



**THE HOLY SPIRIT:**  
*The Advantage Factor*

Pastor John Iuliano



Copyright © 2015. LifeSource Christian Church

Published by LifeSource Christian Church  
382 Eastern Valley Way  
Chatswood NSW 2067  
AUSTRALIA

Scripture texts used, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *New King James Version*®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Introduction

*"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. 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*

One of the extraordinary leaders of the modern church era, Dr Paul Yonggi Cho, broke barriers of church growth and salvations that was unheard of in the history of the Christian Church. To pastor a church of well over 750,000 members in the city of Seoul, South Korea was a feat that after the Korean War, many thought impossible. In his book "The Holy Spirit My Senior Partner", Cho tells us the secret to his success. "Every morning when I awake, I greet the Holy Spirit and invite Him to go with me through the day and take the lead in all my affairs and He does. I say, "Good Morning Holy Spirit. Let's work together today and I will be your vessel."

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood person in the Godhead. I also believe that if we come to understand Him and draw close to Him, He will cause us to become extraordinary people. You will never be the same again once the Holy Spirit is given control over your life. With His help the impossible becomes possible, the out of reach becomes within reach and the extraordinary becomes the domain from which we operate.

### **The Advantage Factor.**

Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit to His disciples as the Advantage Factor. In John 16:7, He tells the disciples *"It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (the Holy Spirit) will not come to you."*

Can you imagine what it would have been like to be one of the disciples of Jesus? No obstacle would seem too big because Jesus always had a solution. The confidence factor would be enormous. Then Jesus tells them something that was mind-boggling: that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will be an even bigger advantage to them. I'm not sure that they or we always fully appreciate the enormity of Jesus' statement. One way of getting a better hold of this concept is to begin thinking about the Holy Spirit as our Advantage Factor. With the Holy Spirit on our side, we get a head start in many areas of life. We get help, guidance, strength, supernatural power, insight, revelation and more. However, we only get it if we press in and grab hold of everything the Holy Spirit has to offer.

### **Stay Connected to the Holy Spirit.**

In Paul's benediction at the end of his second letter to the Corinthians, (2 Corinthians 13:14) he makes a statement that is his last word to this church. This statement is a prayer of blessing. Paul had a strong desire for the church to lay hold of this thought. ".....*the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*" Paul wanted them to stay connected and be in communion with the Holy Spirit. The word communion means to be in communication and fellowship. It conveys a sense of closeness and intimacy that comes out of relationship and conversing. The questions we need to ask ourselves is how connected are we with the Holy Spirit? Do we regularly communicate with the Holy Spirit and include Him in the day to day decisions of our lives? Are we really that attached to the Holy Spirit that He has involvement in all the aspects of our lives?

### **Be Aware of the Holy Spirit.**

The apostle Paul encourages the Corinthian church not to be ignorant of things pertaining to the Spirit. "*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:*" (1 Corinthians 12:1). The Greek word Paul uses (pneumatikos) is often translated as spiritual gifts but the more accurate translation is the things of the Spirit or the things pertaining to the spirit realm. Paul then takes up the next three chapters explaining the things pertaining to the Holy Spirit and the spiritual realm. We can never fully utilize the Holy Spirit advantage if we are unaware of what He can do. Paul is trying to get the church to become aware of the Holy Spirit and not be ignorant of the things pertaining to the Holy Spirit. Paul also tells us not to grieve the spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and to also not quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). Both these things are easily done if we are not aware of what can grieve Him and what can quench Him. To grieve is to cause pain, sorrow and disappointment. To quench is to suppress, to put out the fire, to hinder. Paul is encouraging us not to prevent the Holy Spirit from exerting His full influence in our lives but allow Him freedom to guide us.

### **Three Important Facts about the Holy Spirit that we should never forget.**

1. He is God.

The Holy Spirit is co equal, co existent and co eternal with the Father and the Son. He is the third person of the Godhead. He is called God in Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and constantly referred to as the Spirit of God throughout scripture.

2. He is a Person.

The Holy Spirit is not a force or an influence or an ethereal spirit or a breath. He is a person with a distinct personality. The Bible always refers to Him with a personal pronoun. It is offensive to refer to Him as an "it". Because He is a person, He can be grieved or pleased and experience all other emotions. It is difficult to become attached to the Holy Spirit unless we see Him as a person with a personality.

3. He is Holy.

He is known as the HOLY Spirit. It is important to always keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is holy. He loves holiness, He brings holiness and He dwells in an atmosphere of holiness. Holiness simply means total compliance to the will of God. Anything that contradicts the will of God is unholy and will grieve the Holy Spirit.

**The 40 Day Challenge:**

For the next 40 days, the challenge is to invite the Holy Spirit into your day as soon as you wake up and start your day. Begin each day with these words, "Good morning Holy Spirit. I am Your temple today. I am open to hearing from You, to being led by You and to being used by You to bless others. Let's venture into this day together."

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit

*"However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away.*

*Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthenener, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you]".*

*John 16:7 (Amp)*

The Holy Spirit should never be seen as an optional extra for the Christian but as the **ADVANTAGE FACTOR**. The more we learn about Him, the more intimate we become with Him and consequently the more we will benefit from all that the Holy Spirit can do in our lives. It is imperative that the Holy Spirit ceases to be the most neglected person in the Godhead and be given the due respect that belongs to Him.

There are at least seven descriptions of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament that identify an aspect of His work in the life of the believer. Each of these descriptions can also be connected to a name for the Holy Spirit. As we learn the seven names of the Holy Spirit, we become more aware of what He wants to accomplish in our lives.

1. The Helper.
2. The Regenerator.
3. The Sanctifier.
4. The Teacher.
5. The Intercessor.
6. The Guarantee.
7. The Empowerer.

### THE HELPER.

The name by which Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit to the disciples is simply "The Helper". *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. 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.

The name Helper comes from a Greek word PARAKLETOS. The New International Dictionary of New Testament Words explains that PARAKLETOS was used originally in the sense of one called in to help. The help the Holy Spirit brings involves but is not limited to intercession on the believer's behalf, convincing the world of sin, teaching the believer all things, bringing to our remembrance all that Christ said, dwelling with and in the believer's life, bearing witness to Jesus, guiding the believer into all truth and also revealing things to come.

Jesus also uses the term "another helper" when referring to the Holy Spirit (John 14:16). At that time, Jesus was the disciples' helper and He was sending someone exactly the same as Himself to continue the work of helping them.

When translating PARAKLETOS, the Amplified Bible uses 7 words in order to get across the deeper meaning of this word. (John 14:16; 26; 16:7)

- (i) Comforter. The one who draws alongside to offer fellowship and communion. The one who is there.
- (ii) Counselor. The one who gives advice and counsel.
- (iii) Helper. The one who offers assistance and help.
- (iv) Intercessor. The one who stands in the spiritual gap on our behalf. The one who prays and intercedes for us.
- (v) Advocate. The one who represents us before Father God. The one who pleads our case.
- (vi) Strengthener. The one who gives us strength especially when we are lacking.
- (vii) Standby. The one who is always on call and constantly by our side.

Three Ways the Holy Spirit Helps Us is by:

Transforming us

Leading and Guiding us

Helping our Weakness

### He Transforms Us.

The most important way the Holy Spirit helps us, is to transform us in to the image of Christ. In Ephesians 1:4 Paul tells us that even before the world was founded that God had a plan for each of us that we might be holy and blameless. In Romans 8:29 Paul tells us that God's plan was that we might be conformed into the image of Christ. And in 2 Corinthians 3:18 he goes on to tell us that this transformation is done by the Holy Spirit. "But we all...are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

## The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit

*"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

*Galatians 5:25*

One of the ways the Holy Spirit uses to transform us is by producing His nature in our lives. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16-26 that if we walk in relationship and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, He will enable us to overcome our ungodly nature and produce a Godly nature. The terminology Paul uses for the Godly Holy Spirit nature is "The Fruit of the Spirit."

What Paul emphasizes is that this nature can only be produced in us when we are connected to the Holy Spirit. The analogy of fruit underlines that. Fruit can only come from the DNA of the tree. For example, if the tree has the DNA of oranges, it can only produce oranges. It will not produce lemons. Likewise when we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and in fellowship with Him, we get His DNA and the result is that His nature is outworked through us.

Paul then goes on to describe what this nature looks like and how it outworks through our lives. It produces at least nine characteristics. They are:

- i. Love.
- ii. Joy.
- iii. Peace.
- iv. Longsuffering.
- v. Kindness.
- vi. Goodness.
- vii. Faithfulness.
- viii. Gentleness.
- ix. Self Control.

Let us now look at each one of these qualities.

## The Fruit of the Spirit

### i. Love

How appropriate for love to be first because love is God's nature, 1 John 4:8, "...for God is love."

The Greek word used for love in this passage is "Agape" which is best translated as "affectionate regard, good will and benevolence". Paul's best description of this word love is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. He states that the greatest of all Christian qualities is love. He states in Galatians 5:14 that the entire Law is fulfilled in this one word, Love.

If we can demonstrate this type of love towards others, people will automatically be attracted to us. There is something incredibly beautiful about people who have a loving nature. This is the first flavour of the Fruit of the Spirit, a very special God quality indeed.

### Discover How Loving You Really Are

A great exercise to discover how loving we really are is to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul's description of love, and insert our names where the word love appears. Let's do this exercise together using The Message translation of this passage.

- ..... never gives up
- ..... cares more for others than for self
- ..... doesn't want what he/she doesn't have
- ..... doesn't strut
- ..... doesn't have a swollen head
- ..... doesn't force him/herself on others
- ..... isn't always "me first"
- ..... doesn't fly off the handle
- ..... doesn't keep score of the sins of others
- ..... doesn't revel when others grovel
- ..... takes pleasure in the flowering of truth
- ..... puts up with anything
- ..... trusts God always
- ..... always looks for the best
- ..... never looks back but keeps going to the end.

How did you go with that? If there are areas that need improvement, why not ask the Holy Spirit to continue producing this fruit in your life?

## ii. Joy

This word joy is different from the word happiness, which is connected to our emotional state when all things are going well. When our circumstances are good and our world is in order, then most people can be happy.

Joy (the Greek word, "Chara") is not connected to our circumstances. This is a virtue that resides within the life of the believer because of a relationship with God.

What a contrast between the way the world views joy and the way the believer experiences joy the most joy-filled epistle Paul wrote was the book of Philippians. He wrote this from prison. Paul was able to demonstrate joy while in prison being persecuted for his faith. His joy was connected to his relationship with God, the impact he was having on God's people and that one day he would be ushered into heaven to enjoy eternity with God. That is why he was able to say: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

The Old Testament prophet, Habakkuk also had a dose of this joy in Habakkuk 3:17-18,

*"Though the fig tree may not blossom,  
Nor fruit be on the vines;  
Though the labour of the olive may fail,  
And the fields yield no food;  
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,  
And there be no herd in the stalls—  
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will joy in the God of my salvation."*

This was the joy the martyrs exhibited when facing their final moments on planet earth. It's a joy that the world cannot give and a joy that no material possession can give. It's the joy that can only be produced by the Spirit of God living in the life of the believer who is in communion with Him.

Is your joy connected to your circumstances or to the relationship you have with God?

## iii. Peace

The third of the big three virtues is peace. Love, joy and peace. The word, "peace", (Greek word, "Eirene") has similar undertones to the word, joy.

As with joy, peace does not come from circumstances or absence of danger; it comes from a knowledge that the believer is in right relationship with God. This peace can be experienced in the midst of war, turmoil, adversity, opposition, persecution, or a host of other disasters. This is a peace that does not come from outside, but a peace that comes from within.

It's ironic that one of the biggest desires of all people is world peace, yet so many people ignore "the Prince of Peace", who paid the price for peace.

It is through Jesus Christ that we have peace with God (Romans 5:1) *"therefore having been justified by faith, WE HAVE PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*.

True peace for the believer is the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Our destiny is safe and secure. We get to live with God forever and ever.

### **A Picture of Peace**

Many years ago there was an art competition that gave a prize to the artist who could best depict a scene of peace. Many works of art were submitted that each depicted scenes of quietness and rest.

The actual winning painting though depicted a severe storm lashing the coast and some cliff tops. In the centre of the painting was a small crag of a rock with a nest. And in that nest was a little bird, safe and secure in the knowledge that it was protected from all the dangers around it.

Now that was truly a picture of real peace despite the raging storm outside the nest.

## The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit (Continued)

*"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

*Galatians 5:25*

### iv. Long-suffering

Paul uses the Greek word, "Makrothumia". This word is often translated as "patience", but it is patience in respect to people more so than patience in respect to trials and circumstances. Dr Spiros Zodhiates translates "Makrothumia" as, "the quality of a person who is able to avenge himself, yet refrains from doing so."

Long-suffering has a lot of mercy and grace thrown into the mix. It is able to forgive and allow God room to vindicate. I believe that patience with others is always harder to deal with than patience with circumstances. Circumstances are not able to choose or do things against us with purpose and aggression. People on the other hand are able to do all these things.

This virtue is the quality of being patient with people even when they don't deserve it. It is a grace that flows out of the believer through the work of the Holy Spirit.

### v. Kindness

This word does not just describe what we do, but who we are. It is a nature that flows out of the believer's life. It is that which is divine in our lives. Because God is kind and His nature resides within us, benevolence, kindness and mercy flow out of us. It isn't about performing kind acts; it is about having a kind heart. Dr Zodhiates describes it like this: "It is the grace which pervades the whole nature, mellowing all which would be harsh and austere." The nature of Christ was like this. Wherever He went, His nature pervaded the world around Him mellowing hard hearts and cynical attitudes, (except for the Pharisees).

This was the nature Mother Teresa exhibited whilst working with the poorest of the poor in India. People may reject our preaching but they are drawn to our kindness. Kindness is the world's greatest bridge builder.

What a beautiful attribute kindness is. An attribute which is ours if we are in communion with the Holy Spirit.

## vi. Goodness

Goodness as expressed in this passage is not about being good at maths or being a good artist, but rather a virtue that when it comes into contact with people creates good and righteous outcomes. Goodness creates a good family culture, or a good work environment. People who have goodness in them impact positively on their community, church and culture. Their acts are noble, their decisions are righteous, and their works are wholesome. Goodness is not about always being right but about always doing what is right. Goodness is not afraid to rebuke or correct wrong.

Jesus for example, displayed goodness when overturning the tables of the moneychangers in the temple. He was bringing about "good" in the house of God. (Matthew 21:13)

Because God is good, (Matthew 19:17), when a believer demonstrates goodness they demonstrate God-likeness. This is what all Christians are called to do, walk in God likeness and touch their world with goodness.

## vii. Faithfulness

Most commentaries agree that the better translation for this word is not faith, but faithfulness. It has more to do with the way we treat others than what we believe our doctrinal statements to be.

Faithfulness refers to that quality within us that makes us reliable, trustworthy, consistent, and dependable. There are people in life that one cannot depend on, while on the other hand there are those who are faithful. These people are there when called upon, turn up when others don't, and offer help when others have long gone.

A great example of faithfulness is Luke's relationship with Paul. *"Demas has forsaken me, ... Only Luke is with me."* 2 Timothy 4:10-11

One of the enduring stories in Australian history is that of the dog on the tucker-box. It's the story of the enduring faithfulness of a dog that stayed with his master's lunchbox even to his peril. Such was the esteem of the dog's faithfulness that a shrine was built to commemorate what those in the bush feel is absolutely like gold.

## viii. Gentleness

Many people have grappled with the expression of gentleness over the years. The difficulty lies in the question of; does gentleness mean that we allow people to walk over us, get away with murder and do nothing about it?

The answer is, gentleness is not weakness, nor is it ignorance of justice. Jesus displayed gentleness when rebuking the Pharisees for complaining that He was breaking the Sabbath by healing a man. (Mark 3:5) His gentleness was displayed in not losing control of Himself. He was angry at the right time and for the right reason with the right amount of zeal.

The scripture tells us that we can be angry but warns us to not turn our anger into sin. (Ephesians 4:26) People who exhibit no anger for injustice and sin have become too insipid and weak. This is certainly not a virtue that is to be praised.

A long time ago, I decided that I would never discipline my children whilst my anger was out of control. I learnt to discipline them in gentleness. Very firm, very direct, very much in control.

### ix. Self-Control

The last of the flavours contained in the Fruit of the Spirit is self-control. Self-control stands in contrast to all the outworking of the flesh that Paul refers to in Galatians 5:19–21. Self-control gives us victory over sinful desires. With it we are able to be in the world but not of the world; walk through the world but not become contaminated by it.

This is the quality that Jesus exhibited while He was with us. He was tempted in all areas but His self-control kept Him from sinning. (Hebrews 4:15) Self-control not only stops us from sinning, but it also empowers us to achieve great accomplishments and place order in our lives.

To be in control of self means we are disciplined, excellent managers of our resources and all that God has entrusted to us. The great achievers, the great sports people, the great champions and leaders of the ages were all people who exhibited self-control in their particular field.

Paul's desire for the Christian is not self-control in only one area of our lives, but in all areas. Once we can accomplish this, we don't need the law to dictate to us because at that point we are truly being led by the Holy Spirit. To be in control of every area of one's life is probably one of the greatest demonstrations of the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.

In Galatians 5:16–25, Paul very skilfully contrasts the works of the flesh (our ungodly nature) with the Fruit of the Spirit (our Godly nature).

One causes the believer to cringe, the other causes the believer to smile. There is no doubt that all of us have battled at some point in our lives to be consistent. Paul tells us the secret of consistency—walk in the Spirit. Be in communion with the Holy Spirit, connect with Him, be in fellowship with Him, and allow Him to live in and through you.

### **What We Feed Wins**

I once heard a story of a man who fought dogs for a living. He would then gamble with everyone else on the outcome of the fights. One day, towards the end of his life, he was asked why he was successful in picking the winner all the time. He answered, "Oh that was easy. I knew which dog I had fed."

The fight the believer has is between the spirit and the flesh. If we feed the flesh with all it desires with the junk food that is so easily accessible, we will give strength to the flesh and we will be defeated.

However, if on the other hand, we feed the Holy Spirit, by worshiping, praying, and communing with Him regularly, He will be rise up within us. Then the Fruit of the Spirit will flow out of us. The flesh will be destroyed and the Spirit will have life.

## The Leading and Guiding Power of the Holy Spirit

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God"*  
ROMANS 8:14

### 2. He Leads and Guides Us.

The second way the Holy Spirit helps us besides transforming us is to lead and guide us. Paul tells us in Romans 8:14 "for as many as are led by the Spirit of God these are the sons of God."

I can honestly say that every bad decision I have ever made was when I was led by my own emotions or other people's influence rather than the Spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit leads and guides us, the end result will always be beneficial for us.

Consequently it is important that every believer become sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Here are three ways that will help you better discern the voice of the Holy Spirit.

#### i. Become more aware of His Presence.

The best way I know to become more aware of the Holy Spirit is to speak to Him as you would a friend. As I said earlier, a good way to start is to recognise His presence by starting each day with a greeting, "Good Morning Holy Spirit." Then begin to ask Him questions. "What should we do today?" "Is there anything special I need to be aware of today?" "Is there a word you want me to share with someone today?"

If it's the Holy Spirit speaking to you, He will always build you up not tear you down. He will always encourage you not condemn you. When it comes to giving a word to other people, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:3 that when we speak a Holy Spirit inspired word (prophecy) it will bring edification, exhortation and comfort to people.

#### ii. Become more aware of His Peace.

In Philippians 4:7 Paul calls the Peace of God the guard of our hearts. In Colossians 3:15 he encourages us to let the Peace of God rule in our hearts. The word rule literally means to arbitrate, to empire, to make a call on whether it's right or wrong, in or out.

The Holy Spirit will always give us peace when we are in the will of God and take away the peace when we are out of the will of God. When the peace goes, we will feel an inner agitation, a feeling of unease. We need to become aware of this because it is a way the Holy Spirit guides us.

Isaiah 55:12 tells us that we will be...“led out with peace.” If you are feeling peace with where you are at and the decision you have made, then that is a good indicator that you are in the will of God. I use peace like a green light/red light. If I have peace, it's like having a green light, I go. If I don't have peace, it's like having a red light, I don't move forward. Be lead in life with peace.

iii. Become more aware of His Promises.

Too many people miss out on God's best because they are unaware of His promises. God's word tells us in Hosea 4:6 that God's people are...“destroyed for lack of knowledge. The greatest knowledge we can attain is to know what God wants for us.

According to Dr Herbert Lockyer in his book “All the Promises of the Bible”, there are over 8,000 promises God has for us. Because the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, He desires to see these promises come to fruition in your life and will lead you towards them not away from them. Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. This freedom that Jesus is talking about is not found in doing our own thing but in knowing and pursuing the truth of God's word.

3. He helps us in our Weaknesses so that we can accomplish our Purpose.

The third way the Holy Spirit helps us after transforming us and guiding us is to help us with our weaknesses. Paul tells us in Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses...”

The word that Paul uses here means the lack of strength that is caused by either an ailment or anything that deprives us from enjoying or accomplishing what we would like to do.

Many times we find ourselves in a place where we lack strength, courage, ability, or motivation to push through. This is when the Holy Spirit comes to our aid.

In the above passage, Paul uses the illustration of prayer. How many times have we been in a position where we feel unable to push into prayer? This is where the Holy Spirit comes to our side and intercedes on our behalf.

However it doesn't stop there. In Isaiah 40:29-31 we are told that He gives power to the weak and strength to those who have none. Everyone gets to a place where they become tired. This passage tells us that even young men in their prime can become weary. It is not a bad thing to admit weakness, the mistake we often make is to not become aware that the Holy Spirit is there to help us in our weakness and cause us to become overcomers. We have a Divine purpose to accomplish. If our only focus is our weakness, then we are not focussed on our mandate. The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome our weaknesses in order to focus on the Divine potential of our lives.

When the leader of Israel Zerabbabel, was feeling tired and weak in regards to the task that lay before him, the building of the temple, God gave him a very clear word. God spoke to him and told him that God given dreams don't have to be accomplished through our might and power. They are accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6) "...Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord..."

Sometimes we lose strength because of the battles we are fighting. When it comes to overcoming, we are constantly in a battle between good and evil. These battles can become draining and stressful. In times like this we need the Holy Spirit to come alongside us and strengthen us. When King Jehoshaphat faced a similar battle against the forces of evil, the word he received was: "Do not be afraid or dismayed...for the battle is not yours, but God's." (2 Chronicles 20:15) The Holy Spirit will always help you when you face evil. You are not alone. Learn to say, "The Battle is the Lord's."

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit – The Regenerator

*“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”*

*Titus 3:5*

One of the better known passages in the Bible is the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus which eventually leads us to John 3:16, the best known verse in the Bible. In this passage Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus that unless one is “born again” one cannot enter or even see the Kingdom of God. Jesus then begins to explain what it means to be “born again”. *“Most assuredly I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”* John 3:5.

Many people believe that being born of water refers to the first birth, our physical birth and being born of the Spirit refers to the second birth, our spiritual birth that Jesus defines as being “born again”. In this phrase “born of the Spirit”, Jesus is introducing the Holy Spirit as the Regenerator. Just as when a baby is born, it receives new life, so too when a new believer is born again, he or she receives a brand new life that comes from the Holy Spirit. We call this regeneration. The apostle Paul in Titus 3:5 also talks about the regeneration that comes from the Holy Spirit and in Ephesians 2:1 Paul describes regeneration as the new life that God gives us after being dead in our trespasses and sins. *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”*

Three factors are involved in regeneration.

### 1. Impart a New Spiritual Life.

There are two kinds of life. The first is the natural life that gives us consciousness of the natural realm. The second is spiritual life that makes us consciousness of the spiritual realm. Paul explains that people who don't have this awakening consider spiritual things foolishness. (1 Corinthians 2:14a) We have many people in the western world who only perceive life through the natural realm. The spiritual things are beyond their comprehension. Paul goes on to say that those of us who are born again understand spiritual things because we have spiritual discernment. (1 Corinthians 2:14b)

Because God is spirit (John 4:24), the best way we can connect to Him is through the Holy Spirit. The new life we receive at conversion makes us spiritually alive. Obviously as a new baby has to grow and mature and become more aware of it's environment so too the new Christian needs to become mature and more spiritually aware. It is a process of growth that begins with being a spiritual babe and progresses to becoming spiritually mature.

## 2. Impart a New Spiritual Nature.

As the Regenerator, the Holy Spirit also gives us a new spiritual nature. A lot of time was spent on this in the last chapter when we looked at what the apostle Paul had to say in Galatians 5:16-25 in regards to our old nature verses our new nature. He called the manifestations of this new nature "The Fruit of the Spirit".

The apostle Paul gives us more teaching on what this new nature looks like in Romans 12:9-21 where Paul uses at least 20 different descriptive factors that mark what Christian behaviour looks like once we have this nature operating within us. I call this passage "The Christian Manifesto".

What is clear is that the Holy Spirit wants to change the way we interact with our world and make us more loving, more godly, and more Christ-like. He wants to remove from our behaviour anything that is un-Christlike.

Paul described this new nature in this way... "It is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me ..." (Galatians 2:20). He makes it clear that one of the evidences of belonging to Christ is to have crucified the flesh (the old nature) with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24)

We cannot use grace as a licence to remain un-Christlike. Paul says in Romans 6:1-2: "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!" The more we are aware of the work of the Holy Spirit and submit to His authority in our lives, the more His nature will become evident in our lives. He is the Regenerator.

## 3. Imparts a New Relationship with God.

The third benefit in the work of the Regenerator is a new relationship with God. A wonderful benefit of the new birth is that the Holy Spirit causes us to be born into God's family and we become a child of God. Paul describes this event as God sending us the "Spirit of His Son" into our hearts that enables us to call God "Abba Father", which in simple English is translated as "Daddy." (Galatians 4:6) Paul then proceeds to tell us that through this impartation of new relationship not only are we sons of God but also heirs of God. (Galatians 4:7). Becoming an heir emphasises just how close in the family relationship we are to God.

Through the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration we are now legitimately born into God's family with all the benefits and privileges of being sons and heirs. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit ought to be such that we can hear Him and feel Him bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit – The Sanctifier

*“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,”*

*2 Thessalonians 2:13*

The third name of the Holy Spirit that we want to study is Sanctifier. The apostle Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 that our salvation is connected to the “sanctification by the Spirit.”

To sanctify means to be set apart for holy purpose. Another word for holiness is perfection, free from blemish, free from ungodliness and impurity. This being set apart for holy purpose has two inferences. The first is to be separated from evil and the second is to be dedicated to God. Consequently the Sanctifier comes along to separate us from evil and set us apart for holy service. Too often we forget that He is the HOLY Spirit. He loves holiness; His name includes the word holy. His nature is holiness. How can we think that that the Holy Spirit will do anything else but bring holiness into our lives?

Some aspects of the how the Sanctifier works in our lives. He makes us:

1. A Holy Temple. Ephesians 2:21-22 (A dwelling place for God).

*“in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*

The apostle Paul tells us in this scripture that the Holy Spirit enables us to become a dwelling place for God. It is hard to imagine the transition between the Old Testament temple and all that was required to keep it holy and the New Testament temple, which is our body, and what is required to keep it holy so that God can dwell there. This is the work of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us and makes us holy enough for God to dwell within us.

2. A Holy Priesthood. 1 Peter 2:5

*“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

The priests have always been the people who stand in the spiritual gap between God and the people. The Holy Spirit comes along and makes us a holy priesthood so that we can represent God to humanity and humanity to God. As a holy priest, the Christian becomes a voice that speaks to God for the people and to the people for God. Consequently, we need to be a holy voice, a holy vessel; one that has been separated from evil and set aside for God's use.

### 3. A Holy Nation. 1 Peter 2:9

*"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"*

A nation is a gathering of a united people group who belong together. The Holy Spirit has brought us and made us citizens of God's nation. We are His people group. We were all born into an earthly people group when we were physically born but because we are born again, we now belong to a heavenly people group. We have been brought into God's Holy Nation.

At this point I want to bring your attention to the main differences between the work of the Holy Spirit as the Regenerator and His work as the Sanctifier.

Regeneration	Sanctification
Change of Life	Change of Character
Change of relationship	Change of conduct
Impartation of new life	Impartation of new standards
Deals with sin's consequences	Deals with sin's domination
Places us into right relationship	Manifestation and demonstration of right relationship
Focuses on what God has done	Focuses on what God is doing
The gift of Salvation	The gift of Transformation
Sees us as sinners saved by grace	Sees us as a holy child of God
Deals with what we were	Deals with what we are

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit – The Teacher

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

*John 14:26*

In John 14:26, Jesus tells the disciples that one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to...“teach you all things.” In this passage, Jesus introduces the fourth name of the Holy Spirit as the Teacher. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

The implication here is that the Teacher has knowledge and information unknown to us but is willing to impart to us if we are willing to learn. If we are unaware that the Holy Spirit is our teacher, there is much knowledge and information that will bypass us. But, if we understand His role as our teacher and humble ourselves to ask for His help, we become the wiser and richer for it.

As the Teacher, the Holy Spirit will do the following 7 things.

1. Teach us all things. John 14:26

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

Because He knows all things, He can teach us all things. More specifically in the context of the disciples and the dialogue Jesus was having with them, He was referring to helping them in ministry matters. However we cannot draw the conclusion that this is all Jesus was referring to. All things means all things. Our advantage is that we can ask the Holy Spirit any question full well knowing that He has the answer. How often do we stop and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us what we don't know? How often do we linger long enough in His presence to tune in to what He wants to say to us?

2. Remind us of what Jesus said. John 14:26

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could recall everything we ever heard Jesus say? The truth is that the Holy Spirit can and it is within His power to remind us. Many times I have had the Holy Spirit remind me of what Jesus said and Bible verses I read. He is our memory advantage. He not only wants to remind us of what Jesus said but also how Jesus behaved and responded to life's circumstances.

3. Guide us into all truth. John 16:13

*"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

Here are some simple facts. Firstly, truth is godly and lies are ungodly. Secondly, the Bible tells us that the devil is a liar and the father of liars (John 8:44). The third simple fact is that the Holy Spirit lives in truth and enjoys the truth. Consequently we will feel the peace of the Holy Spirit when we walk in truth and when we speak truth. On the other hand we will feel the agitation of the Holy Spirit when we speak lies and walk in error. He cannot bless lies and error but He will bless the truth.

The temptation is to tell a lie in order to get out of a sticky situation. Lies don't remove sticky situations they create more sticky situations. Because this is the case, always walk in truth. Always speak the truth, always make decisions that are based in truth and you will never live to regret it.

Another point to make on this subject is that the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth as we read God's word. Jesus tells us in John 17:17 that God's Word is truth. When the Holy Spirit opens up to us the meaning of a text, we often call it "revelation". This can happen with a text we have read many times before, when all of a sudden, the Holy Spirit comes and gives us insight we have never seen before. This is another way that the Holy Spirit can guide us in all truth.

4. Reveal Jesus to us. John 15:26

*"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me"*

It seems that everyone has some sort of perspective of who Jesus is. However many of these perspectives have opposing views not only of who Jesus is but what He taught. The Holy Spirit is the great arbiter. He is the One who reveals the truth of who Jesus is and what He taught. Salvation begins with a primary revelation that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. We can teach it but people don't get it unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to them. Many people have information about Jesus but that in itself does not lead to salvation. It is the Holy Spirit that transforms the information into revelation. It is when people get the revelation about Jesus that opens their hearts to salvation. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

5. Reveal things that God has prepared for us. 1 Corinthians 2:10

*"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God."*

Not only does the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus to us but also the things that God has prepared for those who love Him. These things are not discerned by the natural realm of seeing or hearing but by the Holy Spirit in the spiritual realm.

God has prepared Heaven for us, a place of intimate relationship with Him, a place where we worship Him and communicate with Him. For those who have Holy Spirit revelation this is marvellous. For those who are still living in natural revelation, all they want from God is material things and tangible blessings. Jesus said that God is looking for people who will worship Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:24) This type of worship can only come through the revelation by the Holy Spirit. Once you get it, you become a worshipper not just a singer of Christian songs, but a person who loves to be in God's presence worshipping and connecting with Him.

6. Confirm things that are right and true. Romans 9:1

*"I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,"*

Paul uses an interesting phrase in this verse, "...my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit." The word he uses for conscience (according to Dr Zodhiates) refers to the part of our nature that bears inner witness to one's conduct in a moral sense.

I believe everyone has a conscience that helps us to discern what is right and true. However this conscience has been influenced and moulded by our learnt worldview. When the Holy Spirit is allowed into our lives, He transforms our worldview into a Godview which causes our conscience to adjust accordingly. Consequently, the Holy Spirit adjusts our conscience from being influenced by the prevailing political correctness of the moment to the eternal, unchanging correctness of God's truth.

Incidentally, as has been already said, God's truth and the Bible do not contradict. If you feel you are being lead by the Holy Spirit into a particular direction that contradicts what is revealed in the Bible, it is a sure sign you are not being lead by the Holy Spirit. His truth will always agree with what He has inspired in the Bible.

7. Convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. John 16:8-11

*"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged"*

Conviction of sin is not the Christian's responsibility but the Holy Spirit's. Our responsibility is to declare the gospel, the good news about Jesus and the way of salvation and the teachings of God's word. Only the Holy Spirit can bring conviction of sin, righteousness and judgement.

It is important that we pray for this conviction to come upon our pre Christian friends. Paul uses another description for conviction in 2Corinthians 7:10 as "godly sorrow." This is not to be confused with condemnation that leads to death and destruction but a godly sorrow that leads to repentance and salvation.

Conviction is like the pain sensors in our bodies that warn us to remove ourselves from the situation that is causing the pain. Those sensors were designed by God to protect us and to enable us to live our best life not to stop our enjoyment but to maximise it. We weren't designed to live in sin but in righteousness. Conviction is the Holy Spirit pain sensor in our hearts. Don't ignore Him but become sensitive to Him.

Praise God that the Holy Spirit is our teacher. If you can humble yourself and listen to the Holy Spirit, He will enable you to increase in wisdom, understanding and discernment. God's plan for you is to become a God person. The Holy Spirit is your personal teacher to enable this to happen.

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit – The Intercessor

*“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

*Romans 8:27*

Paul tells us in Romans 8:27 that the Holy Spirit “makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God”. Just as Jesus is praying for us from His position in Heaven (Hebrews 7:25), the Holy Spirit is praying for us from His position here on earth. In this context what we mean by Intercessor is the one who pleads our case. The one who presents our petitions and speaks to God on our behalf.

Here are five ways that the Holy Spirit, the Intercessor outworks in our lives.

### 1. The Holy Spirit, our Prayer Partner.

Whether or not we are aware of it doesn't change the fact that He is constantly praying for us. Because He is already praying for us, it makes sense to make the Holy Spirit our prayer partner. Ask Him what He is praying for and how we can pray with Him. The apostle Jude tells us that one of the ways we can build up our holy faith is to pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20). It seems that if we make the Holy Spirit our prayer partner, something happens to our faith in believing for prayers being answered. There is no question that the Holy Spirit has faith to believe for God to intervene.

### 2. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the Importance of Prayer.

God must see prayer as important if the Holy Spirit is constantly praying for us. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:26 that there are times that we don't know what we should be praying for and how we ought to be praying. That's when the Holy Spirit comes alongside to help us, interceding for us. His prayers are understood by the Father and heard by the Father because the Holy Spirit will only ever ask what is in line with the will of the Father.

### 3. Results of the Holy Spirit's Intercession.

Romans 8:28 is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." This verse, when read in context, refers to what happens when the Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us according to will of the Father. The result is that God the Father does intervene and works things around to bring good into our lives.

This is why we sometimes don't know how to pray. We are rebuking things God intends for us to navigate and we are trying to navigate things God intends for us to rebuke. We don't know but the Holy Spirit knows. He is the Intercessor, the one sent to help us in our prayer life.

### 4. The Assurance we have in Prayer.

The apostle John tells in 1 John 5:14-15 that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and if He hears us, we will have the petitions we have asked of Him. The Holy Spirit, the Intercessor is the one who will help us pray in the will of God.

On many occasions we don't know how to pray but He knows and helps us. This is why it is very important that we connect with the Holy Spirit and make room for Him so that we can maximise His influence in our lives. We are only ever the richer for it.

### 5. The Holy Spirit Helps our Worship.

True worship, like prayer is connecting and communing with God. The Holy, the intercessor, also wants to help us in our worship. Jesus said in John 4:23-24 that the worshippers that the Father is seeking are those who worship with their spirit. This is done through the help of the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians 5:18-19, the apostle Paul tells us that one of the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit is "making melody in your heart to the Lord". This is another way of saying that the Holy Spirit enables us to enter into another dimension of worship.

Too often, I hear Christians say that their prayer life is waning. That is the very time we need to stir up the Holy Spirit within us to manifest Himself as the great Intercessor. Give Him room. Allow Him to lead. Allow Him to stir us up and before you know it, you will be praying in the Spirit and worshipping in the Spirit with a renewed passion and zeal.

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit – The Guarantee

*“Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee”*

*2 Corinthians 5:5*

In 2 Corinthians 5:5, the apostle Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit has been given to us as a guarantee. There are two Greek words that help us to better understand what this means.

### 1. **Guarentee (ARRABON).**

This is the word used in the above passage and also in 2 Corinthians 1:22 and Ephesians 1:14. The word signifies a pledge or in our modern day language, a deposit, a down payment that is paid before hand to confirm that a transaction has been made.

The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that eternal life belongs to us. The transaction has been made, the price has been paid and the guarantee has been deposited in our lives. It is like being given an entry token or an admission-pass to a special place. When the token is presented, it is authenticated and if it proves to be real, admission is given.

Many people will be disappointed on that day because they have been lead to believe that good works, or religious observance, or being a good person or baptism will be accepted as the admission pass. The Bible tells us that only the Holy Spirit will be accepted on that day. Only those who have the Holy Spirit residing within have what is necessary to gain entry into Heaven. Romans 8:9 “...Now if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not His”.

### 2. **Seal (SPHRAGIZIO).**

This word is used in Ephesians 1:13 “.....having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit...”.

First century people had no problem understanding the meaning of this word. Every important document they had ever seen carried a seal. It was a wax mark embossed with a special symbol that represented where the document came from and who owned the document. The seal was a mark of authenticity and ownership.

The Holy Spirit is our mark of authenticity and marks us as God's property. We are God's property, marked by God and on special delivery back to God. The Holy Spirit in the believer's life declares to the spirit realm that we are of limits because we belong to Him.

There is an interesting story in Acts 19:15 where there was an encounter between 7 brothers and the spirit realm. These spirits spoke to these 7 brothers indicating that they knew Paul and respected his authority but they didn't know these men nor respected their authority. What was the difference? Paul had the Holy Spirit but these men did not.

Not only is the Holy Spirit our Guarantee and the Seal that declares we belong to God but He also gives us the inner assurance that we belong to God.

- i. He enables us to say "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6-7. Our best translation for Abba is Daddy. It is not a formal term like Father but an endearing term reserved only for the family.
- ii. He bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16. He places an assurance in our spirit that we are in God's family. It is an inner knowing that we are connected as family.
- iii. He assures us that we are heirs of God. Romans 8:17. The true revelation of being in family is that the inheritance belongs to the children, The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are heirs of God.
- iv. He also assures us that we are joint heirs with Christ. Romans 8:17. To be heirs of God is wonderful enough. To be raised to the level of "joint heirs with Christ", is beyond words. That is the extent to which we are elevated when the Holy Spirit is within us.
- v. He gives us total access to the Father. Ephesians 2:18. "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." There is no blockage. There is no barrier. There is no separating veil. The Holy Spirit is our "All Access" pass. There is no place in Father's House they will be out of bounds for us because the Holy Spirit is our "All Access" pass.

## The Seven Names of the Holy Spirit – The Empowerer

*“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 1:8*

This is the seventh name of the Holy Spirit and the last one we are looking at in this study.

Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. (Acts 1:8) He spoke of the Holy Spirit as the Empowerer. The Greek word used for power is DUNAMIS. This word means supernatural strength and ability. It counteracts our excuse for inability and gives us a mandate for divine enabling. Another way of reading Acts 2:8 is: “You shall be able when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” You shall be able to accomplish everything Jesus desires for your life without excuses. We often feel unable but with the Empowerer we are able to do all that God asks of us. The evangelisation of the world was never meant to be done in our own human strength but in the power and enabling of the Holy Spirit.

Many terms are used in the Bible to describe this empowering. The term we often use is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Other terms that are specifically used by Luke in the Books of Luke/Acts are:

Filled with the Spirit.

Pouring out of the Spirit

Falling of the Spirit

Receiving the Spirit

Coming of the Spirit

All these terms refer to a subsequent experience with the Holy Spirit after and distinct from conversion. At conversion the believer receives the indwelling of the Spirit. This experience subsequent to conversion is the infilling of the Spirit otherwise known as the empowering of the Spirit.

## The two Distinct Experiences with the Holy Spirit.

### 1. The Indwelling of the Spirit. (Transforming your life)

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens for every believer at conversion. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:16 that every believer is the temple of God and the Spirit of God DWELLS within them. He also mentions in Romans 8:9 that the indwelling of the Spirit is the key indicator that a believer belongs to the family of God. The amazing thing that happens to us at conversion is that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us.

### 2. The Infilling of the Spirit. (Transforming your world)

The infilling of the Spirit happens to the believer at a subsequent time after conversion. This event is also called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the filling of the Spirit, the promise of the Spirit, the gift of the Spirit. The indwelling of the Spirit is for the purpose of transforming the believer into the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18) The infilling of the Spirit is to empower the believer to transform their world. Luke tells in Acts 1:8 that when the Holy Spirit comes upon the believers, they shall receive power to be witnesses of Jesus. We will say a lot more about this later on in the study.

## Six Things Jesus said about the Empowering of the Holy Spirit.

1. Luke 24:49. *"Tarry in Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*
2. Acts 1:5. *"Truly John baptised with water but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit..."*
3. Acts 1:8 *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."*
4. Mark 16:17 *"These signs shall follow those who believe. In My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues..."*
5. Luke 11:13. *"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." You don't have to ask to receive the indwelling of the Spirit. It happens automatically at conversion. You have to ask to receive the infilling of the Spirit.*
6. John 7:38. *"...Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living waters."*

## Five New Testament Examples of Subsequence (The Infilling of the Spirit)

### The Disciples

The disciples received New Testament salvation on Resurrection Sunday when Jesus said to receive the Holy Spirit.

*"And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"" John 20:22*

They were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, 50 days later.

*"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance". Acts 2:4.*

### The Samaritan Christians

The Samaritans were saved and baptised under the ministry of Phillip.

*"But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized". Acts 8:12*

They were filled with the Spirit some time later under the ministry of Peter and John. *"Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" Acts 8:17.*

### The Apostle Paul

The apostle Paul was converted on the road to Damascus.

*"So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:6.*

He was filled with the Spirit three days later when prayed for by Ananias.

*"And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 9:17.*

### Cornelius and His Household

Cornelius and his household were saved while Peter was preaching the gospel to them in Caesarea. *"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on*

They were filled with the Spirit fairly well straight after. *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also". Acts 10:44-45.*

*a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.*"Acts 10:34-43

### The Ephesian Believers

The Ephesian believers were converted when Paul preached to them the gospel of Jesus.

*"Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. "* Acts 19:4-5

They were filled with the Holy Spirit after Paul baptised them.

*"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied".* Acts 19:5-6.

## The Empowering of the Holy Spirit Speaking in Tongues and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

*"For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak  
to this people,"*  
Isaiah 28:11

The prophet Isaiah prophesied about speaking in tongues in Isaiah 28:11-12. The apostle Paul quotes Isaiah in 1 Corinthians 14:21 arguing that it was a sign of God's presence. Jesus declared that believers would speak with new tongues in Mark 16:17. Consequently when all the disciples spoke in new tongues on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4), it was not without scriptural reference.

### Five Examples of Believers Speaking in Tongues.

1. The Disciples on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:4)

*"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

2. Cornelius and his household. (Acts 10:46)

*"For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."*

3. The Ephesian Christians. (Acts 19:6)

*"And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."*

4. The Apostle Paul. (1 Corinthians 14:18)

*"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;"*

5. The Corinthian Church. (1 Corinthians 14:39)

*"Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues."*

## What is the Purpose of Speaking in Tongues.

### 1. It is a divine partnership.

On the day of Pentecost the believers spoke in tongues AS the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4) Here we see divine partnership. The believer spoke the words that the Holy Spirit inspired. This is exactly what the Holy Spirit desires to do, to enter into a divine partnership with the believer. This is what His empowerment is all about: the Holy Spirit coming upon us to enable us to do something supernatural. Speaking in tongues is the launching ground for divine partnership. It is the beginning of a life long adventure in divine partnership with the Holy Spirit.

### 2. It is the Scriptural Indicator of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 10:45-47, Peter points to Cornelius and his household speaking in tongues as the evidence that they had been Baptised in the Holy Spirit. When speaking about what had happened with the other apostles, he once again points to them speaking in tongues as the evidence they had been Baptised in the Holy Spirit. There is no other consistent indicator in the New Testament the disciples used as evidence to point to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit other than speaking in tongues.

### 3. In writing to the Corinthian Church, the apostle Paul teaches the following about speaking in tongues.

#### i. There are two kinds of tongues. (1 Corinthians 13:1)

*"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."*

One is an earthly language which is understood by men while the other is a Heavenly language not understood by men. The ability to speak in known tongues is what Paul calls the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10) while the ability to speak in an unknown tongue is a prayer language and what Paul was referring to in 1 Corinthians 14:2 when he said, "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him..."

All believers receive the unknown tongue or in other words, the prayer language, at the Baptism of the Holy Spirit but not necessarily the gift of tongues. The gift of tongues is the enabling of the Spirit to speak in a human language that the speaker has not learnt. Paul says that the manifestation of this gift is a sign to unbelievers that God is present (1 Corinthians 14:22). While the prayer language is not to be used around unbelievers because it is specifically God directed. (1 Corinthians 14:23).

#### ii. Speaking in tongues builds up the believer. It is a key to empowerment especially when the believer is giving out to others. (1 Corinthians 14:4)

*"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."*

#### iii. Paul desired every believer to speak in tongues. (1 Corinthians 14:5)

*"I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is*

*greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification."*

iv. Speaking in tongues means that your spirit is praying. (1 Corinthians 14:14)

*"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful."*

v. Paul tells them how importantly he views speaking in tongues by stating that he speaks in tongues more than any of them.

*"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all."* (1 Corinthians 14:18)

## The Empowering of the Holy Spirit How to become more Spiritually Discerning

*"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"*

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

In 1 Corinthians 2:14 the apostle Paul tells us that "the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him nor can he know them because they are **SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.**"

The natural man operates and discerns life through the natural senses. What is understood by the natural man are things that one can see, hear, smell, taste or touch. The realm of science is observed through the natural realm. However the things of the Spirit are not governed through the natural laws. They are spiritually discerned. This is why a sceptic cannot possibly understand God. The sceptic wants to define God through the five natural laws. If I can see, hear, smell, taste or touch Him then I will believe is the normal recourse for the sceptic. In these cases, what is not understood is the spiritual side of humanity and the things of the Spirit.

It was French philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin that stated: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience". Consequently it is important we become spiritually alive and spiritually aware and spiritually empowered.

### **Four Questions that will help you flick the switch from the natural to the spiritual.**

When you are born again, you become spiritually alive. When you are filled with the Spirit, you become spiritually empowered. You now have Holy Spirit abilities you didn't have before. It is time to learn to walk in the Spirit and be lead by the Holy Spirit. To become more spiritually aware, we need to ask to following four questions.

1. What am I seeing with my spiritual eyes?
2. What am I hearing with my spiritual ears?
3. What am I feeling with my spiritual heart?
4. What am I discerning with my spiritual mind?

By asking these four questions you will become more open to becoming Spiritually aware and operating in the "Gifts of the spirit."

## THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Paul writes to us about how believers can be used by the Holy Spirit by manifesting various gifts through our lives.

These gifts of the Spirit are for the common good of the Church. The use of these gifts will strengthen and build up the Church. They are a supernatural enabling rather than a simple talent one has. In other words, the manifestation of the "word of wisdom" is a supernatural enabling not just the words of a wise person and so on.

What must be noted is that in regards to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, He distributes them as He wills. However the individual must be willing to be used by the Holy Spirit before the Holy Spirit can enable the believer. Once again we see the importance of Divine Partnership. The Holy Spirit does what He needs to do but I have to contribute and do what I need to do.

My prayer is that we may open up ourselves more and more to the Holy Spirit so that He can manifest His gifts through our lives.

### 1. THE WORD OF WISDOM:

Whenever there is a big decision to make, we need the word of wisdom. The word of wisdom is a revelation of a portion of God's infinite wisdom. It will be the solution to the problem at hand.

In Matthew 22:15-22, Jesus was asked, "Is it lawful to pay taxes?" The Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus. Their question was a double edged sword. If He said yes, the people would be upset, the tax was unjust. If He said no, the government would be upset, they could accuse Jesus of being a dissident and trouble maker. The Message of Wisdom was the perfect solution! "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's; to God what is God's."

### Application.

1. It is a message of wisdom, a word that gives wisdom to the problem at hand. The operator of the gift doesn't possess OMNISCIENCE but is given a word that demonstrates the omniscience of God.
2. It may come as an impression, an inner voice, a dream, a vision or a thought when starting out in this gift.
3. Always 'preface' it with "I feel that God may be saying..."
4. Always finish with "how does that witness with your spirit?"

## 2. THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE:

The word of knowledge is a revelation of a portion of God's knowledge that would otherwise be impossible to know. It will reveal something of the past and will serve a divine purpose: to bring joy, edification, exhortation, comfort and repentance.

In Matthew 9:4 the Bible tells us "**Jesus knowing their thoughts.**" Knowing what someone has done or is thinking is a word of knowledge. The result of this was a lesson in forgiveness of sins and healing of the body.

In Acts 5:1-11 Luke tells us the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Peter received a word of knowledge about what they had done with the property. The purpose was to demonstrate the power of God to the Church.

### **Application:**

1. It is a word of knowledge not all knowledge. A person only receives a limited amount of knowledge.
2. It may come as an impression, an inner voice, a dream, a vision, a thought.
3. Don't be too quick to say "**God told me...**" better to 'preface' with "**I feel that God may be saying...**"
4. Don't embarrass people publicly. God isn't a 'blabber mouth'. Sometimes words of knowledge are given so you can **pray** for the person.
5. Always ask the Holy Spirit what to do with the revelation.

## The Empowering of the Holy Spirit The Gifts of the Spirit

*"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"*

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

### 3. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS:

The discerning of spirits is a revelation which discerns what kind of spiritual powers are motivating certain actions and manifestations. It can either be the Holy Spirit, a demonic spirit, or the human spirit. In Acts 8:18-22 we have the story of Simon the sorcerer. Peter saw right through him. Realized his motivation for wanting power wasn't to help people, but to control them. Peter discerned that Simon was "poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

#### **Application:**

1. This is especially useful when casting out spirits. We have authority to cast out a demonic spirit, but cannot cast out human spirits.
2. Religious spirits are rife in the church today. 1 Timothy 4:1-3
3. This gift is not a gift of discernment, but discerning of spirits.
4. If it's a human spirit, correct it and place it on right course.
5. If it's a demonic spirit, cast it out and introduce person to Jesus.
6. If it's the Holy Spirit, listen to Him, obey Him, honour Him.

### 4. GIFT OF FAITH:

The Gift of Faith is a supernatural manifestation which enables the Christian to have perfect confidence that God will bring to pass that which is promised or spoken.

In Acts 3:4-8 we have the story of the healing of the lame man at the Gate Beautiful. Peter had absolute faith that when he took the lame man by the hand, he would immediately walk. There was no intercession or long prayer, but an operation of the gift of faith.

**Application:** There are three different types of faith;

1. **Saving faith** – Acts 16:31 Faith that enables us to believe Jesus is the way of salvation. We are justified by faith. Romans 5:1
2. **God 'can' faith** – Belief that God can do anything. Faith in the promises He has made to us. This faith grows as we experience more of God in our lives. Luke 17:5, Matthew 14:31, Matthew 8:10, Romans 10:17 and 12:3.
3. **God 'will' faith** – This is the gift of faith. There is no doubting, but a perfect confidence that God will do it. 1 Corinthians 12:9 Joshua 10:12-13 "the sun stood still."
4. **Problems occur when believers try to make every event a manifestation of the gift of faith.** The Hebrew boys in Daniel 3:17-18 had this worked out beautifully "God can deliver us but even if He doesn't, we still not bow."
5. The gift of faith doesn't come if we remove doubt. This **gift can't be manufactured.** It is as the Holy Spirit wills. However if you remove all doubt from your heart, and earnestly desire what you're hoping for, you shall be more likely to operate in this gift than those full of doubt.

**Mark 11:12-14** The cursing of the fig tree is a manifestation of this gift.

**Mark 11:20-24** A lesson from Jesus on how to operate in "God will" faith, or the gift of faith.

## 5. GIFTS OF HEALING

The gifts of healing are a divine enabling to supernaturally bring healing to those who are sick. Sometimes the healing is instantaneous, and sometimes it takes a little time. It will however, be quicker than the normal healing process.

The ministry of Jesus was earmarked with this gift.

1. Healing of the nobleman's son. John 4: 46-54
2. Peter's mother in law healed. Matthew 8:14-17
3. Leper healed. Mark 1:40-45
4. Paralytic healed. Matthew 9:1-8
5. Lame man healed. John 5:1-47

From the time of Christ till today, healing is associated with Christianity. Mark 16: 15-20.

## Application:

1. We work with God to heal. God chooses to use us to heal others.
2. The Christian is used by God as a conductor of His power.
3. Difference between healing and miracles;
  - (i) **Healing** is God speeding up a process that would normally occur.
  - (ii) **A miracle** is God doing something that no amount of time would accomplish.
4. There are many means God has given us to receive healing;
  - (i) **The atonement; Matthew 8:17** *"He himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses." so that we need not bear them.*
  - (ii) **The laying on of hands by believers; Mark 16:17, 18** *"these signs will follow them that believe, they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."*
  - (iii) **The anointing with oil by the elders; James 5:14-15** *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick for the Lord will raise him up."*
  - (iv) **The confession of sins one to another; James 5:16** *"Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed."*
  - (v) **The gifts of healings;** This is one of the nine gifts of the spirit that operate as the Holy Spirit wills. **1 Corinthians 12:9** *"to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit."*
  - (vi) **The covenant name of God – YHWH ROPHE; Exodus 15:26** *"I am the Lord who heals you."*
  - (vii) **Receiving God's word; Psalm 107:20** *"He sent His word and healed them."*
  - (viii) **Casting out of demons;**

Matthew 9:32-33	<b>dumb spirit</b>
Mark 9:25	<b>deaf spirit</b>
Matthew 12:2	<b>blind spirit</b>
Matthew 17:15-18	<b>insane spirit</b>
Luke 11:11-12	<b>spirit of infirmity</b>
  - (ix) **The children's right (bread);**  
Matthew 15:26

## The Empowering of the Holy Spirit The Gifts of the Spirit (Continued)

### 6. WORKING OF MIRACLES

The working of miracles is a divine intervention in the normal course of nature to accomplish something that could not have been accomplished by natural means. Healing is God speeding up the process which would have naturally happened. Miracles are divine interventions in what would not naturally occur.

The ministry of Jesus was earmarked by miracles;

- a. Turning water into wine. John 2:1-11
- b. Feeding the 5,000. John 6:1-14
- c. Raising a boy from the dead. Matthew 8:23-27
- d. Jesus and Peter walking on water. Matthew 14:22-29.

#### **Application:**

- (i) Healings are restricted to the physical body, whilst miracles may operate in any realm; physical, spiritual, material.
- (ii) Healing is God speeding up a natural process, whilst a miracle is God doing the impossible.
- (iii) We cannot manufacture a miracle. It is a God thing.
- (iv) If God gives you a gift of faith the size of a mustard seed, it is enough to move a mountain. One seed of God faith can do it. No amount of personal faith can move a mountain.

### 7. PROPHECY:

Prophecy is a divinely inspired utterance that brings about edification and comfort. Prophecy involves speaking both the mind and council of God. It can declare what will happen in the future but doesn't necessarily have to be predictive nature in order to be prophecy. There are many illustrations of prophecy in the Bible:

- (i) Luke 1:46-55: The prophecy of Mary.
- (ii) Luke 1:67-79: The prophecy of Zacharias.
- (iii) Luke 2:29-32: The prophecy of Simeon.

(iv) Acts 21:9: Philip's four daughters prophesied.

(v) 1 Timothy 1:18: It was the practice of the church to prophecy over people.

### Application:

1. Prophecy is to be greatly valued and greatly desired. 1 Corinthians 14:1,39
2. Prophecy is for edification, exhortation, and comfort;
  - (i) **Edification** = the act of building, putting in the foundation, adding strength.
  - (ii) **Exhortation** = an urging to pursue a beneficial course, encouragement, consolation
  - (iii) **Comfort** = speaking to someone with a great degree of tenderness and compassion.
3. Prophecy is a sign of God's Spirit being poured out;
  - (i) Acts 2: 18 "on my menservants and my maidservants I will pour out my Spirit they shall prophesy"
  - (ii) 1 Corinthians 14:31 **all Christians can prophesy.**
4. Difference between a prophet and gift of prophecy;
  - (i) A prophet is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. They have a leadership gift. They have a passion for the entire church.
  - (ii) Prophecy is as the Holy Spirit inspires. Any Christian can operate in this even without leadership overseeing. 1 Corinthians 14:31
5. Difference between an Old Testament (OT) prophet and a New Testament (NT) prophet:
  - (i) **OT** they spoke on God's behalf to **warn or pronounce judgment** to bring correction or direction. OT prophet was declaring things to come.
  - (ii) **NT** they may do all the above, but the greatest message they have is the **message of GRACE** and pointing to Jesus. Not about things to come but what Jesus has done.
  - (iii) **OT** prophets put fear in the hearts of people. They usually spoke when people were out of order. They pointed people to the law.
  - (iv) **NT** prophets put faith in the hearts of people. They speak to edify, encourage and comfort people in their God ordained course. Jesus will always be glorified. **A NT prophet will always point to Jesus and leave people seeing the positive benefits of obeying God.**

### 8. DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES

The gift of different kinds of tongues is an inspired utterance given in a language that the Christian hasn't learnt. It is spontaneous and under Holy Spirit direction.

#### Illustration:

- (i) **Acts 2:4-11:** The Day of Pentecost. The disciples spoke in languages they had not learnt.

- (ii) **1 Corinthians 14:** The Corinthian church used the gift frequently, but needed to have teaching to get it right.

### **Application:**

1. There is a difference between the tongues one receives at baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues.
  - (i) One is better expressed as **GLOSSOLALIA**. Baptism in the Holy Spirit tongues, that no one understands
  - (ii) The other is better expressed as **XENOLALIA**. Gift of tongues that is understood, eg. Day of Pentecost Acts 2:8

### **2. Guidelines for tongues (GLOSSOLALIA);**

1 Corinthians 14:2: He who speaks in a tongue doesn't speak to men but to God.

- (i) 1 Corinthians 14:2: No one understands him.
- (ii) 1 Corinthians 14:2: In the spirit he speaks mysteries.
- (iii) 1 Corinthians 14:4: It is for personal edification.
- (iv) 1 Corinthians 14:5: It is important for every Christian to speak in tongues.
- (v) 1 Corinthians 14:6: It is of no profit for others.
- (vi) 1 Corinthians 14:14: Praying in tongues allows your spirit to pray.
- (vii) 1 Corinthians 14:14: Praying in tongues is without personal understanding.
- (viii) 1 Corinthians 14:23: Praying in tongues before unbelievers will cause them to say "are they out of their minds?"
- (ix) 1 Corinthians 14:39 Do not forbid people to speak in tongues.

### **3. Guidelines for the gift of tongues (XENOLALIA);**

- (i) 1 Corinthians 12:11: The gift of tongues is directed by the Holy Spirit. It is as He wills.
- (ii) 1 Corinthians 12:30: Not everyone has the gift of tongues.
- (iii) 1 Corinthians 14:5: If tongues is interpreted it is of the same value as prophecy.
- (iv) 1 Corinthians 14:13: Pray for the gift of interpretation.
- (v) 1 Corinthians 14:21: God will speak to people through the gift of tongues.
- (vi) 1 Corinthians 14:22: Tongues are a sign to unbelievers.
- (vii) 1 Corinthians 14: 26-27: If tongues are used in church, it must be interpreted, and there can only be two or three manifestations.
- (viii) 1 Corinthians 14:28: If no one is able to interpret, the gift of tongues should not be used.

## 9. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:

**Definition:** The interpretation of tongues follows on directly after a manifestation of the gift of tongues. It is the interpretation of that message in the language of the hearer. The purpose is to edify the church.

**Application:**

As above. The interpretation should always fall into the same category as prophecy. It accomplishes the same thing prophecy accomplishes. It is meant to edify, exhort and comfort.

---

## Conclusion

---

The greatest thing any Christian can do is to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit and to be lead and directed by Him. The apostle Paul actually said that this was the key factor that defined a child of God. (Romans 8:14)

One of the greatest prayers we can pray is a prayer that causes us to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and invite Him to become:

- Our Helper.
- Our Regenerator.
- Our Sanctifier.
- Our Teacher.
- Our Intercessor.
- Our Guarantee.
- Our Empowerer.

He is your **ADVANTAGE FACTOR**. He won't truly be your advantage factor if He is relegated to a doctrinal statement or creed. He becomes your advantage when you are aware of what He is able to do and invite Him to do life with you.

May I encourage you everyday to pray this prayer?

"Holy Spirit I welcome you to speak to me today. I welcome your presence that gives me power, help, enlightenment and direction. I acknowledge that you are my advantage factor. Lead me today and enable me to fulfill my God purpose. I will allow your fruit to be produced in my life and I'm open to allow your gifts to manifest through my life. Amen."

Another prayer you can pray is: "Good Morning Holy Spirit. I am ready to be lead by you today."

Basically, the key is to become aware of the Holy Spirit's presence. Once He becomes your reality and not just a theological belief, your life will be forever changed and the because of that, your world be also be forever changed.

My prayer for your life is that the Holy Spirit may truly become YOUR ADVANTAGE FACTOR.

Lots of love and blessings

*John Iuliano.*