you pray for the people?’ They answered, ‘You need power.’ ‘I need power,’ I said to myself, ‘why, I thought I had power.’ I had a large Sabbath school, and the largest congregation in Chicago. There were *some* conversions at the time, and I was in a sense satisfied.” Ibid., pg. 83.

After meeting with these women and praying together Moody said, “There came a great hunger into my soul. I knew not what it was. I began to cry as never before. The hunger increased. I really felt that I did not want to live any longer if I could not have this power for service. I kept on crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit.” Ibid, pg. 83.

Finally Moody received the answer to His prayers for the power of God through the Holy Spirit. “I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the city of New York – Oh, what a day! – I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to say His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world – it would be as the small dust of the balance.” Ibid. pg. 84.

Ineffective, man-made methods cannot achieve the goal of a finished work in the earth. Why then do we see these methods used so often? “The reason why there is so little of the Spirit of God manifested is that ministers learn to do without it.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 383. We have learned to depend upon our own efforts rather than the mighty power of God. What a tragedy! The Bible is very clear about man and his abilities. Jesus said, “Without Me, you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Natural Ability

The Apostle Paul did not feel sufficient (2 Cor. 2:16), and yet he was a man of great natural talent. His personality was of a zealous nature, courageous, intelligent, and he must have possessed good health to endure, with God help, what he was forced to go through (2 Cor. 11:22-28). Yet he considered himself an earthen vessel (2 Cor. 4:17).

“Neither talent, eloquence, nor selfish study of the Scriptures, will produce love to God or conformity to the image of Christ. Nothing but divine power can regenerate the human heart and character.” Fundamentals of Christian Education, pg. 240-41.

Education

Paul was also a very highly educated man. He was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6 & 26:5), multilingual (1 Cor. 14:17), and acquainted with the wisdom of his age (1 Cor. 1:22 & Acts 17:28). However, argument and intelligent persuasion was not sufficient to convert souls. "And I brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." 1 Cor. 2:1-5.

"It is by contemplating Christ, by exercising faith in Him, by experiencing for ourselves His saving grace, that we are qualified to present Him to the world. If we have learned of Him, Jesus will be our theme; His love, burning upon the altar of our hearts, will reach the hearts of the people. The truth will be presented, not as a cold, lifeless theory, but in demonstration of the Spirit.

"Many of our ministers in their discourses dwell too largely upon theory and not enough on practical godliness. They have an intellectual knowledge of the truth, but their hearts are untouched with the genuine fervor of the love of Christ." Testimonies, vol. 5, pg. 158.

Human Influence

Paul knew the right people, he was a Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6). He was a Roman citizen by birth (Acts 22:28), as well as a Hebrew of the Hebrews (Phil. 3:5). "If anyone else things he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ." Phil. 3:4-8.

God's Sufficiency

Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5. But the Bible also promises: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13. "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Gen. 18:14. Our sufficiency for the work of saving lost men and women comes only from the power of God in the Holy Spirit. When we look at the work to be accomplished we may be led to exclaim, "With men this is impossible," but we are assured that, "with God all things are possible." Matt. 19:26.

45. 1 Cor. 15:9-10; 2 Cor. 1:1 – By the grace and will of God Paul was a minister.

46. Matt. 17:21 – Only by prayer and fasting.

It is not by personal charisma, the saying of words or even preaching the truth, but a Spirit-filled life. E.M. Bounds once said that God does not bless methods, but men. "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6.

47. 2 Cor. 12:9-10 – God desires to make weak people strong in ministry. His grace, His power, is sufficient. In Hebrews 11 the Bible says it was through faith in God that godly men and women did what they did.

48. 1 Cor. 1:17-29 – God chooses the weak and foolish things to confound the world.

49. Acts 4:13 – The apostles were uneducated and untrained. God often selects those considered to be inferior and imparts His power to them to the consternation of others.

50. 1 Tim. 1:12 – He counts us faithful and enables us.

51. Judges 7:2 – Lest Israel take the glory to themselves

Everyone expects a gifted person to excel. Everyone expects an educated person to be brilliant. Everyone expects a trained person to demonstrate expertise. But when a person whom everyone knows is uneducated and untrained stands up and performs great deeds for God then there is no doubt Who is doing the work. Peter and John knew who was really doing the great deeds among them. “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, . . . And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” Acts 3:12-16.

The Bible says, “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours.” James 5:17. The followers of Jesus were men and women just like men and women of today, but they were changed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:13). Without the power of God Samson was just like other men (Judges 16:17). Moses was a man of great talent and learning (Acts 7:22), but he was never truly so great as when he conceded, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh.” Ex. 3:11.

“The success of the ministry of Elijah was not due to any inherited qualities he possessed, but to the submission of himself to the Holy Spirit, which was given to him as it will be given to all who exercise living faith in God. In his imperfection man has the privilege of linking himself up with God through Jesus Christ.” SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 2, pg. 1037.

“It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God. . . . Those who have faith in this divine Attendant will develop. They will be gifted with power to clothe the message of truth with a sacred beauty.” Gospel Workers, pg. 96-97.

“Receive the Holy Spirit, and your efforts will be successful. Christ’s presence is that which gives power.” Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 85.

“The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions.” Great Controversy, pg. 606.

“Church members, - those placed in positions of trust, - must be baptized with the Spirit of God, or they will not be qualified for the positions they accept.” Fundamentals of Christian Education, pg. 240-41.

“They were transformed in character, and united in the bonds of Christian love. Although without wealth, though counted by the world as mere ignorant fishermen, they were made, by the Holy Spirit, witnesses for Christ. Without earthly honor or recognition, they were the heroes of faith. From their lips came words of divine eloquence and power that shook the world.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 67.

By the grace of Christ the apostles were made what they were.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 32.

Natural and Acquired Abilities

In the first chapter of Daniel four naturally gifted young men are spared in the takeover of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 1:3-4). Daniel, however, knows it is not their natural abilities alone that will see them through. Therefore he and his friends seek the blessing of God on their efforts (Dan. 1:8, 17).

We too may have the blessing of God on the abilities we have received by birth or training. All good gifts come from God (James 1:17). When we have His blessing through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, our abilities will become even more effective.

In Exodus 31:3 & 6 artisans already gifted with natural ability are given the blessing of wisdom, which enabled them to construct the beautiful tabernacle.

“The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men.” Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 328.

“Natural and acquired endowments are all gifts of God and need to be constantly held under the control of His Spirit, of His divine, sanctifying power.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 189.

“This agency of the Spirit of God does not remove from us the necessity of exercising our faculties and talents, but teaches us how to use every power to the glory of God. The human faculties, when under the special direction of the grace of God, are capable of being used to the best purpose on earth, and will be exercised in the future, immortal life.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pg. 372.

Spiritual Gifts

The difference between natural gifts and spiritual gifts is that natural gifts are the result of birth, education, or training, but spiritual gifts are miraculously bestowed as the Holy Spirit wills (1Cor. 12:11). Spiritual gifts enable a person to accomplish a task otherwise

impossible for that person. For instance, when the apostles spoke to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem they were able to do so because they had received that miraculous ability directly from God (Acts 2:1-4). Remember that all of God's biddings are His enablings.

Therefore, if you would like to work for God but feel inadequate because of a lack of talent or education then turn to God and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon you, for spiritual gifts are imparted to those who receive the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus went to heaven to become our High Priest (Heb. 4:14) He poured out the Holy Spirit and bestowed rich spiritual gifts upon His followers (Eph. 4:7-10). This is what John meant in John 7:38-39 about Jesus being glorified before the Holy Spirit could be poured out.

Various gifts are given to build up the church and convert sinners to Jesus (1 Cor. 12:8-11). These gifts are not limited to just a select few, but are available to all. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39. In fact, we are encouraged by the Bible to seek for spiritual gifts. "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." 1 Cor. 14:1.

"The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 327.

"In the great and measureless gift of the Holy Spirit are contained all of heaven's resources." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 419.

"Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the third person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled. He would give all gifts in one, and therefore the divine Spirit, that converting, enlightening, and sanctifying power, would be His donation." My Life Today, pg. 36.

"Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. . . This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train." The Desire of Ages, pg. 672.

"The apostles were not always able to work miracles at will. The Lord granted His servants this special power as the progress of His cause or the honor of His name required." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, pg. 1064.

The Gift of Tongues

Many believe the gift of tongues to be proof that the baptism of the Holy Spirit has been received. This gift is popularly defined as an unknown language, perhaps of heavenly origin, given to men. However, the Bible does not support that idea.

We know that Jesus was filled with the Spirit (Matt. 3:16), and yet there is no record of Him ever speaking in tongues. If the presence of a spiritual gift is proof of the Spirit's

presence then one of the other gifts could serve as proof just as well as tongues. But no gift of the Spirit is given as proof of being filled with the Spirit. There is only one proof of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of the believer and that is the exhibition of the fruit of the Spirit found in Gal. 5:22-23. According to Jesus love is the proof that we are His disciples (John 13:35).

In 1 Cor. 13:1-3 Paul contrasts the gifts of the Spirit with love, which is the first fruit of the Holy Spirit. In essence he tells us that the presence of these gifts such as tongues, prophecy, knowledge and even faith are nothing unless love is present. Satan can imitate the gifts of the Spirit (2 Cor. 11:14-15 & Rev. 16:14), but He cannot imitate the fruit of the Spirit. He can only produce cheap counterfeits that when examined by Scripture reveal their true origin (Matt. 7:15-23). If Satan could imitate the fruit of the Spirit then we could never know the disciples of Jesus.

Some have taken Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 13:1, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels" as support for the idea that Paul spoke in a language of heavenly origin unknown to any people on earth. However, in context Paul could not have meant that for he also said, "though I give my body to be burned", and Scripture does not record Paul being burned. He was simply making large statements to show the importance of love compared to spiritual gifts. Love is of so much more value that the greatest deeds cannot equal it. Even if he could speak the language of angels it would sound like a clanging cymbal compared to the language of love.

It appears that those who believe in practicing this unknown tongue do so among believers in their gatherings. However, the gift of tongues described for us in Acts 2:1-13 was used to communicate to people gathered in Jerusalem from all over the world. Therefore I believe the gift of tongues is the ability to communicate to another person in their language the gospel of Jesus Christ in order that they may repent of their sins and be saved. "Therefore tongues is for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe." 1 Cor. 14:22. Tongues is for unbelievers and prophesying is for believers, which is one of the identifying marks of God's people in the last days (Rev. 12:17 & 19:10).

In 1 Cor. 14 Paul is imply clarifying how to conduct the worship service when a variety of believers from other countries are present, such as existed in Corinth at that time. To avoid confusion there were to be only two or three who spoke, and each one in turn, with an interpreter so that the body may be edified (1 Cor. 14:27-28). Confusion was to be avoided (vs. 33 & 40), which Paul said would arise if all tried to speak without an interpreter leading unbelievers to conclude that Christians were insane (vs. 23).

Some believe Paul's words in 1 Cor. 14:14, "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful." indicate that tongues is speaking a language you yourself do not understand. However, in 1 Cor. 2:11 Paul identifies the spirit of a man as his mind, especially the conscience (Rom. 9:1). In 1 Cor. 14:9 & 16 the object of speaking in tongues is so that *other people will understand* and be edified. Therefore, for the understanding to be unfruitful simply means that other people are not being blessed by what is said because *they* do not understand. That is why Paul said, "Yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words is a tongue." 1 Cor. 14:19. "Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played?" 1 Cor. 14:7.

“There were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.’ During the dispersion the Jews had been scattered to almost every part of the inhabited world, and in their exile they had learned to speak various languages. Many of these Jews were on this occasion in Jerusalem, attending the religious festivals then in progress. Every known tongue was represented by those assembled. This diversity of languages would have been a great hindrance to the proclamation of the gospel; God therefore in a miraculous manner supplied the deficiency of the apostles. The Holy Spirit did for them that which they could not have accomplished for themselves in a lifetime. They could now proclaim the truths of the gospel abroad, speaking with accuracy the languages of those for whom they were laboring. This miraculous gift was a strong evidence to the world that their commission bore the signet of Heaven. From this time forth the language of the disciples was pure, simple, and accurate, whether they spoke in their native tongue or in a foreign language.” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 39-40.

“Some of these persons have exercises which they call gifts and say that the Lord has placed them in the church. They have an unmeaning gibberish which they call the unknown tongue, which is unknown not only by man but by the Lord and all heaven. Such gifts are manufactured by men and women, aided by the great deceiver. Fanaticisms, false excitement, false talking in tongues, and noisy exercises have been considered gifts which God has placed in the church. Some have been deceived here. The fruits of all this have not been good.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 412.

“When these discordant ones, holding their different views, come together and there is considerable excitement and the unknown tongue, they let their light so shine that unbelievers would say: These people are not sane; they are carried away with a false excitement, and we know that they do not have the truth.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 419.

Additional Statements from Ellen White

“As man uses his talents, however small, with faithfulness, the Holy Spirit takes the things of God, and presents them anew to the mind. Through His Spirit God makes His word a vivifying power. It is quick and powerful, exerting a strong influence upon minds, not because of the learning or intelligence of the human agent, but because divine power is working with the human power. And it is to the divine power that all praise is to be given.” Testimonies, vol. 8, pg. 55.

“To have the religion of Christ means that you have absolutely surrendered your all to God, and consented to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit moral power will be given you, and not only will you have your former entrusted talents for the service of God, but their efficiency will be greatly multiplied.” Messages to Young People, pg. 30.

“Moral and intellectual powers are needed in order to discharge with fidelity the important duties devolving upon you; but these may be possessed, and yet there may be a great lack of godliness. The endowment of the Holy Spirit is indispensably essential to success in your great work.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pg. 320.

“The talents that Christ entrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit. . . All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised. . . . The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God.” Christ’s Object Lessons, pg. 327.

"The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 328.

"God has different ways of working, and He has different workmen to whom He entrusts varied gifts.

"One worker may be a ready speaker; another a ready writer; another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer; another the gift of singing; another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith; but all are to work under the same Head." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, pg. 144.

"One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pg. 251.

"When churches are revived, it is because some individual seeks earnestly for the blessing of God, . . . [then] souls are aroused to seek for a like blessing, and a season of refreshing falls upon the hearts of men." Home Missionary, November 1890.

"The inworking ministry of the Holy Spirit is our great need. The Spirit is all divine in its agency and demonstration. God wants you to have the gracious spiritual endowment; then you will work with a power that you were never conscious of before. Love and faith and hope will be an abiding presence. You can go forth in faith, believing that the Holy Spirit accompanies you." Evangelism, pg. 299.

"Just in proportion as the speaker appreciates the divine presence and honors and trusts the power of God, is he acknowledged as a laborer together with God. Just in this proportion does he become mighty through God." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 143-44.

"He who bears to his fellow men the remedy for sin must himself first be moved by the Spirit of God. He must not ply the oars unless he is under divine direction. He cannot work effectually, he cannot carry out the will of God in harmony with the divine mind, unless he finds out, not from human sources, but from infinite wisdom, that God is pleased with his plans." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pg. 241.

"The hearts of the disciples were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth testifying: God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. They were filled with an intense longing to add to the church of such as should be saved." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 31.

"These conversions to truth [in the eleventh hour parable] will be made with a rapidity that will surprise the church, and God's name alone will be glorified." Letter 43, 1890, p. 5. (To Brother Olsen, December 15, 1890).

"But their work was not to be entered upon till they should know of a surety, by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that they were connected with Heaven. They were promised new courage and joy from the heavenly illumination they should then experience, and which would enable them to comprehend the depth and breadth and fullness of God's love." Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 3, pg. 240.

"Morning by morning, as the heralds of the gospel kneel before the Lord and renew their vows of consecration to Him, He will grant them the presence of His Spirit, with its reviving, sanctifying

power. As they go forth to the day's duties, they have the assurance that the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit enables them to be "laborers together with God." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 56.

"Unless ministers are guarded, they will hide the truth under human ornamentation. Let no minister suppose that he can convert souls by eloquent sermons. Those who teach others should plead with God to imbue them with His Spirit, and enable them to lift up Christ as the sinner's only hope. Flowery speeches, pleasing tales, or inappropriate anecdotes do not convict the sinner. Men listen to such words as they would to a pleasant song. . . . It is the efficiency of the Holy Spirit that makes the ministry of the word effective. When Christ speaks through the minister, the Holy Spirit prepares the hearts of the listeners to receive the word. The Holy Spirit is not a servant, but a controlling power. He causes the truth to shine into minds, and speaks through every discourse where the minister surrenders himself to the divine working. It is the Spirit that surrounds the soul with a holy atmosphere, and speaks to the impenitent through words of warning, pointing them to Him who takes away the sin of the world." Gospel Workers, pg. 155.

"As you win their confidence in you as followers of Christ, it will be easy to teach them of the great love wherewith He has loved us. As you try to make plain the truths of salvation, and point the children to Christ as a personal Saviour, angels will be by your side. The Lord will give to fathers and mothers grace to interest their little ones in the precious story of the Babe of Bethlehem, who is indeed the hope of the world." The Desire of Ages, pg. 517.

"Some of these ministers make a mistake in the preparation of their discourses. They arrange every minutia with such exactness that they give the Lord no room to lead and impress their minds. Every point is fixed, stereotyped as it were, and they cannot depart from the plan marked out. This course, if continued, will cause them to become narrow-minded, circumscribed in their views, and will soon leave them as destitute of life and energy as are the hills of Gilboa of dew and rain. They must throw the soul open and let the Holy Spirit take possession to impress the mind. When everything is laid out beforehand, and they feel that they cannot vary from these set discourses, the effect is little better than that produced by reading a sermon.

"God would have His ministers wholly dependent upon Him, but at the same time they should be thoroughly furnished unto every good work. No subject can be treated before all congregations in the same manner. The Spirit of God, if allowed to do its work, will impress the mind with ideas calculated to meet the cases of those who need help. But the tame, formal discourses of many who enter the desk have very little of the vitalizing power of the Holy Spirit in them." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 251.

"It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God." Gospel Workers, pg. 97.

"It is not always the most learned presentation of God's truth that convicts and converts the soul. Not by eloquence or logic are men's hearts reached, but by the sweet influences of the Holy Spirit, which operate quietly yet surely in transforming and developing character. It is the still, small voice of the Spirit of God that has power to change the heart." Prophets and Kings, pg. 169.

"In the closing scenes of this earth's history many of these children and youth will astonish people by their witness to the truth, which will be borne in simplicity, yet with spirit and power. They have been taught the fear of the Lord, and their hearts have been softened by a careful and prayerful study of the Bible. In the near future many children will be endued with the Spirit of God and will do a work in proclaiming the truth to the world that at that time cannot well be done by the older members of the church." Adventist Home, pg. 489.

"God can teach you more in one moment by His Holy Spirit than you could learn from the great men of the earth." Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 415.

“After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were so filled with love for Him and for those for whom He died, that hearts were melted by the words they spoke and the prayers they offered. They spoke in the power of the Spirit; and under the influence of that power, thousands were converted.” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 22.

“Let there be more dependence upon the efficiency of the Holy Spirit, and far less upon human agencies.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 214-15.

How to Receive the Holy Spirit

In my mind I can still see my father on his knees. It surprised me, and almost frightened me. I felt very apprehensive because I couldn't ever remember seeing my father on his knees praying on his knees before that moment. I thought there must be something very bad happening, and there was.

We were living in Lancaster, California at that time – my birth place. Way out west of town we were raising approximately 2,000 acres of alfalfa. We had four natural gas engines that were about six feet long pumping 1,000 gallons of water per minute all day and all night into reservoirs, which in turn fed the wheel lines to sprinkle the alfalfa.

Water means life, but on the desert it is especially needed. My father was on his knees because our wells went dry. My father knew that if God didn't somehow send water back to us then life as we lived it would end.

Is it any different now? Now is the time when all of us should be praying that God will send us water – the former and the latter rains. Without it our spiritual lives will dry up, and nothing but disaster will come upon us.

Fortunately, the Bible has told us how to receive this essential rain of God's Holy Spirit in our lives and in our churches. The study of the early and latter rains will help us understand the conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit, and the difference between the personal filling of the Holy Spirit and the corporate outpouring of the Spirit on the church. Often people confuse the statements Ellen White makes regarding the corporate latter rain and the statements she gives concerning the individual reception of the Holy Spirit. WE may have "showers of blessing" right now in our lives in preparation for the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit which is to come.

The Former and Latter Rains

The early and latter rains were needed by farmers in the Middle East to raise their crops (Deut. 11:14). The early rain fell in the autumn (Hebrew "yoreh), which means sprinkling. This rain was essential to cause the seed to germinate. The latter rain, more heave in nature (Hebrew "malkosh") fell in the spring. This rain was essential to bring the fruit to maturity and harvest.

These literal rains that produced a literal crop were used by the Lord to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians.

"The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

"The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the

green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 506.

The early rain represents the personal experience of conversion, or the sowing of Christ (the Seed) into the heart of the new Christian. In Mark 4:3-8 & 14 the seed is the word of God, and we are the ground. The Holy Spirit sows the Seed (Gal. 6:8).

The Holy Spirit prepares the soil by convicting us of our sin and endeavors to lead us to a saving belief in Jesus Christ (John 16:8-9). Conversion is when we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord. As we do accept Jesus His righteousness is sown in us (Hos. 10:12), for He is the Word, the Seed (John 1:1-3, 14 & Gal. 3:16).

This is a daily work. Just because we have received Jesus in the past does not mean we do not need to receive Him again. In Exodus 16:4 God rained fresh bread from heaven everyday with twice as much made available on Fridays to prepare for the Sabbath (Ex. 16:21-22). The people were to go out and collect the bread, which was allotted to them (about two quarts per person). This bread was to be picked up early in the morning before the sun came up, because after the sun came up the bread melted away. (Ex. 16:21).

Jesus said that bread, which rained down on the Israelites, represented Himself (John 6:51). We are to receive Christ as our Savior everyday. The message is clear: we must gather our strength from Jesus at the first of our day before the rush of activities sweeps us away and the golden opportunity is melted. We gather the Bread of Life by eating His word, the Bible, and prayer. In this way we renew our faith in Christ (John 6:28-29, 47). This is the work we are to do to have life – receive Jesus by faith from His word. Just as the plants simply take in the nourishment provided them each day so we may take in the life-giving properties available to us each day. His power does the rest.

It is the Holy Spirit Who makes us living, fruit-bearing Christians (John 6:63). Through the power of the Holy Spirit the Word of God, Jesus, takes root in our lives and it cannot fail to produce fruit (Isa. 55:6-11).

The Israelites could gather only enough for each day. If you at this moment are hungry for Jesus and eternal life then just reach out by prayer and accept the promise of His word by faith. Jesus has paid the full price for your salvation (Isa. 53:4-6). Now the door of mercy is still open (Zech. 10:1). Break up the ground of your heart, for it is time to seek the Lord (Hos. 10:12). Only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can bring life to your soul.

"Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. . ." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 508.

The early rain also represents the beginning of the corporate work of the church. For the church as a whole the early rain fell on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:8, 2:1-21). With the power of God's Spirit received on that day the disciples began to preach Jesus Christ to the world. They began sowing the Seed/Jesus (Gal. 3:16) in the world field (Matt. 13:38), and a bountiful harvest began coming in (Acts 2:47). Daily they were adding to the church such as should be saved. This is the historic early rain for the church.

Since that time we are now living in the dispensation, or age, of the Holy Spirit's power which is available to all Christians.

"The dispensation in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask, the dispensation of the Holy Spirit." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 512.

"The outpouring of the Spirit in apostolic days was the 'former rain,' and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant." Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 44.

The latter rain represents the personal baptism of the Holy Spirit that produces character growth and power to share our faith. As Christians we will grow in our experience day by day. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Pet. 3:18. Grace is not just the unmerited favor of God, but it is also the power of God (Acts 4:33). Grace is a synonym for the power of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 10:29, Rom. 6:14 & Gal. 5:18).

"They must have His grace, the Spirit of Christ, to help their infirmities, or they cannot resist evil." Steps to Christ, pg. 51.

"The transforming power of grace can make me a partaker of the divine nature . . . the believer is brought from grace to grace, from glory to glory, until by beholding Christ, he is changed into the same image." Sons and Daughters of God, pg. 124.

No gardener would be happy with just sowing seed. The sowing of the seed is done with anticipation of the fruit that will be produced. The Holy Spirit is the One who sows the seed, but He is also the One who produces the harvest. He implants the Word in us (2 Pet. 1:2-4), which then begins to grow and produces the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Gal. 5:22-23. These fruits are the character of Jesus – His likeness. The daily baptism of the Holy Spirit will produce this fruit in us. "But he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." Gal. 6:8. He will produce the fruit of holiness, or sanctification in us (Rom. 6:22).

"Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Galatians 5:22, 23. They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure." Steps to Christ, pg. 58.

The apostle Paul said, "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit." The result will be: "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God." Eph. 5:18-21.

God desires to restore His image in us. In other words, God wants to reproduce His loving character in us, and His purity (Joel 2:23-27). No matter how far we may be from that goal He is able, by His power, to make us become like Jesus. We are promised, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor. 3:18. From glory to glory means from character to character.

“Efficiency to believe comes from God to the heart, and the sinner accepts the evidence of God's word. Through the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit he is changed and becomes one with Christ in spirit and purpose. His affection for God increases, he hungers after righteousness and longs to be more like his Master. By beholding Christ, he is changed from glory to glory, from character to character, and becomes more and more like Jesus. He is imbued with love for Christ and filled with a deep, unresting love for perishing souls, and Christ is formed within, the hope of glory.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 221.

We are to be strengthened with might in our inner being through the Holy Spirit, rooted and grounded in love, filled with all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:14-21). Through the continued filling of the Holy Spirit we will grow into the perfection of Christ (Eph. 4:7-16).

Every believer in Christ may now have a personal latter rain experience, which is to be baptized, or filled with the Holy Spirit. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive. . .” John 7:38-39.

Not only is this personal latter rain power available, but it is absolutely essential if we would grow and bear fruit for Jesus. The personal work of the Holy Spirit is necessary to prepare us for the prophetic latter rain, that great outpouring of God’s Spirit, that will come upon His people just before Jesus returns.

“We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. Christ has said, “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst.” The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 508.

“If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 508.

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 507.

It was the Spirit’s work which brought us to a sense of our need, and it was the Spirit’s work which brought us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and it is the Spirit’s work which brings to completion the work of grace until we reflect the image of Jesus. He will finish the work (Phil. 1:6, Heb. 12:2).

The latter rain also represents the harvest referred to in Jesus’ parables regarding the end of the world and the many conversions that will take place at the time. This is the ending of the great corporate work of the church in spreading the gospel. In the prophecy of Rev. 18:1 is the assurance of a great outpouring of power on God’s people through the Holy Spirit, which completes the harvest of souls who will be ready for Jesus to come. “After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with His glory.” The latter rain is the harvest (Rev. 14:14-16), or the end of the world.

"It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the Day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory" [Rev. 18:1]." Last Day Events, pg. 202.

James 5:7-8 says, "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." There can be no doubt that a great display of God's power, the greatest ever witnessed, lies just ahead. Joel 2:28-31 tell us this outpouring will be just before the end of the world, then Jesus will come!

"In immediate connection with the scenes of the great day of God, the Lord by the prophet Joel has promised a special manifestation of His Spirit. Joel 2:28. This prophecy received a partial fulfillment in the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost; but it will reach its full accomplishment in the manifestation of divine grace which will attend the closing work of the gospel. Great Controversy, pg. ix.

"It is true that in the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favor. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.

"But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 54.

Conditions for Receiving the Personal and Corporate Latter Rain

Prayer

52. Zech. 10:1 – Ask for the latter rain.

53. 2 Ki. 2:9 – Elisha had to ask for the personal power of the Holy Spirit.

54. Luke 11:11-13 – Jesus said to ask for the Holy Spirit.

55. Acts 1:14, 4:31 – The apostles prayed before Pentecost, and prayed again for another outpouring of God's Spirit.

"Let them ask in faith for the blessing, and it will come. The outpouring of the Spirit in apostolic days was the 'former rain,' and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant." Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 44.

"The dispensation in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask, the dispensation of the Holy Spirit." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 512.

"When the Third Angel's Message shall go forth with a loud voice, the whole earth shall be lightened with His glory, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon His people. The revenue of glory has been accumulating for this closing work of the Third Angel's Message. The prayers that have been

ascending for the fulfillment of the promise, the descent of the Holy Spirit, not one has been lost. Each prayer has been accumulating, ready to overflow and pour forth a healing flood of heavenly influence and accumulated light all over the world. Letter 96a 1899, p. 2. (To Sister Henry, July 19, 1899.) White Estate Washington, D. C. August 30, 1950. Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, pg. 180.

As we pray we must persist in asking for this blessing. The disciples prayed for 10 days before the day of Pentecost. Elisha had to persist in following Elijah before he received a double portion of the Holy Spirit (Elijah performed seven recorded miracles and Elisha performed 14). Before Jesus said to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13) He told a parable about persisting in asking for what we need. If the baptism of the Holy Spirit does not come immediately do not grow weary in seeking. God will send the blessing in His time.

“Let there be a work of reformation and repentance. Let all seek for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As with the disciples after the ascension of Christ, it may require several days of earnestly seeking God and putting away of sin.” *My Life Today*, pg. 58.

“The answer may come with sudden velocity and overpowering might, or it may be delayed for days and weeks, and our faith receive a trial. But God knows how and when to answer our prayer. It is our part of the work to put ourselves in connection with the divine channel. God is responsible for His part of the work. He is faithful who hath promised. The great and important matter with us is to be of one heart and mind, putting aside all envy and malice, and, as humble supplicants, to watch and wait. Jesus, our Representative and Head, is ready to do for us what He did for the praying, watching ones on the day of Pentecost.” *The Story of Redemption*, pg. 247.

Obedience

56. Deut. 11:14-17 – Sin keeps the rain from failing. See also Jer. 3:2-3, 5:23-25. Perfection of character is a requirement to receive the corporate latter rain.

“We have now the invitation of mercy to become vessels unto honor, and then we need not worry about the latter rain; all we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and prepared and right side up, for the reception of the heavenly rain and keep praying, ‘Let the latter rain come into my vessel.’” *Manuscript 35*, 1891, pg. 16-17.

“May the Lord help His people to cleanse the soul temple from every defilement, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out.” *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, pg. 1055.

57. Acts 5:32 – Individually speaking we are not to wait to be perfect before we receive the personal latter rain, or baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that makes us obedient. Acts 5:32 refers to the act of submission to the will of God, or surrender to God’s authority. The Greek word for obey in Acts 5:32 is “peitharcho”, which means to submit, or make friends with God. Obedience is the result of the Holy Spirit taking possession of us (Rom. 6 & 8:3-4, Gal. 5:16, Eze. 36:25-27).

"O that the baptism of the Holy Spirit might come upon you, that you might be imbued with the Spirit of God! Then day by day you will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, and in every action of your life the question would be, "Will it glorify my Master?" By patient continuance in well-doing you would seek for glory and honor, and would receive the gift of immortality." My Life Today, pg. 49.

Repentance

58. Acts 2:38 – Repentance is a condition for both the corporate and individual latter rain experience.

Repentance is a gift according to Acts 5:31 and 2 Tim. 2:25. Repentance is not something you do, repentance is something that happens to you. Like all other gifts God has promised, if we ask we shall receive.

"And we cannot even repent without the aid of the Spirit of God . . . Repentance comes from Christ as truly as does pardon." Desire of Ages, pg. 175.

Water Baptism

59. Acts 2:38 – Whoever desires to receive Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit will be baptized by water but water baptism is not a condition to receive the Holy Spirit.

60. Acts 8:15 – Water baptism does not guarantee you have received the Holy Spirit. In this case the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit after baptism.

61. Acts 10:44-48, 11:15-16 – In this case the household of Cornelius received the Holy Spirit before water baptism.

62. Acts 19:2-6 – First Paul baptized the Ephesian brethren in water and then he prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

"The descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Gentiles was not a equivalent for baptism [by water]." The Store of Redemption, pg. 289.

"No outward forms can make us clean; no ordinance, administered by the saintliest of men, can take the place of the baptism of the Holy Ghost." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 227.

Unity

63. Acts 2:1, 4:32 – Unity is a condition to receive the corporate latter rain, but not the individual baptism of the Spirit.

64. Eph. 4:3, 11-13 – Unity is of the Holy Spirit – it comes from Him.

65. John 20:22 – The early Christians had unity because of the Holy Spirit.
66. Gal. 5:22-23 – There could be no unity without the fruit of the Spirit actively at work in the life of each believer.

“We are to seek most earnestly to be of one mind, of one purpose. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, and nothing less, can bring us to this place.” Review & Herald, June 10, 1902.

“When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early church, ‘the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul’ (Acts 4:32). The Spirit of Christ made them one. This is the fruit of abiding in Christ.” Selected Messages, book 3, pg. 20.

“Seek for the fullness that is in Christ. Labor in His lines. Let every thought and word and deed reveal Him. You need a daily baptism of the love that in the days of the apostles made them all of one accord.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pg. 191.

Faith

67. Mark 11:24 – If we ask with faith we shall receive.
68. Gal. 3:2, 5, 14 – We receive the Holy Spirit by faith. Do not go by feelings or impressions.

“I have frequently seen that the children of the Lord neglect prayer, especially secret prayer, altogether too much; that many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise.

“True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is swallowed up. But many suppose they have much faith when sharing largely of the Holy Spirit and that they cannot have faith unless they feel the power of the Spirit. Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith. The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit.” Early Writings, pg. 72.

The Holy Spirit is Bestowed in Various Ways

- 69.2 Ki. 2:9, Luke 11:13, Acts 1:14 & 4:31 – Personal prayer. Jesus invites you to ask for yourself to receive this rich blessing.

"The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it." Evangelism, pg. 702.

"For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God." Acts of the Apostles, pg. 50-51.

70. Acts 10:44-48 – Preaching. When we come together to hear the word of God Jesus is there to give His blessing (Matt. 18:20).

"The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and latter rain." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 508.

71. Acts 9:17, 8:14-17, 19:17-18 – Intercessory prayer and laying on of hands.

"Jesus will add His intercession to your prayers, and claim for the sinner the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pour it upon his soul. And there will be joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Sons and Daughters of God, pg. 274.

72. Luke 1:15, 1 Tim. 4:12-14, 2 Tim. 1:5 & 3:15 – Children and youth may be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

"Teach your children that it is their privilege to receive every day the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let Christ find you His helping hand to carry out His purposes. By prayer you may gain an experience that will make your ministry for your children a perfect success." Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, pg. 131.

"Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of the praying mother. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. If we will live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mold our little ones, even from their earliest moments." Desire of Ages 512.

73. Num. 11:25-26, 29 – By the special command of God. Occasionally the Bible records God sending His Spirit upon individuals with no apparent seeking on their part in order to accomplish His will as promised. We must always remember that "one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." 1 Cor. 12:11. Evidently, when the purpose of God must be met, and it will not violate the principles of His kingdom, He will pour out His Spirit on even the wicked if that is what it takes to keep His word. Jesus told the Pharisees when the people were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Matt. 21:9), that "if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:40. It is not our place to dictate to God how He will accomplish His work, but to humbly submit ourselves to Him and all Him to manifest Himself in His own appointed way to each person individually. Some biblical examples include:

- 1 Sam. 10:1-6 – Saul.
- John 20:22 – The disciples.
- John 11:51 – Caiaphas.
- Num. 23:5 – Balaam.
- 1 Sam. 16:14 & 19:23-24 – Saul in his rebellion.

Outward Miraculous Manifestations

When Paul visited the Ephesian brethren he asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-6). He expected that they would know whether they had or not. Jesus knew that He had received the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18). Micah the prophet knew that he was full of the power of the Holy Spirit (Mic. 3:8). Peter and John knew that they had more than silver and gold to give to the lame man (Acts 3:6). John knew he was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.” Rev. 1:10.

When the time came to choose seven men to perform the duties of caring for the widows they were to choose men who were “full of the Holy Spirit.” They must have known what to look for (Acts 6:3). Moses knew that Bezaleel was filled with the Spirit of God (Ex. 31:3 & 35:31). Elisha knew Elijah was full of the Holy Spirit (2 Ki. 2:9). Many realized that Daniel was full of the Holy Spirit (Dan. 4:8-9, 19, 5:11, 14). Barnabas was considered to be a man “full of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 11:24.

The Lord has never wanted us to doubt our relationship with Him (1Jn. 5:9-13). We too may be sure that the Holy Spirit has come into us. First we know it by faith (Gal. 3:2, 5, 14). We may know this by the witness of the Spirit with our spirits that we are children of God as mentioned in an earlier chapter (Rom. 8:16). We may know this by the love and other fruit of the Spirit poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (John 13:35, Gal. 5:22-23 & Rom. 5:5). We may know this by the obedience to the laws of God that takes place in our lives (1 John 2:3, 3:24). At times there are also miraculous outward manifestations.

74. Matt. 3:16-17 – When Jesus received the Holy Spirit He saw the dove and heard the voice of God the Father.
75. Acts 2:1-4 – On the day of Pentecost the disciples heard the rushing wind, and saw tongues of fire.
76. Acts 4:31 – On another occasion the disciples felt an earthquake.
77. Ellen White, like Daniel (Dan. 10:8-9), fell to the floor under the power of the Holy Spirit.

“As the others knelt for prayer, I bowed with them, trembling, and after a few had prayed, my voice arose in prayer before I was aware of it. In that moment the promises of God appeared to me like so many precious pearls that were to be received only for the asking. As I prayed, the burden and agony of soul that I had so long endured, left me, and the blessing of the Lord descended upon me like the gentle dew. I praised God from the depths of my heart. Everything seemed shut out from me but Jesus and His glory, and I lost consciousness of what was passing around me.

“The Spirit of God rested upon me with such power that I was unable to go home that night. When I awakened to realization, I found myself cared for in the house of my uncle, where we had assembled for the prayer meeting.” Life Sketches, pg. 38.

78. 1 Ki. 19:11-13 – In the case of Elijah the Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the still small voice.

"The Spirit of God is manifested in different ways upon different men. One under the movings of this power will tremble before the Word of God. His convictions will be so deep that a hurricane and tumult of feeling seem to rage in his heart, and his whole being is prostrate under the convicting power of the truth. When the Lord speaks forgiveness to the repenting soul, he is full of ardor, full of love to God, full of earnestness and energy, and the life-giving spirit which he has received cannot be repressed. Christ is in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. His feelings of love are as deep and ardent as was his distress and agony. His soul is like the fountain of the great deep, broken up, and he pours forth his thanksgiving and praise, his gratitude and joy, until the heavenly harps are tuned to notes of rejoicing. He has a story to tell, but not in any precise, common, methodical way. He is a soul ransomed through the merits of Jesus Christ, and his whole being is thrilled with the realization of the salvation of God.

"Others are brought to Christ in a more gentle way." Evangelism, pg. 288-89.

"There is danger of those in our ranks making a mistake in regard to receiving the Holy Ghost. Many suppose an emotion or a rapture of feeling to be an evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit." Selected Messages, book 2, pg. 18.

Additional Statements from Ellen White

"Under the showers of the latter rain the inventions of man, the human machinery, will at times be swept away, the boundary of man's authority will be as broken reeds, and the Holy Spirit will speak through the living, human agent, with convincing power. No one then will watch to see if the sentences are well rounded off, if the grammar is faultless. The living water will flow in God's own channels." Selected Messages, book 2, pg. 58.

"At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. We must never forget the warnings of Christ, "Watch unto prayer," "Watch . . . and pray always." A connection with the divine agency every moment is essential to our progress. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 508.

"We cannot depend upon form or external machinery. What we need is the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit of God.

". . . It is the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit. Be fervent in prayer, and watch in the Spirit." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 512.

"We must not wait for the latter rain. It is coming upon all who will recognize and appropriate the dew and showers of grace that fall upon us. When we gather up the fragments of light, when we appreciate the sure mercies of God, who loves to have us trust Him, then every promise will be fulfilled. "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations" [Isa. 61:11]. The whole earth is to be filled with the glory of God.--Letter 151, 1897, pp. 1, 2. (To "My Children," Aug. 29, 1897.) Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 18.

Corporate Latter Rain

“Every truly converted soul will be intensely desirous to bring others from the darkness of error into the marvelous light of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God. God cannot pour out His Spirit when selfishness and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain--"Am I my brother's keeper?" . . . My Life Today, pg. 59.

“Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God’s people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the Spirit of God. Angels from heaven will be in our midst. The present is a fitting-up time for heaven when we must walk in full obedience to all the commands of God.” Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 111.

“This message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry. Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration, went forth to proclaim the message from heaven.

“Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the Word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence.” My Life Today, pg. 63.

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai.” Early Writings, pg. 15.

“If all were willing to receive, all would be filled with the Spirit . . . We are too easily satisfied with a ripple on the surface, when it is our privilege to expect the deep moving of the Spirit of God.” My Life Today, pg. 57.

“At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully.” Early Writings, pg. 33.

How to Receive the Holy Spirit

“Remember that He [Jesus] was often in prayer, and His life was constantly sustained by fresh inspirations of the Holy Spirit.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 161.

“As you cultivate faith and place yourselves in right relation to God and by earnest prayer brace yourselves to do your duty you will be worked by the Holy Spirit.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 211-12.

"The Holy Spirit will come to all who are begging for the bread of life to give to their neighbors." Testimonies for the church, vol. 6, pg. 190.

"When the servants of God pray for His Spirit and blessing, it sometimes comes immediately; but it is not always then bestowed. At such times faint not. Let your faith hold fast the promise that it will come." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 121.

"We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. Moral darkness, like a funeral pall, covers the earth. All manner of false doctrines, heresies, and satanic deceptions are misleading the minds of men. Without the Spirit and power of God it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 158.

"There may be instances where prayer is in a special manner indited by the Spirit of God, where supplication is made in the Spirit. The yearning soul becomes agonized and groans after God. The spirit wrestles as did Jacob and will not be at rest without special manifestations of the power of God. This is as God would have it." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, pg. 581.

"After Christ's ascension, the disciples were gathered together in one place to make humble supplication to God. And after ten days of heart searching and self-examination, the way was prepared for the Holy Spirit to enter the cleansed, consecrated soul temples. Every heart was filled with the Spirit, as though God desired to show His people that it was His prerogative to bless them with the choicest of heaven's blessings. . . . The sword of the Spirit flashed right and left. Newly edged with power, it pierced even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow. The idolatry that had been mingled with the worship of the people was overthrown. New territory was added to the kingdom of God. Places that had been barren and desolate sounded forth His praises." Evangelism, pg. 698.

"The Spirit awaits our demand and reception." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 121.

"It is not because of any restriction on God's part that the riches of His grace do not flow to men. His gift is godlike. He gave with a liberality that men do not appreciate because they do not love to receive. If all were willing to receive, all would be filled with the Spirit. . . . We are too easily satisfied with a ripple on the surface, when it is our privilege to expect the deep moving of the Spirit of God.

"With the reception of this gift, all other gifts would be ours; for we are to have this gift according to the plentitude of the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive. Then let us not be satisfied with only a little of this blessing, only that amount which will keep us from the slumber of death, but let us diligently seek for the abundance of the grace of God.

"Promise after promise is given, assuring us of the fullness of power that God has, and yet we are so weak in faith that we do not grasp the power. O how much we need a living, earnest faith in the truths of God's Word! This great need of God's people is constantly before me. . . . What can we do to arouse them to see that we are living in the very evening of this earth's history? . . . We need to seek for a faith that will lay hold of the arm of Jehovah.

"Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive." My Life Today, pg. 57.

"If you seek for the blessing of God every day, you will be blessed every day. The Lord gives the Holy Spirit, and supplies all providential opportunities and facilities." Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 12.

“For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christ-like temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

“We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.” Education, pg. 258.

“Let every church member kneel before God, and pray earnestly for the impartation of the Spirit. . Cry, ‘Lord, increase my faith. Make me to understand thy word; for the entrance of thy word giveth light. Refresh me by thy presence. Fill my heart with thy Spirit that I may love my brethren as Christ loves me.’” Review & Herald, June 10, 1902.

“Having complied with the Word of God, do not depend on your feelings for evidence of acceptance with God. ‘Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen’ (Hebrews 11:1). If you have complied with the conditions, believe God, whether or not you feel any different.” Manuscript Release 81, pg. 21.

“Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who long after God, may be sure that they will be filled. The heart must be open to the Spirit’s influence, or God’s blessing cannot be received.” Steps to Christ, pg. 95.

“But there is power for us if we will have it. There is grace for us if we will appreciate it. The Holy Spirit is waiting our demand if we will only demand it with that intensity of purpose which is proportionate to the value of the object we seek.” Testimonies, vol. 6, pg. 175.

“I am instructed to say to my fellow workers: If you would have the rich treasures of heaven, you must have secret communion with God. Unless you do this, your soul will be as destitute of the Holy Spirit as were the hills of Gilboa of dew and rain. When you hurry from one thing to another, when you have so much to do that you cannot take time to talk with God, how can you expect power in your work?” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 251.

“Could there be a convocation of all the churches of earth, the object of their united cry should be for the Holy Spirit. When we have that, Christ our sufficiency is ever present. We shall have every want supplied. We shall have the mind of Christ.” Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 24.

Praying in the Spirit

Have you ever had difficulty in your prayer life? Many people do. One lady explained that she thought she wasn't spiritual because she struggled in her prayer experience. Have you ever felt that way?

Ever since the time when Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden people have desired to communicate better with God. The Bible records that Spirit-filled people have had struggles in trying to pray.

79. Ex. 33:18 – Moses was not satisfied with his previous conversations with God. He wanted to be even closer.
80. Hab. 1:2 – How would you describe Habbakuk's prayer experience in this verse?
81. 1 Sam. 3:1 – Sometimes we have the idea that there was constant communication between God and mankind. However there were long periods when the Word of God was rare. If God spoke audibly to you do you think you would recognize His voice? (1 Sam. 3:7).
82. Consider David's prayer experience in the following verses.
 - A. Ps. 4:1 – At least 19 times David pleaded with God to hear his voice.
 - B. Ps. 22:1-2 – There were times when David felt forsaken by God, and that God was far from hearing him.
 - C. Ps. 69:16-18 – Have you ever hoped God would answer you quickly?
 - D. Ps. 35:13 – David said his prayer seemed to return to him.
83. Luke 11:1-4 – The disciples didn't automatically know how to pray. They were in need of being taught to pray. Have you ever thought of prayer as a skill that you have to learn, or have you thought instead that prayer should be a natural result of becoming a Christian? Later in the Garden of Gethsemane they had a hard time staying awake to pray with Jesus even for one hour (Matt. 26:40). Have you ever struggled with sleep when it is time to pray? What did Jesus say about the difficulty His disciples were having with prayer? (Matt. 26:41).

The Holy Spirit Helps Our Weaknesses

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" (John 16:7). What we are going to see from the Bible is that the Holy Spirit helps us gain victory over our weaknesses that make it difficult for us to pray. That is what the biblical phrase "praying in the Spirit" means.

There are two texts that explicitly refer to "praying in the Spirit". The first, Jude 20, says, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." The second, Eph. 6:18, says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Can you think of any other place in the Bible where the phrase "in the spirit" is found? In Luke 1:17 it refers to John the Baptist as coming "in the spirit and power of Elijah." What does that mean?

In Rev. 1:10 John said, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." What was happening to John? Would you agree that he was under the control of the Holy Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Spirit enabled to experience things he otherwise could not have experienced?

If we allow Scripture to interpret Scripture we would have to come to the conclusion that to pray in the Spirit means to pray with the controlling power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, to pray in the Spirit means to pray with the help of the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit will be given to those who seek for its power and grace, and will help our infirmities when we would have audience with God." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, pg. 1078.

I have had the idea that the Holy Spirit was sort of a heavenly interpreter. In other words, I would try to pray, but because I couldn't pray very well I thought the Holy Spirit prayed my prayer for me in heaven. As I studied this subject more deeply I found this was unbiblical. In addition this false assumption enabled me to be lazy in prayer. If I was tired, or if my thoughts wandered I would find it easy to give up, and take solace in the idea that the Holy Spirit was praying for me! The truth of the Bible is that the Holy Spirit comes to me and helps me pray. He prays through me.

In Rom. 8:26 we find a text to support this truth. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Actually, the New American Standard Bible along with the New Living Bible translate this very the best. "And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (NASV). Also, some manuscripts do not contain the words "for us". The word "dia" in Greek translated here "for us" can also mean "through us."

Because we struggle with our flesh, just as Jesus said, we find it very difficult to pray. Therefore, the Holy Spirit (Who is "the Helper", which comes from the Greek word "paraclete", and means "the One who comes alongside to help"), comes to us and gives us power that we may be victorious in prayer. Concerning Jesus Luke 22:43-44 says, "Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly."

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit 'maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.' Rom. 8:26. Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.'" Eph. 3:20. Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 147.

"Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man's behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit's striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart." Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 344.

"I have returned from our season of prayer. The Spirit of intercession came upon me, and I was drawn out in most earnest prayer for souls at Battle Creek. I know their peril. The Holy Spirit has in a special manner moved me to send up my petitions in their behalf." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 63.

How the Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

84. The Holy Spirit gives us the desire to pray.
- A. Rom. 3:11 – By nature none of us seek God.
 - B. Zech. 12:10 – Prayer is a gift that is poured out upon us.
 - C. Ps. 65:4 – God causes us to approach Him.
 - D. The desire the Spirit gives us is described as a longing (Ps. 84:2), panting (Ps. 41:1-2), and thirsting (Ps. 63:1-2).
 - E. Gen. 32:34 – It was God who initiated the wrestling Jacob experienced in prayer. In Ps. 24:6 Jacob is used as an example of those who seek God.

If we see a dearth of strong desire for God, and if we see little strong prayer among us it is yet a further evidence that the power of God's Holy Spirit is lacking.

"The office of the Holy Spirit is to control all our spiritual exercises. The Father hath given His Son for us, that through the Son the Holy Spirit might come to us and lead us to the Father. Through His divine agency we have the spirit of intercession whereby we may plead with God as a man pleadeth with his friend." --Letter 11b, 1892, pp. 3-6. (To S. N. Haskell, July 17, 1892.) Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 37.

"The Lord draws out the soul in prayer, and gives us to feel His precious love." Sons and Daughters of God, pg. 311.

85. The Holy Spirit teaches us what to pray about.
- A. Rom. 8:27 – He helps us pray according to the will of God.
 - B. 1 Cor. 2:9-11 – The Spirit reveals the things of God.
 - C. Matt. 22:29 – We err not knowing the Bible. The Bible is the recorded will of God. It reveals what is acceptable to God and what is not. We often lack the knowledge of God's will because we have not studied the Bible.
 - D. 1 Jn. 5:14 – We will receive if we ask according to His will.
 - E. Jn. 14:17, 26, 15:7, 16:13 – The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth, and it is He that brings to mind the words of Jesus.

"The Holy Spirit indites all genuine prayer. I have learned to know that in all my intercessions, the Spirit intercedes for me and for all saints whose intercessions are according to the will of God, never contrary to His will. 'The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities' [Rom. 8:26], and the Spirit being God, knoweth the mind of God; therefore in every prayer of ours for the sick, or for other needs, the will of God is to be regarded. 'For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God' [2 Cor. 2:11]. If we are taught of God, we shall pray in conformity to His revealed will and in submission to His will which we know not. We are to make supplication according to the will of God, relying on the precious Word, and believing that Christ not only gave Himself for, but to, His disciples. The record declares, 'He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost'" [John 20:22]. Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 36.

“The Spirit of God inspired Joshua’s prayer, that evidence might again be given of the power of Israel’s God.” Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 509.

“Let the inspiration of the Spirit of God dictate your prayers.” Testimonies, vol. 6, pg. 367.

86. The Holy Spirit gives us victory over wandering thoughts.

- A. Ps. 55:2 – This verse speaks of being restless in prayer. The Hebrew word translated “restless” can also be translated “to wander”.
- B. Zech. 12:10 helps me keep my thoughts focused in prayer. I claim this promise asking God to help me pray.

Eph. 6:12 makes it very clear that we do not just wrestle against our flesh, but also against Satan and the evil spirits. They do not want us to pray and they try to keep us from it. (See also Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 493).

Therefore, as Jesus overcame Satan in the wilderness by using Scripture, so likewise we should claim the power of God provided in His Word.

Another very helpful idea to me is to use the prayers of the Bible to help me pray. A good example of this is the Lord’s prayer, as recorded in Matt. 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. I do not use this prayer to be memorized and repeated word for word, but as an outline for prayer. At the end of this chapter I have given suggestions as to how this outline may be helpful. However, there are many other prayers in the Bible that would help to organize our thoughts when we pray.

“Though the mind may wander in prayer, be not discouraged, bring it back to the throne and do not leave the mercy seat until you have the victory. . .” Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 37.

87. Ps. 77:4 – God promises to help us stay awake. Claim this promise when sleep would try to rob you of your time with God.

- A. Eph. 6:12 – Once again, we know that Satan tries to create barriers against communication with God.

One person shared how he felt some of his sleepiness was due to Satan trying to make him drowsy. He shared that when he rebuked the evil spirits his drowsiness left him. We have been told that Satan does try to cause drowsiness in the church service, so it is not hard to believe he would also attack personal prayer as well.

“Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks.” Great Controversy, pg. 518-19.

“When the word is spoken, you should remember, brethren, that you are listening to the voice of God through His delegated servant. Listen attentively. Sleep not for one instant, because by this slumber you may lose the very words that you need most--the very words which, if heeded, would save your feet from straying into wrong paths. Satan and his angels are busy creating a paralyzed condition of the senses so that cautions, warnings, and reproofs shall not be heard; or if heard, that they shall not take effect upon the heart and reform the life. Sometimes a little child may so attract the attention of the hearers that the precious seed does not fall into good ground and bring forth fruit. Sometimes young men and women have so little reverence for the house and worship of God that they keep up a continual communication with each other during the sermon. Could these see the angels of God looking upon them and marking their doings, they would be filled with shame,

with abhorrence of themselves. God wants attentive hearers. It was while men slept that Satan sowed his tares." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 493.

- B. Do not try to pray in a warm, stuffy room. Open a window for fresh air. I often pray in locations that are private and plentiful in fresh air. In the winter I may put on a coat and go outside. Praying in a variety of locations is helpful as well.
- C. Consider your eating and sleeping habits. Take a serious attitude toward the health teachings of the Bible. Avoid the use of meat, dairy products, caffeine and other drugs. Try not to overeat and stay away from too much sugar. These habits not only tend toward ill health but make your system sluggish making you more susceptible to sleep when you should pray. Be sure to drink plenty of water (6-8 glasses per day is recommended) and exercise regularly. These will help you have more energy. Get to bed earlier so that you will get plenty of sleep. Most health advisers recommend a consistent eight hours of sleep each night for optimal health.

88. Pray with persistence.

- A. Gen. 32:24 – Jacob persisted in prayer until he was blessed.
- B. Eph. 6:18 – Paul urges Christians to pray with perseverance.
- C. Luke 11:5-8 – Jesus used the parable of the widow and the judge to illustrate the importance of persisting in prayer.
- D. Luke 18:1 – "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."
- E. Matt. 7:7 – Jesus said to keep on asking, knocking, and seeking,

John and Charles Weslen, George Whitefield, and about 60 Moravian Christians were engaged in prayer on New Year's Eve, 1739. "About three in the morning, as we were continuing in prayer, the power of God came upon us so mightily that many cried out in holy joy, while others were knocked to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from awe and amazement at the presence of God, we broke out in one voice, 'We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.'" The Nature of Revival, John Wesley, Bethany House Pub., pg. 77.

"Be in earnest, be sincere. Fervent prayer availeth much. Jacoblike, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. Jesus, in the garden, sweat great drops of blood; you must make an effort. Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God; then watch, and just as long as you watch and pray you can keep these evil besetments under, and the grace of God can and will appear in you." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 158.

"Plead as earnestly, as eagerly, as you would for your mortal life, were it at stake. Remain before God until unutterable longings are begotten within you for salvation, and the sweet evidence is obtained of pardoned sin." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 163.

The Lord's Prayer as an Outline

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name." The Lord's prayer begins with praise. Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with

praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." I have found the hymnal and praise songs to be a helpful way to begin my prayer time. I often don't feel joyful when I begin to pray, but feelings must never be trusted. As I sing to God and recount the many blessings He has given me I begin to have a more joyful attitude. Adoration praises God for Who He is as a Person: loving, kind, merciful, and other character traits. Thanksgiving praises God for what He has done.

"Your kingdom come." The Bible tells us God's kingdom has two aspects. The kingdom of grace, as theologians call it, is referred to in Luke 17:21 and Romans 14:17. The kingdom of glory is spoken of in verses such as Matt. 25:34. This phrase from the Lord's prayer reminds me to pray for the gift of eternal life and the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit (Rev. 3:20 & Luke 11:13), as well as praying that I may hasten the second coming of Jesus by reflecting His character and winning souls (Rev. 19:7-8 & Matt. 24:14).

"Is the kingdom of God enthroned in your heart by Christ's presence abiding there? or is self still a controlling power within? Whose subjects are you? If a selfish spirit continues to keep you out of Christ's service, pray, 'Thy kingdom come. They will be done in earth as it is in heaven.' Pray, oh, pray most earnestly, 'Put Thy Spirit, Lord, Thy Holy Spirit, within my heart, that I may be sincere in keeping my baptismal vow.'" Manuscript Releases, vol. 2, pg. 33.

"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This portion reminds me to submit everything to God – my life, my wife, my children, my work, and anything that concerns me at all. "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Pet. 5:7. A good prayer to pray at this point would be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." Steps to Christ, pg. 70. How is God will done in heaven? Can you imagine any of the angels complaining about God's work for them? Can you imagine any of the angels hesitating or half-heartedly obeying God's command? Therefore I ask God to help me enthusiastically carry out His will in my life.

"Give us day by day our daily bread." We have been instructed to:

"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children." Steps to Christ, pg. 100.

This part of the Lord's prayer reminds me to pray for the things we need. I ask for safety for my family that day, and our necessities whether it is money, food, clothing, transportation or whatever. But most of all I pray that I and my family may be full of the "bread of life", who is Jesus, John 6:48.

"And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us." It seems as though there is often something to confess to Jesus. I am encouraged when I read 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Forgive those who have sinned against you, or ask Jesus to give you the desire and the ability (Phil. 2:14) to forgive those who have wronged you.

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Here I am reminded to pray for my weaknesses that I will receive strength from God. We have the assurance that we will not be tempted beyond our ability to endure (1 Cor. 10:13), but we are instructed here to pray for deliverance from Satan, the evil one. Rebuke Him in prayer through the blood of Christ. Claim the power in God’s promises over your weaknesses. At this point I also pray for others – my wife, children, family, friends, associates and others. Does it really help to pray for others? Yes! Notice this text: “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Tim. 2:1-4. We also have the assurance that Jesus adds His prayers to ours when we pray for someone else and that He pours out the Holy Spirit upon them (Heb. 7:25).

“Jesus will add His intercession to your prayers, and claim for the sinner the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pour it upon his soul. And there will be joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Sons and Daughters of God, pg. 274.

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” End your time of prayer with praise, and like Jesus, thank God that He has heard you (John 11:41). Mingle praise in all of your prayers (Eph. 5:20).

“These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the tempter loses ground.” Christ’s Object Lessons, pg. 299.

Often a song will come to my mind as I pray through the various portions of the Lord’s prayer, and when it does I sing my prayer to God. You may find it helpful to make singing part of your prayer experience with God.

Additional Statements from Ellen White

“All that heaven contains is awaiting the draft of every soul who will labor in Christ’s lines. As the members of our churches individually take up their appointed work, they will be surrounded with an entirely different atmosphere. A blessing and a power will attend their labors. They will experience a higher culture of mind and heart. The selfishness that has bound up their souls will be overcome. Their faith will be a living principle. Their prayers will be more fervent. The quickening, sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon them, and they will be brought nearer to the kingdom of heaven.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pg. 267-8.

“With the great truth we have been privileged to receive, we should, and under the Holy Spirit’s power we could, become living channels of light. We could then approach the mercy-seat; and seeing the bow of promise, kneel with contrite hearts, and seek the kingdom of heaven with a spiritual violence that would bring its own reward. We would take it by force, as did Jacob.” Sons and Daughters of God, pg. 30.

“By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indicted, and such prayer is acceptable to God.”
My Life Today, pg. 46.

“In our efforts in behalf of the multitudes dwelling in cities, we must try to do thorough service. The work in a large center of population is greater than one man can successfully handle. God has different ways of working, and He has different workmen to whom He entrusts varied gifts.

“One worker may be a ready speaker; another a ready writer; another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer; another the gift of singing; another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith; but all are to work under the same Head. The diversity of gifts leads to a diversity of operations, but ‘it is the same God which worketh all in all.’” 1 Corinthians 12:6. Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, pg. 144.

“There may be instances where prayer is in a special manner indicted by the Spirit of God, where supplication is made in the Spirit. The yearning soul becomes agonized and groans after God. The spirit wrestles as did Jacob and will not be at rest without special manifestations of the power of God. This is as God would have it.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, pg. 581.

“There is need of prayer, -- most earnest, fervent, agonizing prayer, --such prayer as David offered when he exclaimed: ‘As the hart panteth after the water books, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.’ ‘I have longed after Thy precepts;’ ‘I have longed for Thy salvation.’ ‘My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.’ ‘My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto Thy judgments.’ This is the spirit of wrestling prayer, such as was possessed by the royal psalmist.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pg. 534.

“After teaching throughout the entire day, He frequently devoted the night to prayer. He made His supplications to His Father with strong crying and tears. He prayed, not for Himself, but for those whom He came to redeem.

“Few ministers pray all night, as did our Saviour, or devote hours in the day to prayer that they may be able ministers of the gospel and effectual in bringing men to see the beauties of the truth and to be saved through the merits of Christ. Daniel prayed three times a day, but many who make the most exalted profession do not humble their souls before God in prayer even once a day.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pg. 372-73.

“The Spirit of God inspired Joshua's prayer, that evidence might again be given of the power of Israel's God. Hence the request did not show presumption on the part of the great leader. Joshua had received the promise that God would surely overthrow these enemies of Israel, yet he put forth as earnest effort as though success depended upon the armies of Israel alone. He did all that human energy could do, and then he cried in faith for divine aid. The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty

Arm. The man who commanded, "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon," is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp of Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power." Patriarchs and Prophets, pg. 509.

The Disciplined Life

The Bible records the wonderful victories over the powers of evil in the lives of such people as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, the disciples and Paul. But it also records how Spirit-filled individuals made mistakes, which sometimes were very serious.

Abraham was certainly led by the Holy Spirit, but he made a mistake in not telling the truth (Gen. 12:13). Moses was filled with the Spirit in mighty ways, but he also made a mistake in getting angry and disobeying the Lord (Num. 20:11). David was used mightily by the Holy Spirit, but his sad mistakes are also recorded (2 Sam. 11:3-17). Peter slipped up in his conduct after the Pentecost experience (Gal. 2:11-12). Though a person who woaks in the Spirit will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16), yet the devil will work hard to separate us from the power that fills us.

“Those who at Pentecost were endued with power from on high, were not thereby freed from further temptation and trial.” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 49-50.

It is possible for a Spirit-filled man or woman to make mistakes and sin. It is even possible for a Spirit-filled person to turn completely away from God and be lost (Heb. 6:4-8). God never takes away our power to choose. Lucifer and one third of the angels, as well as Adam and Eve, though at one time they were all un-fallen, perfect beings chose to go astray from God. Satan will also try to get you to go astray after you have been moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Unpardonable Sin

Satan will try to snatch away convictions before they take root in the heart (Mark 4:13-15). The tendency of our fallen nature is to resist the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51). This is why we are instructed: “Do not quench the Spirit.” 1 Thess. 5:19. Jesus told His hearers: “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” Matt. 12:31-32.

In the Bible blasphemy is defined as putting one’s self in the place of God (John 10:31-33), and claiming the power to forgive sin (Mark 2:7). Therefore, whenever the Holy Spirit convicts a person of a sin, or of truth, and that person resists Him preferring to follow his own way, then that person has made himself to be the authority for his life instead of God. He has put himself in the place of God. Or, whenever a person excuses away his sins, for whatever reason, he has, in fact, forgiven his own sin.

“No one need look upon the sin against the Holy Ghost as something mysterious and indefinable. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the sin of persistent refusal to respond to the invitation to repent.” SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, pg. 1093.

In Matt. 12:22-30 Jesus had just healed a demon possessed man. The Pharisees accused Jesus of working miracles by the power of the devil. It was right after this accusation that Jesus warned them not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit, Whom Jesus said was working in Him to cast out demons (vs. 28).

To stubbornly assert that the work of the Holy Spirit is not of God, but of the devil, because it goes against one's own desires and traditions is to resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit and put oneself in the place of God.

"Christ was not warring against finite men, but against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places. He tells His hearers that all manner of sin and blasphemy may be forgiven if done in ignorance. In their great blindness they might speak words of insult and derision against the Son of man, and yet be within the boundary of mercy. But when the power and Spirit of God rested upon His messengers, they were on holy ground. To ignore the Spirit of God, to charge it with being the spirit of the devil, placed them in a position where God had no power to reach their souls. No power in any of God's provisions to correct the erring can reach them. . . .

"To speak against Christ, charging His work to satanic agencies, and attributing the manifestations of the Spirit to fanaticism, is not of itself a damning sin, but the spirit that leads men to make these assertions places them in a position of stubborn resistance, where they cannot see spiritual light. . . .

"They think they are following sound reason, but they are following another leader. They have placed themselves under the control of a power which in their blindness they are wholly ignorant of. They have resisted the only Spirit that could lead them, enlighten them, save them. They are following in the path of guilt for which there can be no forgiveness, in this life or in the life to come. Not that any degree of guilt would exhaust the mercy of God, but because pride and persistent stubbornness leads them to do despite to the Spirit of God, to occupy a place where no manifestation of the Spirit can convince them of their error. They will not yield their stubborn wills.

"In this our day men have placed themselves where they are wholly unable to fulfill the conditions of repentance and confession: therefore they cannot find mercy and pardon. The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not lie in any sudden word or deed; it is the firm, determined resistance of truth and evidence (MS 30, 1890)." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, pg. 1092-93.

If we daily work with discipline to eliminate sinful practices from our lives, giving in step by step to the Spirit's convictions our hearts will become softer instead of harder. When a person is used to eating spicy foods he cannot appreciate the natural flavors of wholesome foods. This is one of the reasons we are instructed to separate ourselves from unclean things (Matt. 5:29-30 & 2 Cor. 6:17).

"Many who are explaining the Scriptures to others have not conscientiously and entirely surrendered mind and heart and life to the control of the Holy Spirit. They love sin and cling to it. I have been shown that impure practices, pride, selfishness, self-glorying, have closed the door of the heart even of those who teach the truth to others, so that the frown of God is upon them." Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 161.

Trials and Tribulations

Satan will bring on troubles to discourage Christians who have been moved by the Holy Spirit (Mark 4:16-17 & 2 Tim. 3:12). Many people will follow Jesus as long as the way is not too hard. They love the popular, the exciting, and that which pleases their own convenience. They are like Simon who was attracted to the power of the Holy Spirit, but

who had not been thoroughly converted (Acts 8:18-24). Many people will follow Jesus as long as the “loaves and fishes” are provided (Matt. 6:26), but, “. . . the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Rom. 14:17.

To continue enjoying the deep movings of the Holy Spirit a person needs to daily, as a matter of discipline, renew their complete surrender to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. By this daily prayer of commitment to Christ, and seeking to be filled with the Spirit, the living water is renewed (John 7:38-39 & Eph. 1:13).

“That God did abundantly bless the students in the school and the church, I have not one doubt; but a period of great light and the outpouring of the Spirit is quite generally followed by a time of great darkness. Why? Because the enemy works with all his deceiving energies to make of none effect the deep movings of the Spirit of God on the human subject.” Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 131.

“Through the deep movings of the Spirit of God, I have had opened before me the character of the work of the visitation of the Spirit of God. I have had opened before me the danger in which souls would be placed who had been thus visited; for afterward, they would have to meet fiercer assaults of the enemy, who would press upon them his temptations to make of none effect the workings of the Spirit of God, and cause that the momentous truths presented and witnessed by the Holy Spirit, should not purify and sanctify those who had received the light of heaven, and thus cause that Christ should not be glorified in them.” *Ibid*, pg. 134-35.

Amusements and Spirituality

Satan will try to distract us by the cares of life and the love of the world (Mark 4:18-19). As Christians we are instructed: “Do not love the world or the things in the world.” 1 John 2:15. There are many who profess Christ who have only a form of godliness (2 Tim. 3:5). These persons are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God (2 Tim. 3:4).

The pursuit of pleasure is the pastime of many even within the church, but though they may not realize it, this continual pleasure seeking will neutralize the power of the gospel in their lives. This is not to say a person must be constantly engrossed in work, or spiritual matters without any diversion in innocent play, but the reality is that many Christians are playing at amusements that deepen the thinking and feelings of the world in their hearts to the exclusion of Christ.

“It is an easy matter to idle away, talk and play away, the Holy Spirit's influence. To walk in the light is to keep moving onward in the direction of light. If the one blessed becomes negligent and inattentive and does not watch unto prayer, if he does not lift the cross and bear the yoke of Christ, if his love of amusements and strivings for the mastery absorb his power or ability, then God is not made the first and best and last in everything, and Satan comes in to act his part in playing the game of life for his soul. He can play much more earnestly than they can play, and make deep-laid plots for the ruin of the soul.” *Ibid*, pg. 131.

“Amusements are doing more to counteract the work of the Holy Spirit than anything else, and the Lord is grieved.” Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, pg. 281.

“He cannot work by His Holy Spirit with those who try to compete with the world in dress and display. He who follows Christ must deny himself and take up the cross.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pg. 251.

Criticism and Faultfinding

Satan uses criticism to discourage those who have been moved by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:24). Paul said, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” Eph. 4:29-31.

“Cherishing a spirit of criticism and faultfinding, of pharisaical piety and pride, they have grieved away the Spirit of God and have greatly retarded the work of God's messengers.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, pg. 125.

“The success of the meeting depends on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. For the outpouring of the Spirit every lover of the cause of truth should pray. And as far as lies in our power, we are to remove every hindrance to His working. The Spirit can never be poured out while variance and bitterness toward one another are cherished by the members of the church. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, and evilspeaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit's working. Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work of criticizing and discouraging.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pg. 42.

“When the Holy Spirit works the human agent, it does not ask us in what way it shall operate. Often it moves in unexpected ways. Christ did not come as the Jews expected. He did not come in a manner to glorify them as a nation. His forerunner came to prepare the way for Him by calling upon the people to repent of their sins, and be converted, and be baptized. Christ's message was, “The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” The Jews refused to receive Christ, because He did not come in accordance with their expectations. The ideas of finite men were held as infallible, because hoary with age.

“This is the danger to which the church is now exposed--that the inventions of finite men shall mark out the precise way for the Holy Spirit to come. Though they would not care to acknowledge it, some have already done this. And because the Spirit is to come, not to praise men or to build up their erroneous theories, but to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, many turn away from it. They are not willing to be deprived of the garments of their own self-righteousness. They are not willing to exchange their own righteousness, which is unrighteousness, for the righteousness of Christ, which is pure, unadulterated truth. The Holy Spirit flatters no man, neither does it work according to the devising of any man. Finite, sinful men are not to work the Holy Spirit. When it shall come as a reprover, through any human agent whom God shall choose, it is man's place to hear and obey its voice.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 65.

Positive Christian Disciplines

The practicing of positive Christian disciplines will overcome evil with good and keep the Christian advancing in the light (Rom. 12:21).

89. Read the Bible daily.

A. Pro. 23:7 – What we fill our minds with is what we will become.

B. Eph. 6:17 – The sword of the Spirit, the Bible, is living and powerful (Heb. 4:12). It will keep you straight concerning yourself and the will of God.

C. 2 Thess. 2:10 – The Holy Spirit will give you a love for the Word of God.

“How does Christ subdue His chosen people to Himself? – It is by the power of His Holy Spirit; for the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures, speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the hearts of men.” Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 133-34.

“The words of God are the wellsprings of life. As you seek unto those living springs you will, through the Holy Spirit, be brought into communion with Christ. Familiar truths will present themselves to your mind in a new aspect, texts of Scripture will burst upon you with a new meaning as a flash of light, you will see the relation of other truths to the work of redemption, and you will know that Christ is leading you, a divine Teacher is at your side.” Mount of Blessing, pg. 20.

“May the same Holy Spirit which inspired the Bible take possession of your hearts, leading you to love His word, which is spirit and life.” Counsels on Stewardship, pg. 52.

90. Daily, earnest, persistent prayer.

A. Eph. 6:18 – Prayer is part of the Christian’s armor to defeat the snares of Satan.

B. Phil. 4:6-7 – Peace comes from prayer.

C. Matt. 26:41 – Pray in order to conquer temptation.

“We must be much in prayer if we would make progress in the divine life. When the message of truth was first proclaimed, how much we prayed. How often was the voice of intercession heard in the chamber, in the barn, in the orchard, or the grove. Frequently we spent hours in earnest prayer, two or three together claiming the promise; often the sound of weeping was heard and then the voice of thanksgiving and the song of praise. Now the day of God is nearer than when we first believed, and we should be more earnest, more zealous, and fervent than in those early days. Our perils are greater now than then. Souls are more hardened. We need now to be imbued with the spirit of Christ, and we should not rest until we receive it.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pg. 162.

“For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should they pray that God will baptize His chosen ambassadors in mission fields with a rich measure of His Spirit. The presence of the Spirit with God’s workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give.” Acts of the Apostles, pg. 50.

“They [God’s faithful messengers] are to wrestle with God in earnest prayer for a baptism of the Holy Spirit that they may meet the needs of a world perishing in sin.” Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 459.

91. Daily exercise faith in God.

- A. Mark 11:24 – We must believe that we receive what we ask for.
- B. Gal. 3:2, 5, 14 – The Spirit is received by faith.
- C. 2 Cor. 5:7 – We walk by faith, not by sight. Resist temptation to go by your feelings.

“I have frequently seen that the children of the Lord neglect prayer, especially secret prayer, altogether too much; that many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise.” Early Writings, pg. 72.

92. Daily practice healthy habits.

- A. 1 Cor. 3:16-17 – Healthy habits are essential, and have a direct bearing on our spiritual life.
- B. 3 John 2 – It is God's will that our health be good and our souls prosper.

“The Spirit of God cannot come to our help, and assist us in perfecting Christian characters, while we are indulging our appetites to the injury of health, and while the pride of life controls.” Counsels on Diet and Foods, pg. 57.

93. Cultivate an attitude of praise.

- A. Luke 24:52-53 – The disciples were continually praising God.
- B. Rev. 12:11 – Satan is overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony.
- C. Eph. 5:18-19 – Praise is the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- D. Heb. 13:15 – Offer to God the sacrifice of praise.

“To praise God in fullness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as is prayer. We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God for fallen humanity and that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings from His infinite fullness. Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience. After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children.

“These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the tempter loses ground. They cultivate those attributes of character which will fit the dwellers on earth for the heavenly mansions.” Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 299-300.

94. Share your faith with others.

- A. Acts 1:8 – We are to be witnesses in all the world (Matt. 28:19-20 & Mark 16:15).
- B. 1 Cor. 12:1-11 – God has provided abilities and power necessary (Eph. 4:7-16).
- C. Luke 6:38 – As we give of ourselves God's Spirit will bless us more abundantly.

“The more studiously the intellect is cultivated, the more effectively it can be used in the service of God if it is placed under the control of His Spirit. Talents used are talents multiplied. Experience in spiritual things widens the vision of saints and angels, and both increase in capability

and knowledge as they work in their respective spheres." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, pg. 426.

"Everywhere they are seen going forth to communicate to others the light they have received as they did after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. And as they let their light shine, they receive more and more of the Spirit's power. The earth is lighted with the glory of God." *My Life Today*, pg. 63.

Additional Statements from Ellen White

"I entreat the students in our schools to be sober-minded. The frivolity of the young is not pleasing to God. Their sports and games open the door to a flood of temptations. They are in possession of God's heavenly endowment in their intellectual faculties, and they should not allow their thoughts to be cheap and low. A character formed in accordance with the precepts of God's word will reveal steadfast principles, pure, noble aspirations. The Holy Spirit co-operates with the powers of the human mind, and high and holy impulses are the sure result. . . .

"My soul is deeply stirred at the things that have been represented before me. I feel an indignation of spirit that in our institutions so little honor has been given to the living God, and so much honor to that which is supposed to be superior talent, but with which the Holy Spirit has no connection. The Spirit of God is not acknowledged and respected; men have passed judgment upon it; its operations have been condemned as fanaticism, enthusiasm, undue excitement.

"God sees that which the blind eyes of the educators do not discern--that immorality of every kind and degree is striving for the mastery, working against the manifestations of the power of the Holy Spirit. The commonest of conversation, and low, perverted ideas are woven into the texture of character and defile the soul.

"The low, common pleasure parties, gatherings for eating and drinking, singing and playing on instruments of music, are inspired by a spirit that is from beneath. They are an oblation unto Satan." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, pg. 366-67.

"The pursuit of pleasure and amusement centers in the cities. Many parents who choose a city home for their children, thinking to give them greater advantages, meet with disappointment, and too late repent their terrible mistake. The cities of today are fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. The many holidays encourage idleness. The exciting sports--theatergoing, horse racing, gambling, liquor-drinking, and reveling--stimulate every passion to intense activity. The youth are swept away by the popular current. Those who learn to love amusement for its own sake open the door to a flood of temptations. They give themselves up to social gaiety and thoughtless mirth, and their intercourse with pleasure lovers has an intoxicating effect upon the mind. They are led on from one form of dissipation to another, until they lose both the desire and the capacity for a life of usefulness. Their religious aspirations are chilled; their spiritual life is darkened. All the nobler faculties of the soul, all that link man with the spiritual world, are debased.

"It is true that some may see their folly and repent. God may pardon them. But they have wounded their own souls, and brought upon themselves a lifelong peril. The power

of discernment, which ought ever to be kept keen and sensitive to distinguish between right and wrong, is in a great measure destroyed. They are not quick to recognize the guiding voice of the Holy Spirit, or to discern the devices of Satan. Too often in time of danger they fall under temptation, and are led away from God. The end of their pleasure-loving life is ruin for this world and for the world to come." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 54-55.

"Much is being said regarding the impartation of the Holy Spirit, and by some this is being so interpreted that it is an injury to the churches. Eternal life is the receiving of the living elements in the Scriptures and doing the will of God. This is eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God. To those who do this, life and immortality are brought to light through the gospel, for God's Word is verity and truth, spirit and life. It is the privilege of all who believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour to feed on the Word of God. The Holy Spirit's influence renders that Word, the Bible, an immortal truth, which to the prayerful searcher gives spiritual sinew and muscle. {2SM 38.4}

"'Search the scriptures,' Christ declared, 'for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me' (John 5:39). Those who dig beneath the surface discover the hidden gems of truth. The Holy Spirit is present with the earnest searcher. Its illumination shines upon the Word, stamping the truth upon the mind with a new, fresh importance. The searcher is filled with a sense of peace and joy never before felt. The preciousness of truth is realized as never before. A new, heavenly light shines upon the Word, illuminating it as though every letter were tinged with gold. God Himself has spoken to the mind and heart, making the Word spirit and life." Selected Messages, book 2, pg. 38-39.

"There have been things written to me in regard to the movings of the Spirit of God at the last conference {1893}, and at the college, which clearly indicate that because these blessings were not lived up to, minds have been confused, and that which was light from heaven has been called excitement. I have been made sad to have this matter viewed in this light. We must be very careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in pronouncing the ministration of His Holy Spirit a species of fanaticism." Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 130.

"But there is a disposition on the part of many teachers not to be thorough in religious education. They are satisfied with a half-hearted service themselves, serving the Lord only to escape the punishment of sin. Their half-heartedness affects their teaching. The experience that they do not desire for themselves, they are not anxious to see their pupils gain. That which has been given them in blessing has been cast aside as a dangerous element. The offered visits of the Holy Spirit are met with the words of Felix to Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Other blessings they desire; but that which God is more willing to give than a father to give good gifts to his children; that Holy Spirit, which is offered abundantly according to the infinite fullness of God, and which, if received, would bring all other blessings in its train,-- what words shall I use sufficiently to express what has been with reference to it? The heavenly messenger has been repulsed by the determined will. "Thus far shalt Thou go with my students, but no farther. We need no enthusiasm in our school, no excitement. We are

much better satisfied to work with the students ourselves." It is thus that despite has been done to God's gracious messenger, the Holy Spirit.

"Are not the teachers in our schools in danger of blasphemy, of charging the Holy Spirit of God with being a deceiving power, and leading into fanaticism. Where are the educators that choose the snow of Lebanon which cometh from the rock of the field, or the cold, flowing waters that come from another place, instead of the murky waters of the valley? A succession of showers from the living waters has come to you at Battle Creek. Each shower was a consecrated inflowing of divine influence; but you did not recognize it as such. Instead of drinking copiously of the streams of salvation, so freely offered through the influence of the Holy Spirit, you turned to common sewers, and tried to satisfy your soul-thirst with the polluted waters of human science. The result has been parched hearts in the school and in the church. Those who are satisfied with little spirituality have gone far in unfitting themselves to appreciate the deep movings of the Spirit of God. But I hope the teachers have not yet passed the line where they are given over to hardness of heart and blindness of mind. If they are again visited by the Holy Spirit, I hope they will not call righteousness sin, and sin righteousness." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pg. 434.

"My soul is deeply stirred at the things that have been represented before me. I feel an indignation of spirit that in our institutions so little honor has been given to the living God, and so much honor to that which is supposed to be superior talent, but with which the Holy Spirit has no connection. The Spirit of God is not acknowledged and respected; men have passed judgment upon it; its operations have been condemned as fanaticism, enthusiasm, undue excitement.

"God sees that which the blind eyes of the educators do not discern--that immorality of every kind and degree is striving for the mastery, working against the manifestations of the power of the Holy Spirit. The commonest of conversation, and low, perverted ideas are woven into the texture of character and defile the soul." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, pg. 367.

The Symbols of the Holy Spirit

There are many symbols in the Scriptures for the Holy Spirit. Some we are very familiar with while others may be new to us. One familiar symbol is the former and latter rain, which we have already studied in the chapter [“How to Receive the Holy Spirit”](#) on page 50. Each symbol for the Holy Spirit describes His work and power in unique ways that speak to every heart.

Living Water

Living water is a symbol for the Holy Spirit spoken of in John 7:38-39. Jesus promised that living water would flow out of the believer’s heart like “rivers.” Jesus does not want us to be satisfied with just a trickle of the Spirit’s power – just enough to keep us from the sleep of death, but He wants us to overflowing spiritual abundance.

“If all were willing to receive, all would be filled with the Spirit. . . . We are too easily satisfied with a ripple on the surface, when it is our privilege to expect the deep moving of the Spirit of God.

“With the reception of this gift, all other gifts would be ours; for we are to have this gift according to the plentitude of the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive. Then let us not be satisfied with only a little of this blessing, only that amount which will keep us from the slumber of death, but let us diligently seek for the abundance of the grace of God.” *My Life Today*, pg. 57.

Jesus wants us to have the same spiritual power that rivers have in the physical world. In John 4:10-11 Jesus told the woman at the well that the water He would give her would be like a spring of living water. Jesus compared the Holy Spirit’s power to a spring in our life that would be fresh, bubbling and endless. In Isa. 55:1 waters are compared to salvation and satisfaction. According to 1 Cor. 10:4 the Israelites drank a spiritual drink from the “Rock”, which is Christ.

It was when Jesus died, when He was broken, that the way was opened for the Holy Spirit to come. Jesus said, “It is to your advantage that I go away.” John 16:7. We are all to drink “one Spirit”, 1 Cor. 12:3. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit is compared to water, floods, springs, and water courses in Isa. 44:3-4. In Rev. 22:7 it records the Spirit and the bride [the church] saying to those who are thirsty to come and drink. Water cleanses, refreshes, satisfies, and gives life.” Living water is love.

“It is evident that truth has been planted in the heart by the Holy Spirit when it is loved and cherished, and regarded as a sacred endowment. Love will then spring up in the heart like a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life. When this love is in the heart, the worker will find no weariness in the work of Christ.” *Review & Herald*, Vol. 3, pg. 121, 2/13/1894.

As has been noted before, the first fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, Gal. 5:22. And Paul, when speaking about spiritual gifts said, “the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13). In Rom. 5:5 it says, “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit

who was given to us." Love is the one thing Jesus chose to distinguish His disciples from others in the world (John 13:35).

Oil

Oil has often been associated with the work of the Holy Spirit. Zech. 4:1-7 associates oil with the word of the Lord and power of the Holy Spirit.

In Matt. 25:1-13 is the story of the 10 virgins. Five of them were foolish and five of them were wise. The lamps (or Bibles, Ps. 119:105) of the five foolish virgins went out because they did not have enough oil (Ex. 25:6). Who is it that makes the word of God shine in our hearts? The Holy Spirit is the One who inspired the Bible, 2 Pet. 1:21 and it is the Holy Spirit who is called the "Spirit of truth," and teaches us the Word, John 14:26 & 16:13.

Through the ministry of the anointing of oil David received the power of the Holy Spirit as recorded in 1 Sam. 16:13.

In Revelation 3:18 the eye salve is applied to the eyes. Eye salve had oil in it, but the Greek word for eye salve is "kollurion", which also means poultice, cake and cracker. Eye salve is for soothing and healing. A poultice draws out poison. A cake or cracker is nourishing, but more than that, at communion we take the unleavened cracker, which represents the body of Christ – His character, or image. His righteousness is fulfilled in us by the Holy Spirit, Rom. 8:4. A communion wafer is made of flour, water, oil, and salt – all symbols of the Holy Spirit. When we eat the communion cracker it goes inside just as the Holy Spirit is to do, John 14:17.

"In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him," many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.

"Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.

"The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form." Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 406-9.

Wine

Wine is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit as well as of the blood of Jesus. Indeed, it is the Holy Spirit who applies the benefits won by the blood of Jesus to our lives. Joel 2:23-24 speaks of wine in the same context as the former and latter rain. In Acts 2:12 the apostles were accused of being drunk with "new wine" on the day of Pentecost when they were filled with the Spirit. Paul, in Eph. 5:18 compares/contrasts being filled with the Spirit to wine, which produces joy and praise to God.

The first miracle of Jesus was to turn water into wine, John 2:1-12. The master of the feast did not know where such good wine had come from, just as Jesus told Nicodemus that we do not know from where the Spirit comes, just that He does come. The water was turned to wine on the third day after John the Baptist had proclaimed Him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. According to Hos. 6:1-3, it is on the third day that we are healed.

Jesus compared new life to new wine in Luke 5:37-38. Wine is crushed from grapes (like water from the broken rock), was medicinal in New Testament times (1 Tim. 5:23 & Luke 10:34), and wine represents rejoicing, Zech. 10:7.

"When God's people are one in the unity of the Spirit, all of Phariseeism, all of self-righteousness, which was the sin of the Jewish nation, will be expelled from all hearts. The mold of Christ will be upon each individual member of His body, and His people will be new bottles into which He can pour His new wine, and the new wine will not break the bottles. God will make known the mystery which hath been hidden for ages. He will make known what are the "riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27) {verses 28, 29 also quoted}. {1SM 386.1}

"Jesus came to impart to the human soul the Holy Spirit, by which the love of God is shed abroad in the heart; but it is impossible to endow men with the Holy Spirit, who are set in their ideas, whose doctrines are all stereotyped and unchangeable, who are walking after the traditions and commandments of men, as were the Jews in the time of Christ." Selected Messages, book 1, pg. 386.

Salt

Salt, according to Ellen White, represents the Holy Spirit's work in the believer's life. He is the savor of the salt that Jesus spoke of in Matt. 5:13. Salt purifies, preserves and heals.

"Many are the spiritual lessons to be gathered from the story of the healing of the waters. The new cruse, the salt, the spring--all are highly symbolic.

"In casting salt into the bitter spring, Elisha taught the same spiritual lesson imparted centuries later by the Saviour to His disciples when He declared, "Ye are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13. The salt mingling with the polluted spring purified its waters and brought life and blessing where before had been blighting and death. When God compares His children to salt, He would teach them that His purpose in making them the subjects of His grace is that they may become agents in saving others. . . .

"To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul,

bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness." Prophets and Kings, pg. 231-33.

Wind

"Wind or breath is often recognized as a symbol for the Holy Spirit. John 20:22 records how Jesus breathed on His disciples and they received the Holy Spirit before Pentecost.

In Acts 2:1-2 the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in a rushing mighty wind. Jesus told Nicodemus the Holy Spirit was like the wind, John 3:8.

In Gen. 2:7 God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life. Job 27:3 says it is the Spirit of God that is in my nostrils. John 6:63 affirms that it is the Spirit that gives life. In Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones (Eze. 37:1-14) the dead bodies did not live until the wind of the Spirit blew into them. Just as Adam became a living soul when God breathed into his nostrils, and he reflected the image of the Creator, so the Holy Spirit today is shaping our lives (like wind) to recreate us in the image of God (2 Cor. 3:18).

Wind, or breath is essential to life. It surrounds us, is powerful, unpredictable and ever changing in its direction and force. Just so the Spirit moves as He wills, John 3:8.

"Christ used the wind as a symbol of the Spirit of God. As the wind bloweth whither it listeth, and we cannot tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth, so it is with the Spirit of God. We do not know through whom it will be manifested."

"The wind is heard among the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet it is invisible, and no man knows whence it comes or whither it goes. So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind. A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or to trace all the circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received through meditating upon Him, through reading the Scriptures, or through hearing the word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God,--a patient, protracted process." The Desire of Ages, pg. 172.

Grace

Grace is a synonym for the Holy Spirit in many Bible references, and also in the writings of Ellen White. Heb. 10:29 and Zech. 12:10 call the Holy Spirit the "Spirit of grace." In Rom. 6:14-15 it says we are under grace.

In Gal. 5:18 it says that if we are led by the Spirit we are not under the law. Luke 2:40 says the grace of God was upon Jesus, and in Luke 4:18 Jesus said the Holy Spirit was upon Him.

After the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples the Bible says, "great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33.

"By the grace of Christ the apostles were made what they were." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, pg. 32.

"The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls." The Desire of Ages, pg. 827.

"Some seem to feel that they must be on probation, and must prove to the Lord that they are reformed, before they can claim His blessing. But they may claim the blessing of God even now. They must have His grace, the Spirit of Christ, to help their infirmities, or they cannot resist evil. Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are, sinful, helpless, dependent. We may come with all our weakness, our folly, our sinfulness, and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind up our wounds, to cleanse us from all impurity." Steps to Christ, pg. 51-2.

Fire

Fire is the last symbol we will look at which represents the Holy Spirit. In Matt. 3:10-12 John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize with the Spirit and with fire. In Acts 2:3-4 it records that tongues of fire were seen to be over the heads of those assembled in the upper room.

In Luke 12:49 Jesus said He came to send fire on the earth, and He was obviously referring to the fire of the Holy Spirit – not the fires of hell.

God is compared to a consuming fire in Heb. 12:29, and in Isa. 4:4 and Eze. 24:11 it says it is filth, or sin, that God wants to consume in our lives. It is the Spirit that purifies the soul, 1Pet. 1:22. Fire reveals the works of men (1 Cor. 3:13). The Spirit knows all things according to 1 Cor. 2:10. We are reminded in Ps. 78:14 that the pillar of fire that led the Israelites represented the presence of God. Jeremiah referred to the compulsion to preach the Word of God as a fire in his bones (Jer. 20:9). It was the Holy Spirit that fired the disciples to preach (Acts 4:31).

"These empty themselves into the golden bowls, which represent the hearts of the living messengers of God, who bear the Word of the Lord to the people in warnings and entreaties. The Word itself must be as represented, the golden oil, emptied from the two olive trees that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. This is the baptism by the Holy Spirit with fire. This will open the soul of unbelievers to conviction. The wants of the soul can be met only by the working of the Holy Spirit of God. Man can of himself do nothing to satisfy the longings and meet the aspirations of the heart (MS 109, 1897)." SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 4, pg. 1180.

"The Holy Ghost, assuming the form of tongues of fire divided at the tips, and resting upon those assembled, was an emblem of the gift which was bestowed upon them of speaking with fluency several different languages, with which they had formerly been unacquainted. And the

appearance of fire signified the fervent zeal with which they would labor and the power which would attend their words." *The Story of Redemption*, pg. 242.

The Holy Spirit in the Life of Ellen White

"While bowed at the altar with others who were seeking the Lord, all the language of my heart was: "Help, Jesus; save me, or I perish! I will never cease to entreat till my prayer is heard and my sins are forgiven." I felt my needy, helpless condition as never before. {LS 23.3}

"As I knelt and prayed, suddenly my burden left me, and my heart was light. At first a feeling of alarm came over me, and I tried to resume my load of distress. It seemed to me that I had no right to feel joyous and happy. But Jesus seemed very near to me; I felt able to come to Him with all my griefs, misfortunes, and trials, even as the needy ones came to Him for relief when He was upon earth. There was a surety in my heart that He understood my peculiar trials, and sympathized with me. I can never forget this precious assurance of the pitying tenderness of Jesus toward one so unworthy of His notice. I learned more of the divine character of Christ in that short period, when bowed among the praying ones, than ever before. {LS 23.4}

"One of the mothers in Israel came to me and said, "Dear child, have you found Jesus?" I was about to answer, "Yes," when she exclaimed, "Indeed you have; His peace is with you, I see it in your face!" {LS 24.1}

"Again and again I said to myself: "Can this be religion? Am I not mistaken?" It seemed too much for me to claim, too exalted a privilege. Though too timid to confess it openly, I felt that the Saviour had blessed me and pardoned my sins.

"Soon after this the camp meeting closed, and we started for home. My mind was full of the sermons, exhortations, and prayers we had heard. Everything in nature seemed changed. During the meeting, clouds and rain had prevailed a greater part of the time, and my feelings had been in harmony with the weather. Now the sun shone bright and clear, and flooded the earth with light and warmth. The trees and grass were a fresher green, the sky a deeper blue. The earth seemed to smile under the peace of God. So the rays of the Sun of Righteousness had penetrated the clouds and darkness of my mind, and dispelled its gloom. {LS 24.3}

"It seemed to me that every one must be at peace with God, and animated by His Spirit.

". . . Finally the time was appointed for us to receive this solemn ordinance. It was a windy day when we, twelve in number, went down into the sea to be baptized. The waves ran high and dashed upon the shore, but as I took up this heavy cross, my peace was like a river. When I arose from the water, my strength was nearly gone, for the power of the Lord rested upon me. I felt that henceforth I was not of this world, but had risen from the watery grave into a newness of life." Life Sketches, pg. 23-25.

"For some time I felt a constant dissatisfaction with myself and my Christian attainments, and did not continually realize a lively sense of the mercy and love of God. Feelings of discouragement would come over me, and this caused me great anxiety of mind.

". . . My mind constantly dwelt upon the subject of holiness of heart. I longed above all things to obtain this great blessing, and feel that I was entirely accepted of God.

"Among the Methodists I had heard much in regard to sanctification, but had no definite idea in regard to it. This blessing seemed away beyond my reach, a state of purity my heart could never know. I had seen persons lose their physical strength under the influence of strong mental excitement, and had heard this pronounced to be the evidence of sanctification. But I could not comprehend what was necessary in order to be fully consecrated to God. My Christian friends said to me: "Believe in Jesus now! Believe that He accepts you now!" This I tried to do, but found it impossible to believe that I had received a blessing which, it seemed to me, should electrify my whole being. I wondered at my own hardness of heart in being unable to experience the exaltation of spirit that others manifested. It seemed to me that I was different from them, and forever shut out from the perfect joy of holiness of heart."

". . . I felt that I could claim only what they called justification. In the word of God I read that without holiness no man should see God. Then there was some higher attainment that I must reach before I could be sure of eternal life. I studied over the subject continually; for I believed that Christ was soon to come, and feared He would find me unprepared to meet Him. Words of condemnation rang in my ears day and night, and my constant cry to God was, 'What shall I do to be saved?'" *Ibid*, pg. 26-29.

"Soon after this I had another dream. I seemed to be sitting in abject despair, with my face in my hands, reflecting like this: If Jesus were upon earth, I would go to Him, throw myself at His feet, and tell Him all my sufferings. He would not turn away from me; He would have mercy upon me, and I would love and serve Him always." *Ibid*, pg. 34.

"The very agony of mind I had suffered was positive evidence that the Spirit of the Lord was striving with me. He said that when the sinner becomes hardened in guilt, he does not realize the enormity of his transgression, but flatters himself that he is about right, and in no particular danger. The Spirit of the Lord leaves him, and he becomes careless and indifferent or recklessly defiant. This good man told me of the love of God for His erring children; that instead of rejoicing in their destruction, He longed to draw them to Himself in simple faith and trust. He dwelt upon the great love of Christ and the plan of redemption.

"Elder Stockman spoke of my early misfortune, and said it was indeed a grievous affliction, but he bade me believe that the hand of a loving Father had not been withdrawn from me; that in the future life, when the mist that then darkened my mind had vanished, I would discern the wisdom of the providence which had seemed so cruel and mysterious. Jesus said to His disciples, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." John 13:7. In the great future we should no longer see as through a glass darkly, but come face to face with the mysteries of divine love.

"'Go free, Ellen,' said he; 'return to your home trusting in Jesus, for He will not withhold His love from any true seeker.' He then prayed earnestly for me, and it seemed that God would certainly regard the prayer of His saint, even if my humble petitions were unheard. My mind was much relieved, and the wretched slavery of doubt and fear departed as I listened to the wise and tender counsel of this teacher in Israel. I left his presence comforted and encouraged." *Ibid*, pg. 36-37.

"I returned home, and again went before the Lord, promising to do and suffer anything He might require of me, if only the smiles of Jesus might cheer my heart. The same duty was again presented to me that had troubled my mind before,--to take up my cross among the assembled people of God. An opportunity was not long wanting; there was a prayer meeting that evening at my uncle's, which I attended.

"As the others knelt for prayer, I bowed with them, trembling, and after a few had prayed, my voice arose in prayer before I was aware of it. In that moment the promises of God appeared to me like so many precious pearls that were to be received only for the asking. As I prayed, the burden and agony of soul that I had so long endured, left me, and the blessing of the Lord descended upon me like the gentle dew. I praised God from the depths of my heart. Everything seemed shut out from me but Jesus and His glory, and I lost consciousness of what was passing around me.

"The Spirit of God rested upon me with such power that I was unable to go home that night. When I awakened to realization, I found myself cared for in the house of my uncle, where we had assembled for the prayer meeting. Neither my uncle nor my aunt enjoyed religion, although the former had once made a profession, but had since backslidden. I was told that he had been greatly disturbed while the power of God rested upon me in so special a manner, and had walked the floor, sorely troubled and distressed in his mind.

"When I was first struck down, some of those present were greatly alarmed, and were about to run for a physician, thinking that some sudden and dangerous indisposition had attacked me; but my mother bade them let me alone, for it was plain to her, and to the other experienced Christians, that it was the wondrous power of God that had prostrated me. When I did return home, on the following day, a great change had taken place in my mind. It seemed to me that I could hardly be the same person that left my father's house the previous evening. This passage was continually in my thoughts: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Ps. 23:1. My heart was full of happiness as I softly repeated these words.

"Faith now took possession of my heart. I felt an inexpressible love for God, and had the witness of His Spirit that my sins were pardoned. My views of the Father were changed. I now looked upon Him as a kind and tender parent, rather than a stern tyrant compelling men to a blind obedience. My heart went out toward Him in a deep and fervent love. Obedience to His will seemed a joy; it was a pleasure to be in His service. No shadow clouded the light that revealed to me the perfect will of God. I felt the assurance of an indwelling Saviour, and realized the truth of what Christ had said: "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

"My peace and happiness were in such marked contrast with my former gloom and anguish that it seemed to me as if I had been rescued from hell and transported to heaven. I could even praise God for the misfortune that had been the trial of my life, for it had been the means of fixing my thoughts upon eternity. Naturally proud and ambitious, I might not have been inclined to give my heart to Jesus had it not been for the sore affliction that had cut me off, in a manner, from the triumphs and vanities of the world.

"For six months not a shadow clouded my mind, nor did I neglect one known duty. My whole endeavor was to do the will of God, and keep Jesus and heaven continually in mind. I was surprised and enraptured with the clear views now presented to me of the atonement and the work of Christ. I will not attempt to further explain the exercises of my mind; suffice it to say that old things had passed away, all things had become new. There

was not a cloud to mar my perfect bliss. I longed to tell the story of Jesus' love, but felt no disposition to engage in common conversation with any one. My heart was so filled with love to God and the peace that passeth understanding, that I loved to meditate and pray." Ibid, pg. 36-41.

"For six months not a cloud intervened between me and my Saviour. Whenever there was a proper opportunity, I bore my testimony, and was greatly blessed. At times the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me with such power that my strength was taken from me. This was a trial to some who had come out from the formal churches, and remarks were often made that grieved me much. Many could not believe that one could be so overpowered by the Spirit of God as to lose all strength. My position was exceedingly painful. I began to reason with myself whether I was not justified in withholding my testimony in meeting, and thus restraining my feelings, when there was such an opposition in the hearts of some who were older in years and experience than myself.

"I adopted this plan of silence for a time, trying to convince myself that to repress my testimony would not hinder me from faithfully living out my religion. I often felt strongly impressed that it was my duty to speak in meeting, but refrained from doing so, and was sensible of having thereby grieved the Spirit of God. I even remained away from meetings sometimes because they were to be attended by those whom my testimony annoyed. I shrank from offending my brethren, and in this allowed the fear of man to break up that uninterrupted communion with God which had blessed my heart for so many months.

"We had appointed evening prayer meetings in different localities of the city to accommodate all who wished to attend them. The family that had been most forward in opposing me attended one of these. Upon this occasion, while those assembled were engaged in prayer, the Spirit of the Lord came upon the meeting, and one of the members of this family was prostrated as one dead. His relatives stood weeping around him, rubbing his hands and applying restoratives. At length he gained sufficient strength to praise God, and quieted their fears by shouting with triumph over the marked evidence he had received of the power of the Lord upon him. The young man was unable to return home that night.

"This was believed by the family to be a manifestation of the Spirit of God, but did not convince them that it was the same divine power that had rested upon me at times, robbing me of my natural strength and filling my soul with the peace and love of Jesus. They were free to say that my sincerity and perfect honesty could not be doubted, but they considered me self-deceived in taking that for the power of the Lord which was only the result of my own overwrought feelings.

"My mind was in great perplexity in consequence of this opposition, and as the time drew near for our regular meeting, I was in doubt whether or not it was best for me to attend it. For some days previous I had been in great distress on account of the feeling manifested toward me. Finally I decided to remain at home, and thus escape the criticism of my brethren. In trying to pray, I repeated these words again and again: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" The answer that came to my heart seemed to bid me trust in my heavenly Father and wait patiently to know His will. I yielded myself to the Lord with the simple trust of a little child, remembering He had promised that those who follow Him shall not walk in darkness.

"A sense of duty impelled me to go to the meeting, and I went with the full assurance in my mind that all would be well. While we were bowed before the Lord, my heart was drawn out in prayer and filled with a peace that only Christ can give. My soul rejoiced in the love of the Saviour, and physical strength left me. With childlike faith I could only say: **Genesis** 1:2 - Upon messengers of Saul, who prophesied.

1:2 - The Spirit hovered over the waters. 6:3 - "One of the family before mentioned as being opposed to the manifestations of the power of God upon me, on this occasion stated his belief that I was under an excitement which he thought it my duty to resist, but instead of doing so, he thought I encouraged it as a mark of God's favor. His doubts and opposition did not affect me at this time, for I seemed shut in with the Lord, and lifted above all outward influence; but he had scarcely stopped speaking when a strong man, a devoted and humble Christian, was struck down before his eyes by the power of God, and the room was filled with the Holy Spirit. **1 Kings** 18:12 - Obadiah was afraid the Spirit would carry Elijah away.

31:3 & 31:31 - Upon recovering, I was very happy in bearing my testimony for Jesus and in telling of His love for me. I confessed my lack of faith in the promises of God and my error in knowledge and in all things of His Spirit from fear of men, and acknowledged that, notwithstanding my distrust, He had bestowed upon me unlooked-for evidence of His love and sustaining grace. The brother who had opposed me in my opposition with Spirit confessed that his feelings in regard to me had been all wrong; he humbly asked my forgiveness, and said: "Sister Ellen, I will never again lay a straw in your way. God has shown me the coldness and stubbornness of my heart, which He has broken by the evidence of His power. I have been very wrong." **2 Kings** 2:9 - A sudden opposition with Spirit on Elisha.

24:2 - The Spirit of God came upon Baalam and he prophesied. I was convinced that he was a devoted Christian, yet no such power had fallen upon him. **2 Kings** 2:6 - The Spirit took Elijah up. 7:18 - Joshua, a man in whom is the Spirit of the Lord is. I offered a silent prayer, that, if this was the holy influence of God, Brother R. might experience it this evening. **2 Chronicles** 15:1 - Upon Azariah for prophecy.

17:18 - Upon Zechariah. **Job** 33:4 - The Spirit of God has made me almost as the desire went up from my heart, Brother R. fell, prostrated by the power of God, crying: 'Let the Lord work!' My heart is convinced that I have been warring against the Holy Spirit, but I will grieve it no more by stubborn unbelief. Welcome, light! **Judges** 13:20 - The Spirit of the Lord came upon Manoah and he prophesied. I have said bitter and cutting things of Sister Ellen that you sorrow over, and I pray for her forgiveness, and that of all others who are present. **1 Samuel** 10:6 - Upon Samson for strength.

14:6 - Upon Samson for strength. **1 Samuel** 10:10 - Upon Saul. **1 Samuel** 11:6 - Upon Saul, who prophesied. **1 Samuel** 16:13 - Upon David. **1 Samuel** 16:14 - Departed from Saul. **Psalm** 139:7 - Where can I go from Your Spirit? **Psalm** 139:14 - Upon Samson. **Proverbs** 1:23 - I will pour out My Spirit on you. **Isaiah** 63:10 - They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. **Isaiah** 63:17 - Turn, O Lord, and hear the voice of Israel. **Isaiah** 63:10 - They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. **Isaiah** 63:17 - Turn, O Lord, and hear the voice of Israel.

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63:14 – The Spirit arose over the sea after, while the large family Spirit Brother with Zerubbabel, in the prayer at their own house, the Spirit of God swept through the room and prostrated the kneeling suppliants. My father came in soon after, and found them all, both parents and children, helpless under the power of the Lord.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 44-47.

- 3:12 – The Spirit lifted Ezekiel up.
- 3:14 – The Spirit lifted him up and took him away.
- 3:24 – The Spirit entered, and spoke words to Ezekiel.
- 8:3 – The Spirit took Ezekiel in vision to Jerusalem.
- 11:1 – The Spirit took Ezekiel again.
- 11:5 – The Spirit fell upon Ezekiel and said, “Speak.”
- 11:19 – A new spirit can be received.
- 11:24 – The Spirit took Ezekiel to Chaldea.
- 18:31 – A new heart and a new spirit.
- 36:26 – A new heart and new spirit are from the Holy Spirit.
- 37:1 – The Spirit took Ezekiel to a valley of dry bones.
- 37:14 – The Spirit makes dry bones live.
- 39:29 – The Spirit makes us to know God.
- 43:5 – The Spirit carried away Ezekiel to God’s temple.

Daniel

4:8, 9, 18 & 5:11, 14 – The knew Daniel was full of the Spirit of God.

Joel

2:28 – The Spirit brings dreams and visions in the last days.

Micah

2:7 – The Spirit of the Lord is not restricted.
 3:8 – Micah knew he was full of power by the Spirit.

Haggai

2:5 – Holy Spirit Brother with Zerubbabel, in the prayer at their own house, the Spirit of God swept through the room and prostrated the kneeling suppliants. My father came in soon after, and found them all, both parents and children, helpless under the power of the Lord.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pg. 44-47.

- 4:6 – Not by might, nor power, but by the Spirit.
- 7:12 – The Spirit came by former prophets.
- 12:10 – He will pour out the Spirit of Grace and supplication and we will look on Him whom we have pierced.

Matthew

- 1:18 – Mary was with child of the Holy Spirit.
- 1:20 – The child was conceived of the Holy Spirit.
- 3:11 – He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 3:12 – They saw the Spirit descend like a dove.
- 4:1 – Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
- 10:20 – The Spirit will speak through us in our hour of trial.
- 12:18 – The Spirit was given to Jesus to declare justice.
- 12:31 – Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.
- 12:32 – Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.
- 22:43 – David in the Spirit spoke concerning Jesus.
- 28:19 – Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Mark

- 1:8 – He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
- 1:10 – The Spirit descended like a dove.
- 3:29 – He who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness.
- 12:36 – David spoke by the Holy Spirit.
- 13:11 – When arrested the Holy Spirit will give you what to speak.

Biblical References to the Holy Spirit

Luke

- 1:15 – John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb.
1:17 – The Spirit turns the hearts of family to one another.
1:35 – The Holy Spirit upon Mary – the power of the Highest to overshadow.
1:41 – Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit and prophesied.
1:67 – Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.
1:80 – Jesus grew and was strong in the Spirit.
2:26 – The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not die until the Messiah.
2:27 – He came by the Spirit into the temple.
2:40 – Jesus filled with the Spirit, wisdom, and grace upon Him.
3:16 – He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
3:22 – The Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove.
4:1 – Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit.
4:14 – Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.
4:18 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me.
11:13 – The Holy Spirit is given to them that ask Him.
12:10 – To him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.
12:11 – When arrested the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour.

John

- 1:32 – The Spirit descended like a dove.
1:33 – Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit.
3:5 – Unless we are born of water and the Spirit we will not see the kingdom.
3:6 – That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

3:8 – Those born of the Spirit are like the wind, coming and going as it wishes and you don't know where.

- 3:34 – God does not give the Spirit by measure.
4:23 – True worshipers worship in Spirit and truth.
4:24 – God is Spirit.
6:63 – The Spirit gives life. The words of Jesus are Spirit.
7:39 – The Spirit brings rivers of living water when Jesus is glorified.
7:38-39 – He who believes in Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit.
11:33 – Jesus groaned in the Spirit.
14:16-17 – The Spirit is the Helper, the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive.
14:26 – The Helper, the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and bring them to our remembrance.
15:26 – The spirit of Truth proceeds from the Father and He will testify of Jesus.
16:7-11 – The Spirit convicts of sin, judgment and righteousness.
16:13-14 – The of truth will guide us into all truth and glorify Jesus.
20:22 – Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts

- 1:2 – Jesus gave commandments through the Holy Spirit.
1:5 – John baptized with water but they were to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
1:8 – You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.
1:16 – David spoke by the Holy Spirit.
2:4 – They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues.
2:17-18 – Pentecost fulfilled Joel's promise of the Spirit.
2:33 – Jesus received the promise of the Holy Spirit and poured it out on His disciples.

2:38 – Repent and be baptized and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4:8 – Peter was filled and spoke by the Holy Spirit.
4:31 – They prayed and the place was shaken. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke with boldness.
5:3-4 – Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, to God.
5:9 – Ananias and Sapphira tempted the Spirit.
5:32 – The Holy Spirit is a Witness given to those who obey God.
6:3 – Seek out men full of the Holy Spirit.
7:51 – The Pharisees always resisted the Holy Spirit.
7:55 – Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and saw the glory of God.
8:15 – The apostles prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. They had already been baptized in water.
8:29 – The Spirit spoke words to Phillip.
8:39 – The Spirit caught Phillip away.
9:17 – Ananias laid hands on Paul and he received the Holy Spirit.
9:31 – The churches had the comfort of the Holy Spirit.
10:19 – The Spirit spoke to Peter.
10:38 – God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.
10:44 – While Peter was preaching the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius' household.
10:44-48 – Gentiles received the Holy Spirit before they were baptized with water.
11:12 – The Spirit told Peter to go with the Gentiles.
11:15-16 – As Peter spoke they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
11:24 – Barnabas was full of the Holy Spirit.
11:28 – Agabus in the Spirit warns of a great world-wide famine.

13:2 – As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said to separate Paul and Barnabus.
13:4 – Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the Holy Spirit.
13:9 – Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and preached.
13:52 – The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
15:8 – God acknowledged the Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He had to the apostles.
15:28 – It seemed good to the Holy Spirit not to put a heavy burden on the Gentiles.
16:6-7 – The Holy Spirit forbade them to go to Asia or Bithynia.
18:5 – Paul was constrained by the Spirit to testify to Jews.
19:2-6 – Twelve Ephesian brethren who had received John's baptized were baptized in Jesus and received the Holy Spirit through Paul's prayers and the laying on of hands.
20:23 – The Holy Spirit testified to Paul that chains and troubled were waiting for him.
20:28 – The Holy Spirit appoints overseers.
21:4 – Certain disciples through the Spirit warn Paul about going to Jerusalem.
21:11 – The Holy Spirit prophesied through a man to Paul.
28:25 – The Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah.

Romans

1:4 – The Spirit of holiness.
5:5 – The love of God is given to us through the Holy Spirit.
7:6 – We serve in newness of the Spirit.
8:1 – No condemnation to those who walk according to the Spirit.
8:2 – Law of the Spirit makes us free from the law of sin and death.
8:4 – Righteous requirements of the law fulfilled in those who walk according to the Spirit.

8:5 – Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
8:6 – To be spiritually minded is life and peace.
8:9 – Assumes you know whether or not you have the Spirit.
8:10 – The body is dead, but the Spirit is life.
8:11 – If the Spirit dwells in you He will also give life to mortal bodies.
8:13 – By the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body.
8:14 – Those led by the Spirit are sons of God.
8:15 – The Spirit of adoption cries out, Abba, Father.
8:16 – The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.
8:23 – Firstfruits of the Spirit, causes us to groan for complete adoption, or redemption of our body.
8:26 – The Spirit helps in our weaknesses in prayer.
8:27 – The Spirit makes intercession for saints according to the will of God.
9:1 – My conscience bearing witness in the Holy Spirit.
14:17 – The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Spirit.
15:13 – Abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
15:16 – The offering of the Gentiles sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
15:19 – Mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit.
15:30 – Paul speaks in love of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians

2:4 – Paul's preaching was in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.
2:10 – God revealed secret things through the Spirit who searches the deep things of God.
2:11 – Only the Spirit knows the things of God.

2:12 – When we receive the Spirit we know the things of God.
2:13 – Speak with words the Holy Spirit teaches.
2:14 – Things of the Spirit are foolishness to the natural man.
3:16 – Your body is the temple of the Holy spirit.
6:11 – We are washed, sanctified, justified by the Spirit.
6:19 – Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
7:40 – Paul thinks he has the Spirit of God on celibacy.
12:3 – Only by the Spirit can we confess Jesus as Lord.
12:4 – The same Spirit but different gifts.
12:7 – Gifts are the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.
12:8-10 – Gifts are given by the same Spirit.
12:11 – The Spirit works the gifts and gives as He wills.
12:13 – By one Spirit were all baptized.

2 Corinthians

1:22 – Sealed by the Spirit as a deposit.
3:3 – Deeds are done by the Spirit.
3:6 – The Spirit gives life.
3:8 – Ministry of the Spirit more glorious than the light on Moses' face.
3:17 – The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit is there is liberty.
3:18 – Transformed by the Spirit into the image of the Lord.
5:5 – The Spirit is the guarantee that our mortality will become eternal life.
6:4-6 – Commend ourselves as ministers of God by the Holy Spirit.
13:14 – The communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Galatians

3:2 – The spirit received by hearing of faith.

3:3 – The Spirit makes perfect, not flesh.
3:5 – The Spirit and His miracles supplied by faith.
3:14 – Receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
4:6 – Sons receive the Spirit of His Son crying out, “Abba, Father!”
4:29 – Children of flesh persecute children of the Spirit.
5:5 – Through the Spirit we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.
5:16 – Walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
5:17 – The Spirit and the flesh are contrary to one another.
5:18 – If we are led by the Spirit we are not under the law.
5:22-23 – Fruit of the Spirit.
5:25 – If we live in the Spirit let us walk in the Spirit.
6:8 – Sow to the Spirit, reap everlasting life.

Ephesians

1:13 – Heard the word, trusted, believed sealed with the Holy Spirit.
2:18 – Through Jesus we have access to the Father by the Spirit.
2:22 – We are being built by the Spirit into a habitation for the Father.
3:5 – The Spirit reveals knowledge.
3:16-17 – The Spirit strengthens with might.
4:3 – The unity of the Spirit.
4:4 – One body and one Spirit.
4:30 – Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed.
5:9 – Fruit of the Spirit is in goodness, righteousness and truth.
5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit.
6:17 – Sword of the Spirit is the word of God.
6:18 – Prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

Philippians

1:9 – Salvation through prayer and the supply of the Spirit.
2:1 – The fellowship of the Spirit.

Colossians

1:8 – Love in the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians

1:5 – The gospel came in power and the Holy Spirit.
1:6 – Received word with joy of the Spirit.
4:8 – Immorality rejects God, for our bodies are the temple of the Spirit.

2 Thessalonians

2:13 – Salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

1 Timothy

3:16 – God was justified in the Spirit.
4:1 – The Spirit prophesies about loss of faith in the end.
4:14 – Gift given to Timothy through laying on of hands.

2 Timothy

1:14 – Keep the good things committed to you by the Holy Spirit.

Titus

3:5 – He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews

2:4 – God bearing witness with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Spirit.
3:7 – The Holy Spirit says, “Today.”
6:4 – Impossible to renew those who have become partakers of the Holy Spirit.
9:8 – The Holy Spirit indicating the way into the Holiest of all was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.
10:15 – The Holy Spirit also witnesses.

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