

The Holy Spirit:
Your Friend And Guide

Neville Salvetti

The Holy Spirit
Your Friend And Guide

Neville Salvetti

2017

Copyright 2017 by Neville Salvetti

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review or scholarly journal.

First Printing: 2017

ISBN 978-1-365-71956-1

Neville Salvetti

150 Forest Rd

Miranda, New South Wales, Australia, 2228

www.nevillesalvetti.com

The Holy Spirit's presence is in you so that you have an unbreakable link to Him so you can talk to Him and listen to Him any time you desire too.

The only way this link can be broken is for Satan to guide you to have a wrong attitude or belief that will stop you believing this.

Satan has convinced most Christians they cannot hear The Holy Spirit in this way which is why the denominational church is in such a mess as they believe they cannot hear The Holy Spirit to be clearly guided by Him.

Table of Contents

Neville Salvetti	i
Preface	i
Introduction.....	3
The Holy Spirit Your Friend and Companion	3
God is a God of Perfect Love and meets all your needs.....	4
The Holy Spirit in The Old Testament.....	5
The Holy Spirit and Authority	7
The Servant Spirit	9
The Character of The Holy Spirit.....	11
Admonitions in respect of The Holy Spirit.....	12
Other activities of he Holy Spirit.....	13
Receiving The Spirit	14
Is He a person?.....	14
Overview	14
The Promise of Jesus.....	15
How do you receive the Holy Spirit?.....	16
When do we receive The Holy Spirit and how often do we do this?.....	17
What do you need to do to receive The Holy Spirit.....	18
Who is He given too?	18
Why is He given to the followers of Jesus?.....	18
How is He received by a believer?	21

Jesus giving the disciples The Holy Spirit.....	22
There are two questions this verse raises.....	22
The timing of the event.....	22
Why did He breathe on them?.....	23
Do you get The Holy Spirit in stages?	24
The Holy Spirit in the New Testament.....	24
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.....	30
The sequence of events was as follows:	31
What actually is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit	34
Two separate events	36
In Summary.....	37
The example of Jesus	38
Attitude to the Receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit.....	38
So what attitude are you to have?	39
Some requirements to receive the Baptism of he Holy Spirit (from Acts).....	40
What does Eph 5:8 mean?.....	41
Does the filling of the Holy Spirit decrease as the day grows older?41	
Tongues	42
Now to the text	44
Praying in tongues is usually not for a church situation	45
Tongues are used to praise God.....	46
Problems with Baptism and the gift of Tongues.	47
Signs and Wonders	48
The Holy Spirit as a Teacher.....	50

He reveals The Kingdom of God.....	53
The Holy Spirit and Teaching (Jn 16:13, Job 32:8)	54
Why is important to study what The Holy Spirit does in the life of a follower of Jesus?.....	55
Why do you need the Holy Spirit?.....	57
The Holy Spirit - Is He personal?	58
The Holy Spirit and the Citizen of the Kingdom of God.....	60
'Sons of God'.....	60
His Work in a Believer	61
He fellowships with us (He relates intimately with us)	65
He guides and teaches you.....	66
He Prays for You	67
The Holy Spirit is your comforter	67
Witnesses to God and Jesus.....	68
He assists in preaching the Ministry of The Kingdom.....	69
John 16:8-11 He convicts people of sin	70
His work in nonbeliever or backsliding Christian.....	70
What is your role in evangelism?	71
How are we to love The Holy Spirit?.....	71
How are you to show this love?.....	72
The way of the person who expresses God's Love to The Holy Spirit.....	73
In Conclusion.....	74
The Holy Spirit Authorises you and empowers you	75

Pentecost - The Anointing for Ministry	76
Now to the passage itself dealing with Pentecost. But first a comment.....	79
The only criteria for women to minister are:	80
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	84
The gifts of The Holy Spirit are given for our good {benefit}:.....	86
The Various Gifts	88
Jesus may not heal immediately.....	90
Why have the gifts been given?	93
How does one receive a gift of The Holy Spirit?	94
Note the conditions:	96
1 Corinthians Ch 12	97
Introduction.....	97
Turning to this passage	99
A basic comment on the gifts is as follows:.....	102
Is it His Will to heal?.....	103
Purposes for healing.....	104
Problems with healing.....	105
Empowerment and guidance of The Holy Ghost.....	108
Unity in the Body of Christ.....	109
Are the gifts for today?.....	111
Should we desire more gifts than we have?	115
How do you know what Gifts you have?	117
Can the gifts of The Holy Spirit be taken away?	117
Testing for the Gifts.....	118

Should we desire the gifts, especially prophesy?	119
Should we desire Prophecy above all?.....	120
Prophecy Types.....	121
Four types of prophecy given to people:	121
The Fruit of the Holy Spirit	122
What type of love are you to show?	125
Love (1 Cor. 13:4-7)	125
Joy	127
Peace (Is 26:3).....	128
Long-suffering (Patience in suffering 1 Cor 15:58).....	128
Gentleness (kindness out of compassion and love)	129
Goodness	130
Faith.....	130
Meekness (Humility).....	131
Temperance (self-controlled in all things).....	132
God illustrates the Fruit of The Spirit in the way He relates to us.	134
Love.....	134
Joy	134
Peace.....	134
Long-suffering.....	135
Gentleness.....	135
Goodness	135
Faith.....	136

Meekness.....	136
Temperance	136
God is our example to follow and we should have these attitudes to all:.....	137
Attitudes to avoid.....	138
God's Guidance.....	139
Ignoring of the Holy Spirit.....	139
Prophecy, The Word of Knowledge, The Word of Wisdom	140
How to Hear God and His Requirements:.....	144
Five Ways God Speaks:	144
There are at least five Other Ways God Speaks to people	144
Prophet/Prophetess	145
Guidelines for Prophecy.....	147
What is the purpose of Prophecy.....	147
Why then do we need prophets?	147
Guidelines for asking prophecy for another or yourself:.....	148
Problems with hearing The Holy Ghost.....	149
Prophecy given to a non-Christian.....	151
Given to churches.....	151
Timing issues.....	152
As for lifestyle of a prophet/prophetess	152
When not to consult prophets and prophetesses.....	152
When to consult a prophet or prophetess:	153
Does a prophet or prophetess need to know what the person is asking?	154

Attitudes to living and prophecy	154
There are various principles these verses:.....	155
Why then do we have prophecy?.....	156
Remember the perspective of God in regard to Prophecy	158
Warning	158
Prophecy and Suffering.....	159
So how are you to approach prophecy?	160
Dealing Prophecy if it affects others adversely	161
Dealing with desires resulting from Prophecy.....	163
How to Hear he Holy Spirit	163
Preparatory Prayer	164
How You Hear Him.....	164
The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts.....	167
Blasphemy of The Holy Spirit.....	175
Blaspheming God.....	178
Blasphemy by the church.....	179
Why you need to be led by The Holy Spirit	180
Conclusion	181

Preface

The Holy Spirit is a person so should be related to personally and not treated as an it or a thing or someone or something that is impersonal and cannot be related too.

His presence is in you and He prays for you when you do not know what to pray. He is always there waiting to guide, teach and help you live in a way The Father and Jesus desire you to live.

You really need to know how to properly relate to Him.

One of the purposes of this book is to give you an appreciation of The Holy Spirit so that you can relate to Him properly.

Introduction

The Holy Spirit Your Friend and Companion

If The Holy Spirit was to suddenly appear before you.

What would you do?

What would you say to Him?

Would you greet Him as a friend or as a stranger?

Would you be embarrassed because of your lifestyle?

Or would be joyful to meet one who is a constant friend to you? With whom you can always fellowship with?

One, who guides you, empowers you and strengthens you in whatever you do or in whatever happens to you.

The Holy Spirit is the one who is your constant companion. Who walks with you in all that happens to you so that you will be guided and helped to serve Jesus and live according to His principles. His presence is in and around you so that He is always with you to help you at any time.

He is the one God has given you to guide you to live in a way that will mature you and transform you into the image of the character Jesus Has as well as prepare you to live with The Father and Jesus in heaven.

What would you do if The Holy Spirit, who has done so much for you, suddenly appeared before you? Would you be ashamed? Or would you greet Him as a friend.

God is a God of Perfect Love and meets all your needs.

One of your needs is to know what God requires of you. As this is a spiritual matter it requires a correct spiritual interpretation.

You have been given The Holy Spirit so you can know what God requires of you so that you can do His Will for you (Job32:8, Jn 16:13). The Holy Spirit is the author of The Bible and God could not have done more for you to help you in learning what He desires you to do by giving you the author of The Bible to be your assistant in your Christian life.

It is His personal instruction and help as well as the spiritual knowledge He gives you and the interaction He has with you that separates you from all other life forms in creation which is also why we cannot be described in any way as being descended from animals.

Ignore The Holy Spirit and you will not live at the spiritual level God desires you to live at and may even end up in hell.

The promise of God is that The Holy Spirit will always teach what you need to know. You must desire this information though (Jn 7:17,16:13).

The Holy Spirit is not an 'it, power, force or influence'. He is the Third Person of The Trinity. He is God and a person.

1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

The Holy Spirit in The Old Testament

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Our understanding of the things of God comes from The Holy Spirit in you if you are willing to listen to His teaching.

When The Holy Spirit was on people they were empowered to do things for God. This is the same as The Baptism of The Holy Spirit in the New Testament where the effects of the Baptism are permanent while in The Old Testament the anointing may have only been for a period. Anointings in The New Testament are cumulative (the build on the previous gifting and anointing) where in the Old Testament they were not.

(Isa 10:6) And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

(1Sa 16:13) Anointing for service to God

(1Sa 16:14) They could lose the anointing of The Spirit through Sin

(2Sa 23:2) The Holy Spirit told people what to say

(1Ki 18:12) He directed people where to go

(Isa 40:7) The Spirit carries out judgment

(Isa 40:13) No one can guide or teach The Spirit (as He is God)

(Isa 59:19) He is with you in battle against the enemy (Satan)

(Isa 61:1) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

(Isa 63:14) He leads the people of God in a way that will bring God Glory.

(Eze 37:1) Gives prophetic visions

(Mic 3:8) Empowers His prophets to call His people to repentance

(Gen 1:2) He was there when the earth was created and took part in it

(Gen 41:38) Spirit led people will stand out from the crowd

(Exo 31:3) He fills us with wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to do the work of Jesus

(1Sa 10:10) Guides people to prophesy for Him

(1Sa 11:6) Convicts people of their sin

He makes us and keeps us alive:

(Job 27:3) All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

(Job 33:4) The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

God Creates (Gen 1:1) and man can only build on what He has created. God gives life to His creation (Gen 2:7) which is why the spirit/soul and the fleshly body can be treated separately by God so He can restore the spirit while it inhabits this corrupted body of flesh and later in heaven give you a pure (resurrection) body to replace this corrupted body of flesh.

It can be seen that the work of The Holy Spirit in The New Testament is a carrying on of His work in The Old Testament with one difference. His presence is now permanently in the people of God so there is no diminishing or reduction in His work as it is permanent, building on the past life of the person unlike the Old Testament where He may only have resided on a person for a period then left.

The Holy Spirit and Authority

Jesus is King. The Holy Spirit is His representative as well as God. He quietly and gently suggests things to you but in reality they are a command as it is God telling you something.

The importance of The Holy Spirit can be seen when you look at the purposes of God and Satan. God tries to develop you into what you can become as a citizen of His Kingdom. Satan tries to control you or destroy you. It is how you listen to The Holy Spirit that determines whether or not Satan succeeds in his plans for you.

Satan tries to centralise power and control it himself to remove the Holy Spirit in your life. This is because The Holy Spirit is God's guide and empowerer on earth. If Satan can remove this role of The

Holy Spirit in a person's life then he can make them ineffective for the purposes of The Kingdom of God and setup his own guidance system with his values (which is the reason they are not doing the work of Jesus as they should be).

The structure of The Kingdom is flat. God is on top (the Holy Spirit's presence in us ensures we make direct contact with God without the need for an intermediary) and we are directly under Him. This structure ensures all are equal in The Kingdom and are in a position to help another. It also means no one has spiritual authority over another as there is no one person between God and you in this structure (1 Pet 2:25).

As The Holy Spirit is over us we need to be led by Him in all we do or we will break this command structure by placing our desire in the road of what God desires us to do. This rebellion is idolatry and sin if willfully done.

God does not expect you to do what you do not know but expects you to study The Bible so He can show you more of what you are to do as a citizen of His Kingdom.

The church that rejects the personal guidance and empowerment of The Holy Spirit as not being relevant these days becomes worldly. No longer demonstrating The Kingdom of God and using more and more of the World's methods in the way it does things. This is where much of the Western church is today. This is why it looks more and more to successful worldly business practice rather than

to the practices and guidelines of The Bible (as interpreted by The Holy Spirit).

When The Spirit is ignored or rejected man must look to reason which is why the reasoned methods of the world are so attractive to Churches today because they work in the world. Unfortunately churches forget they are not of this world but only temporary residents in it.

The Servant Spirit

The Holy Spirit is your example of how to serve God. He humbles himself to serve God and you and is your example of how people in authority should minister.

He never promotes Himself but serves quietly and unnoticed. Always pointing to Jesus, giving Him the Glory for whatever happens.

He serves out of His Love for you and the way He deals with people illustrates His Character (Gal 5:22-23 the Fruit of the Spirit) which is also the Character of The Father and Jesus.

He fellowships with you; encouraging, empowering and strengthening you.

He guides and mentors you quietly and gently and never overrides your free will.

He will tell you all you need to know about anything (Duet 29:29) and does this humbly. Freely giving you the knowledge you need without requiring anything from you except for you to use it for the promotion of Jesus and The Kingdom of God (Jn. 16:13 and the benefit of others).

This knowledge is truly a free gift if God requiring nothing from us in return but if we appreciate it we will obey what we are told.

He does not force anything on you but patiently waits until you are ready to accept what He needs to tell you. He quietly and gently prompts you about any sin you have until you either repent or reject His advice.

Guilt, shame and condemnation for a sin do not come from Him as these were dealt with by Jesus at Calvary and are place on you by demons. He convicts you and does not place these on you.

He desires fellowship with you because He joys in the relationship He has with the 'sons of God' that joyfully follow His advice and guidance.

He will be with you now and in eternity, forever! So it is advisable to get to know Him now rather than after you die so that you do not miss out on all God has for you to do and enjoy together with Him. here on earth and later in heaven.

Life on earth is a preparation for heaven and The Holy Spirit is there to help you in this preparation for The Kingdom of God (if you let Him).

So appreciate the humility and the gentleness of The Holy Spirit. How He quietly works for your good. His only reward being the Glory Jesus will get from your service of Him as well as the Joy

He, The Father, Jesus have in seeing you mature into the person they desire you to be.

Never ignore or abuse the relationship you have With The Holy Spirit and He will be able guide you and empower you to do great things for God and The Kingdom of God. Not great things in the way the world sees it but as God sees these things.

The Character of The Holy Spirit

He is God and part of the Trinity (1 Jn 5:7) Therefore He has all the attributes and character of God and is equal to The Father and Jesus in everything. The difference between them is solely because of the different roles they have chosen to assume. The Holy Spirit has chosen to be a servant to The Father, Jesus and us, in a way that brings no glory to himself, but instead brings Glory to Jesus and The Father and helps us to live and mature in the way God desires us too. In the same way as Jesus did not bring Glory to Himself but to The Father and did all He could for us in life and death.

He is called the Spirit of Holiness (Rom 1:4). His presence in or around something sets it apart as being sacred to God. It is interesting to note that in the New Testament no earthly places are declared to be Holy to God. Only people in whom the Holy Spirit dwells are Holy to God - His sacred (special) possession.

Objects and places dedicated to God are declared sanctified by man and not God. Only God can declare something as Holy. Man can only declare something as sanctified (set apart for God) and perhaps God may hear Him and make it Holy to Him.

However, things can be given to Jesus to be Lord of so that are parts of His Kingdom and come under His protection for His use. Whatever Jesus is Lord of Satan cannot use.

He is the Spirit of Grace (Heb 10:29). He is the one who gives us all we need spiritually to minister. The Father provides our needs (physical side), but The Holy Spirit administers the, gifts etc., (the spiritual side) we need to minister and He encourages and helps us in ministering.

He is The Spirit of Glory (1 Pet 4:14). He is the Spirit that shows the Glory of God to all. He rested on Jesus and will rest on us in our life as we uphold Jesus. His presence refreshes and strengthens us to endure trials.

As He ministers to us and through us (2 cor 3:8) it also brings Him Glory because of what He does in and through us. This is unintentional as He seeks only to lift up Jesus and in doing so is Glorified Himself. In the same way we have reflected glory by our being used by Jesus. Jesus also receives Glory as people see Him in us through what we have been used and empowered to do for Jesus by The Holy Spirit.

He is The Spirit of Truth (1 Jn 5:6). All truth that we need to know (Duet 29:29) is revealed to us by The Holy Spirit (Job 32:8). He is the one that will keep us from error if we listen to him (Jn 7:17, 16:13).

Everything He does for us is for our best a result of His Perfect Love for us. Love being His basic character because it is a basic characteristic of God..

Admonitions in respect of The Holy Spirit

You are to use the Sword of The Spirit, which is the Bible, as it contains all the truths you need to do the work of God (Eph 6:17).

You are to use your reason as guided by The Holy Spirit to understand the things of God and not to add to them (Job 32:8).

You are to walk in the Spirit (be guided by Him) because then you will be doing what God desires you to do (Gal 5:25 26, 1 Pet 4:6) and you will no longer be condemned by The Law (Rom 8:1,2) and will fulfill the righteousness (correct way of living) The Law requires (Rom 8:4).

Because The Holy Spirit is in you (Rom 8:10,11) and helps you put to death (self-discipline) the flesh (Rom 8:13). You have freedom in The Spirit (2 Cor 3:17) to do the spiritual works of God and will not fulfill the lusts (carnal desires) of the flesh (Gal 5:16,17).

You are to wholeheartedly love others with a pure heart (1 Per 1:22) in other words having no evil intentions towards them.

You are to be continually filled with The Spirit (His presence, Eph 5:18) through faith and praying as guided by Him (Jude 10). This infilling of the soul occurs as you give more and more of your self to Jesus to be Lord of. Deliverance in some area of your life may be needed for this.

We are to pray always guided by Holy Spirit. Then you will know we are praying in accordance with the Will of God and your prayers will be answered (Eph 6:18) and your faith encouraged.

The guidance of The Holy Spirit is also required when commanding in the Name of Jesus so you know it will be done as it is the Will of Jesus.

Do not; grieve (Break the heart of) The Holy Spirit, cause Him to feel sorrow (Eph 4:30) or quench (Suppress or crush completely) the Holy Spirit in you (1 The 5:19)

Other activities of he Holy Spirit

In heaven The Holy Spirit and The Body work as one (Rev 22:17).

Jesus offered His Blood through The Holy Spirit (Heb 9:14)

He showed Jesus was just and righteous before God (1 Tim 3:16)

He raised Jesus to life (1 Pet 3:18).

Receiving The Spirit

Is He a person?

You cannot receive something or be guided by someone who does not exist so the first question is whether or not He is a person and separate to Jesus.

Jesus said:

Jn 16:13 (ERV) But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words. He will speak only what he hears and will tell you what will happen in the future.

From this we can see that Jesus said:

The Holy Spirit is a person

The Holy Spirit is separate to Jesus

The Holy Spirit can interact with you or He could not guide, teach or lead you.

The Holy Spirit is a person you can relate to and be taught and led by Him or Jesus lied or was deceived, which means you cannot believe anything Jesus said as He may have gotten it wrong.

Overview

The Holy Spirit is given to a person when they become a whole-hearted follower of Jesus. He is given as a sign that the person belongs to Jesus and His purpose is to guide and teach the person to be a good follower of Jesus and to know what Jesus requires of them to be His follower and a responsible Citizen of The Kingdom of God.

He is only removed when the person Blasphemes the Holy Spirit which results from ignoring The Holy Spirit and bringing Him into disrepute through derogatory language question who He is. Even though the sin may be against The Father or Jesus, The Spirit is the one ignored and brought into disrepute through not being declared worthy of not being listened too as He warned you and tried to stop you sinning against them.

The Promise of Jesus

To deny being able to be guided by or hear a Personal Holy Spirit is to call Jesus a liar and to deny the Love and Personality of The Holy Spirit. In a sense it is a type of blaspheming The Holy Spirit. It also means you need to use reason to do the work of God and God said we cannot reason out His Ways as they are so far above anything we can reason or work out (Is 55:8-9).

Jn 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Jn 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(Isaiah 55:8-9) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

If a person can hear The Holy Spirit clearly then they do not need legalistic, denominationalistic, churchistic or use any other man made guidelines to guide them (except for organizational or other legal requirements of man). The Holy Spirit will guide you personally and tell you what Jesus requires and not what man has reasoned out as being The Will of God for you.

Jesus promised The Holy Spirit would guide you into all truth, not just spiritual truth and would tell you what you needed to know

about the future as well as the present and not what you think you needed to know (Duet 29:29).

How do you receive the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a gift from The Father (Luke 11:13) to mark us as His. But who is anointed (authorised and empowered for ministry) by The Holy Spirit is decided by Jesus (Jn 1:33). When we turn to Jesus to be our Lord (and thus saviour, redeemer) The Holy Spirit fills our spirit and drives out demons that were there (Rom. 8:16-17). The continual filling by The Holy Spirit refers to our soul. The Holy Spirit replaces the demons that are cast out of our soul through the deliverance ministry or repentance. This cleansing of the Soul is to do with the desire Holiness and the desire of Jesus to be Lord rather than authority or 'power'.

When do we receive The Holy Spirit and how often do we do this?

We receive The Holy Spirit when we become a Christian (Rom 8:17). The next stage is anointing through the Holy Spirit for purposes of ministry. At various times we are filled with the Holy Spirit for one of four reasons:

Refreshment and quickening of our spirit

For healing

To take the place of demons that have been cast out

To anoint us for ministry.

As we seek holiness and a deeper relationship with God (a result of seeking holiness), our soul and mind are purified and as we work at our side of the salvation partnership through faithful obedience to

Jesus, The Holy Spirit can take over more of us and in that sense fill us more. But this is a gradual thing and not normally noticed, unlike the four events above when the presence of The Holy Spirit is felt to some degree.

We do not need to be filled to be anointed by The Holy Spirit. The filling replaces demons and purifies our soul more. The anointing is for promotion (authority) and is based on maturity and service and not how much we are filled by The Spirit.

By all means seek the Baptism of The Holy Spirit and associated giftings but first count the cost of obtaining them and ask yourself:

"Am I willing to pay it"! "Am I willing to do the ministry that will be associated with it for which it has been given to me?"

What do you need to do to receive The Holy Spirit

You need to Love Jesus and follow His teachings

Jn 14:15-17 If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Who is He given too?

He is given to the followers of Jesus by The Father (Jn 14:17) at the direction of Jesus (Jn 15:26).

Why is He given to the followers of Jesus?

To mark them as belonging to Jesus and The Kingdom of God (2 Cor 1:22)

To anoint (set apart and empower) people for ministry (Luke 4:19)

To guide them into all truth, reveal the Will of God and guide them in the things they are to do for The Kingdom of God (Jn 16:13).

To teach them to be a good steward of their gifts and other things they have been given stewardship of.

To testify of Jesus (Jn 15:26) and His Kingdom

To guide them to serve in the Kingdom of God (Jn 3:5)

To guide them in the true worship of The Father (Jn 4:2)

To teach them how to hear The Holy Spirit

To guide them in spiritual warfare and deliverance (Mat 12:28)

The above teaching was exemplified in Acts, which is really a description of the working of the Holy Spirit in the early church and is the model of how The Holy Spirit should work in The Body of Christ today.

Jesus taught the disciples what The Holy Spirit would do when He came to replace Him. After Jesus died, the Holy Spirit came and carried out what Jesus said The Holy Spirit would do. (Jn 17:39).

Most of the people in heaven got there without knowledge of theology. They knew how God worked and what He required of them and obeyed Him in whatever He asked them to do. They saw God work and were encouraged in their faith. Theology is knowledge only and is not relevant to the Christian life, unless it is applied. There are many theologians in hell as there are also ministers and pastors. It is only as theology is applied is there any benefit of it to the Christian life.

The devil knows theology better than the best theologian but he does not apply it.

Theology is reasonings (words) about God and His things. Christian living is the practical application of what God reveals of Himself to you. You do not need to be a theologian to live as a Christian. Theology may give you an understanding of things but without application it becomes its own God and is of no benefit to anyone.

It is to be noticed that in a church and society where theology is emphasized The Gospel usually spreads much more slowly than where theology is absent or applied correctly. This is because faith is usually more reasoned and applied less where theology rules. In these theologically led societies The Holy Spirit also has a less important role and often His manifestation is missing, as is the outworking of His power and ministry through gifts and miracles so that The Kingdom is not demonstrated to those around. It is almost

as if theologians are afraid to give up reason and be guided by The Holy Spirit into uncertainty of purpose and life as they see it.

Another comment of Jesus is that Jesus describes The Holy Spirit as a 'comforter'. The one who walks along side us through things we suffer, helping us relate to God, ourselves and others if we let Him showing us how to correctly deal with the situation. The intimacy of this relationship is what Jesus hinted at when using the word 'comforter'. The Holy Spirit goes through our trials with us and knows our innermost thought. He is in a position to encourage and help us in all we do so that we glorify God by our life and serve His purposes (Rom 8:26,27).

If all we need is what Jesus taught us, then why do we need the teachings of Paul and the other New Testament Writers? God knew man's heart and that man would make his own rules, so God gave guidance on important matters, including how The Holy Spirit was designed to fit into the scheme of salvation as well as how to live as a citizen of the Father's Kingdom. This is why the writings of Paul and others in the New Testament on the Christian life include instruction on the role The Holy Spirit plays in the life of a Christian.

How is He received by a believer?

He is sent By Father (Gal 4:6). The Father loves His children and has given them not only Jesus but The Holy Spirit to help them. What an amazing thing it is that God desires us to relate personally with Him and has even made it possible for us to do so.

The Holy Spirit is also received as a result of believing in Jesus (salvation Eph 1:13) and cannot be received through the workings of The Law (Gal 3:2). The Father marks us as His very own

through The Holy Spirit's presence in us. It says to the Devil, "Hands Off! This person is my property!"

By faith (Gal 3:14) we receive the Holy Spirit as we make ourselves open to His presence in us. Faith in Jesus (salvation) is the key. Not faith in the Holy Spirit. That occurs as a result of salvation. One of the principles of the spiritual world is that God or Satan cannot really use us if we do not cooperate with either of them through our will accepting what they want us to do. However, if we ignore God, while we are not necessarily listening to Satan but we are still helping him by ignoring what God desires us to do,.

Satan can only get you to do what you accept from Him. He suggests a thought or course of action and unless you accept it he cannot get you to do it. SIN IS YOUR CHOICE and you will no one to blame if you end up in hell!

Remember also, it is only those that are led by The Holy Spirit that are 'sons' of God. God is merciful and through heartfelt repentance restores us to the relationship we had before we 'sinned' (rebelled against Him).

The Holy Ghost is a witness to the new relationship we have with God which resulted in our sins being remitted at Calvary and the spiritual consequences of them no longer affecting us if we repent of them (Heb 10:10-18).

The understanding of the Laws of God are also placed in our understandings because the Holy Spirit's presence (influence) is now in our spirit to teach us these.

We know we belong to Jesus (1 Jn 3:24) because The Holy Spirit's presence is in us. All we know about Jesus and the spiritual world has been revealed to us by The Holy Spirit (Job 32:8).

This receiving of The Holy Spirit is not The Baptism of The Spirit. That is a separate event but may coincide with this sealing of a person by The Holy Spirit.

Jesus giving the disciples The Holy Spirit

Joh 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

There are two questions this verse raises.

What is required to receive The Holy Spirit

Why was the Holy Spirit given to the disciples now and not earlier.

As we receive The Holy Spirit when we decide to follow Jesus and He is not breathed on us by another, why did Jesus breathe on them to give them the Holy Spirit as their seal of belonging to Him.

The timing of the event.

After the death of Jesus the disciples left off ministering and went back to their former occupations. Jesus had said that The Holy Spirit would be sent after He had died so He did not give it to them before His death as He was not needed because Jesus was there to tell them what God required of them. However the anointing to do the work of Jesus was still required so Jesus breathed on them to temporarily anoint them to serve Him until He died and The Spirit Came to earth. This shows how important the role of The Holy

Spirit is in the life of a Christian that He represents Jesus to us and show what anointing we have to serve Jesus and His Kingdom..

After He had risen and by this verified who He was (the Christ) they left all and followed Him and now were truly His followers and so received The Spirit to verify this. They still had to wait for Pentecost to be anointed by The Spirit (authorised to minister in an area, empowered and receive the appropriate giftings) to do the work Jesus wanted them to do.

Why did He breathe on them?

This breathing is in allusion to God's breathing the breath of life into man, something only God can do. So Jesus alone can breathe The Holy Spirit into a man.

It is not a person breathing a gift of The Holy Spirit or The Holy Spirit's Presence into a person as Jesus alone gives The Holy Spirit on behalf of The Father and The Holy Spirit releases the gifts as needed by a person and not as the person asks or thinks they need.

So you do not need to breathe on a person for them to be sealed (receive) by The Spirit at salvation or to receive The Spirit or His Gifts at any other time. Jesus gives The Holy Spirit and not you. Breathing on a person does not baptize them in the spirit (anoint them for ministry). Jesus does that and you have no part in it except by faith to breathe on them as a witness to God's working so to breathe on a person for any other reason is from you and not from God.

To breathe on a person without the direction of The Holy Spirit to do this is not of God and may allow Satan in as the person is receptive to a spirit entering and if it is not The Holy Spirit then person who is entering it can only be a demon.

To breathe on a person because of Pentecost is wrong as it says there was a sound like a wind and not that there was a wind blowing. So to try and imitate this wind is also incorrect.

Do you get The Holy Spirit in stages?

The Holy Spirit's presence is given in His fullness in your spirit and not in installments (Jn 3:34). However we grow in our knowledge of Him so it appears we get Him in stages.

What happens in the soul is that when a demon leaves it there is a vacant area left in the soul. The Holy Spirit is asked to replace the demon and fill that vacant space. His presence protects that space as long as Jesus is Lord of it. It is not a new infilling but an extension of the original one when the soul was first given to Jesus to be Lord of.

This is different to The Baptism of The Holy Spirit where He rests on you like a covering to mark your position and authority in The Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

When Jesus died at Calvary, He removed the defilement of the sin that was the barrier between God and mankind that stopped mankind entering The Kingdom of God as well as removing all the obstacles that stopped mankind relating directly to God (Jn 17:3). Because we are no longer defiled by sin as a result of the redemption that occurred at Calvary, The Holy Spirit can now place His pres-

ence in you, communicate directly with you and guide you individually. God no longer sees you as unholy declaring you pure and undefiled and in a correct relationship with Him through what Jesus did at Calvary so that He can now 'inhabit' you with His Presence.

The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to help you live now as God requires you too. So to ignore The Holy Spirit is to ignore God's provision for living The Christian life as a good citizen of The Kingdom of God should live it.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

(Act 3:12) And when Peter saw it, he answered to the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

(Jn 14:26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

In 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but what- soever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(Rom 8:14-16) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Responsibilities after receiving The Holy Spirit

Once you have received The Spirit you are required to live the Christian life and show you do belong to Jesus and are not just nominally accepting Him and what He did for you.

You need to show the Fruit of The Spirit in your life and to love others in the same way Jesus does. Not to do these things shows you are very immature or not a Christian or may need deliverance in an area of your life.

Having chosen to be a Christian it is foolishness not to live as one.

The three baptisms

Water baptism

This is being symbolically immersed (buried) in water and rising from the dead like Jesus as He did in His death and resurrection when He carried our sins and punishment for us on that cross (Redemption).

It is very hard to have the same degree of identification and symbolism when a person is only sprinkled. But as baptism is not necessary for salvation it is identification with Jesus that is important and not the way it is done. In the early church if you were not able to immerse the person wholly you were doused three times with water and not sprinkled.

Baptism of The Spirit

It is the anointing for service and is the result of obedience, and is both a spiritual state and a spiritual reward, as we are given more service to do for Him as well as the anointing to do that service. The reward for service in The Kingdom is greater service and responsibility.

Baptism of suffering

It is identification with Jesus resulting in a willingness to suffer for His Will and purposes just as He did for The Father (Rev 12:11).

What is this baptism of fire in Mat 3:11?

This occurs when God immerses you in trials and sufferings to purify you and mould you into His image through the denial of yourself (flesh) for the purposes of doing His Will. Fire signifies refining and God refines you by immersing you in fiery trials as Peter called them. Any Christian not facing their trial is a Christian not growing. Hence the lukewarm church in revelation was comfortable as they did not oppose the works of evil or were not willing to pass through the trials associated with the resisting of evil. They were also not growing as they were not making a stand for the things of God.

It is probably the same as the baptism of suffering but just being viewed from a different perspective.

This is different to the trials we fac as God tries to restore us to Him after we have rebelled.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Is water baptism or Baptism of the Holy Spirit necessary for Salvation

Is either Baptism necessary for Salvation?

No! Obedience is!

Is the speaking in tongues necessary to evidence salvation?

Speaking in tongues can occur as a result of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not necessary for salvation then speaking in tongues is not necessary for salvation.

Consider the following passage in Acts 19:

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

v1 The people at Corinth were declared to be followers of Jesus. They were called disciples and were not asked to confess Jesus as Lord as they already had done so.

v2 They had never even heard of The Holy Ghost let alone being Baptized by him. However, they would have been sealed by Him as they belonged to Jesus.

v3-5 They had been baptized by John the Baptist so to identify them with Jesus they were baptized in Jesus' Name.

v6 Then they were later baptized with The Holy Spirit by Paul and spoke in tongues.

As it can be seen they had a salvation before they even knew of the Holy Spirit so to say that any type of baptism or speaking in tongues is necessary for salvation is to contradict The Word of God.

It also means that many Christians are going around saved but not baptised by The Spirit so are not living the life they could as they are not listening to Him to be led by Him in all they do, but only where The Bible shows what you are to do.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Many people are troubled by this Baptism. The problem arises because many people believe Pentecost was when The Holy Spirit was the first given to the apostles and disciples and as this happened only once to anyone in Acts it appears you are only filled

only once with The Holy Spirit, even though Paul uses a present continuous tense - Keep on being filled with The Spirit- when talking about The Holy Spirit's filling.

The filling Paul refers to is of the soul and not of the spirit. As demons are cast out of the soul The Holy Spirit is asked to replace them in the soul or seven worse ones will come back and enter the 'house of the soul' along with the original demon that was cast out. I have seen this happen from personal experience in a close relative.

This filling by The Holy Spirit replaces the demons that have left and is separate to the Baptism of The Holy Spirit which is a specific anointing for the purposes of serving Jesus in His Kingdom (what we call ministry).

The anointing of the Baptism of The Holy Spirit surrounds the person like a cocoon so that the person is immersed in it. This is why it is called a baptism and not a filling.

People do not realise The Baptism of The Holy Spirit was the second time The Holy Spirit had been given to the disciples and this second filling was to empower them. The first filling was before Jesus left earth and was to mark them as belonging to Him and authorized by Him to do the ministry they did as disciples..

The sequence of events was as follows:

John 20:23: Jesus gave them The Holy Ghost to mark them as His so able to minister in His Name.

Luke 24:49: and Acts 1:8 they were to wait until they were empowered from on high (By The Holy Spirit). There is always a condition (preparation) for the filling of The Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:2-4: This is when they were given the actual the empowering from on high (the anointing and empowerment for service).

We are all sealed (marked as belonging to Jesus) by The Holy Spirit when we choose to follow Jesus as our Lord and are not necessarily empowered by The Holy Spirit for any ministry as we first need to grow in (mature in) "*The Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord Jesus Christ*". This empowerment for ministry is a result of aligning ourselves more and more with God's purposes, growing more and more in intimacy with Him and separating ourselves from the values of the kingdom of darkness (Holiness to The Lord) so that Jesus can trust us with a ministry (a service for Him, and not necessarily one associated with a church or denomination). The more of ourselves we give to Jesus the more of our soul He can fill with The Holy Spirit.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is to do with Lordship, holiness and purification. As we are delivered from demons through deliverance our soul is more purified and we walk in greater holiness, The Spirit takes more control of our soul and personality and we are able to hear The Spirit more clearly. This results from continuously choosing to make Jesus Lord in all we do, removing Satan (deliverance) and then asking The Holy Spirit to take his place.

The Christian receives The Holy Spirit as their seal (or mark) that the person belongs to Jesus:

"Rom 8: 16 The Spirit himself doth testify with our spirit, that we are children of God;"

The disciples also received The Holy Ghost from Jesus after He had died. The Holy Spirit could not come in His fullness until the requirements for His coming had been fulfilled (namely Jesus leaving the earth) so that the disciples could not receive the empowerment of The Holy Spirit before then.

This also shows that salvation is separate to the Baptism of The Holy Spirit.

"John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:"

The Baptism of The Holy Ghost in Acts 2:4 was separate to their receiving The Holy Spirit as a mark of being a follower of Jesus. Another example of this subsequent filling is noted in Acts 4:34 (as a result of other disciples wanting to do the work of Jesus).

It can be seen that the Baptism of The Spirit (anointing) is for the purposes of doing the work of God and a request of this for any other purpose is not scriptural. Otherwise the apostle would have received it before Jesus died so they could do His work after He had gone.

Examples of non-scriptural Baptism are when a person wants the Baptism for the pleasure of the experience, or in the belief it marks them as being spiritual or saved or when the denomination requires it as a mark of conversion. These are man made reasons and do not

do the work of Jesus so Satan happily obliges these people. This is why many churches have problems. People ask for The Holy Spirit's Baptism for the wrong reason and they either get nothing or a false filling instead by a demon who can enter them as they have opened themselves up to demons through seeking the Baptism of The Holy Spirit for the wrong reason.

We do not receive our entire ministry at once but as we mature in the Christian life we are given more responsibility and empowerment (spiritual authority) to do this. In other words, we are Baptized (anointed) more by The Holy Spirit! We not only are given more empowerment but also the wisdom and maturity to deal with this new level of authority and the ministry that goes with it. This occurs as we pass the trials God sets us to prepare for each new level of ministry, understanding and authority that is needed for that ministry.

God tests you to show Satan you are worthy of this new empowerment as well as to prepare you to use this new authority and empowerment correctly. Only as God prepares you for it will you be able to handle this new authority in the way God desires you to use it.

The church is full of ministers, who are disillusioned or burnt out as they have taken on authority God has not prepared them for or anointed them for. So they work in their own strength and eventually wear themselves out. Their heart may be right before God. But the preparation for that ministry is not.

What actually is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Baptize means to immerse so water baptism is immersion in water. Baptism of The Spirit is immersion in The Holy Spirit so that He is

like a covering around you. If baptism is sprinkling then Baptism of The Holy Spirit has no meaning as you cannot be sprinkled with The Holy Spirit. It is all or nothing.

Having said that, for the purpose of Salvation it does not matter whether you are dunked or sprinkled as water baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is the heart attitude behind the act that God looks at.

This Covering of The Spirit also marks you in a way that demons can recognise your delegated authority level and role in The Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit in our spirit shows we belong to Jesus and prevents Satan taking his place there. Whoever is in your spirit (Jesus or Satan) is your lord and master.

In your soul the Holy Spirit takes the place of demons that have been evicted (through deliverance – but you must ask Him too as He never forces Himself on a person or enters uninvited) as well as to fill any area we ask Him to fill that demons do not occupy.

When we are baptised in the Spirit, The Holy Spirit falls on us as a covering identifying our authority in the spiritual is shown as well as our role in The Kingdom.

Acts 1:6 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

So the baptism of The Spirit occurs when you are immersed in the presence of the Holy Spirit and He surrounds you as water surrounds you in water baptism. Usually anointing for ministry occurs then but at times healing can occur instead of an anointing for ministry.

Two separate events

A very clear distinction between receiving The Holy Spirit as a seal of being a follower of Jesus and being Baptised by The Holy Spirit as a separate event is found in Acts 8:14-17

"Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

The Holy Spirit was granted to the Samaritans so they could minister as Christians. Obedience to Jesus results in doing His work. This is the other condition for the Baptism - a desire to do His will as evidenced by a person's life, attitudes and objectives.

As followers of Jesus they would have been marked as belonging to Jesus so this 'Baptism' was an anointing for ministry, a kind of commissioning of their God-given ministry.

Either this passage is incorrect or the Baptism of The Holy Spirit is a separate event to initial filling of a person's spirit that marks people as being a follower of Jesus. Sometimes they may simultane-

ously occur but normally the Baptism is an empowerment for the purposes of doing the work of Jesus and The Father. Sometimes it is called an 'anointing'.

Ignore this Baptism (anointing) and you have a church that has no power or spiritual direction and which must use reason, rules and regulations to maintain its presence because the Guidance and power from God are not believed as being available any longer for people to live and minister as Jesus said we would.

It also does not demonstrate the Authority of The Kingdom so the world sees a group of people little different to themselves and sees no reason for joining them or following Jesus.

Problems and excesses occur when the resultant signs and wonders are sought instead of intimacy with Jesus, where the manifestation is sought for the sake of manifestation and exhibition of power, and not for the furtherance of The Kingdom of The Father or to bring Glory to Jesus or The Father.

The purpose of signs and wonders is to witness to Jesus and to attract people to Jesus and His Kingdom through what Jesus has done for them - both spiritually and physically - not to show how spiritual or powerful a church or person is. Any fleshly reason allows the devil entry and will sidetrack and shipwreck that church or revival as has happened in various denominations and revivals this last century.

The person is marked by The Holy Spirit as belonging to Jesus and as that person lives the life of obedience to Jesus, which shows the person is worthy of this baptism (greater authority and ministry),

they will be Baptized (empowered/authorised) by The Holy Spirit so they will be able to do greater works of The Kingdom of God.

In Summary

When we become a Christian (through making Jesus as our Lord), our spirit is filled by The Holy Ghost so that we are marked (sealed Romans 8:15-17) as belonging to Jesus. Satan sees this and knows we no longer belong to him. Any further filling can only be to our soul (house) where demons and our self 'live'. As demons are removed from our soul, The Holy Spirit fills their place (we need to ask Him as He will not enter without our permission). As we allow more and more self to be removed, The Holy Spirit takes its place. As we are more and more purified and more of the old self is removed, The Holy Spirit fills us to take its place and this is how we are filled and our soul is purified on a continuing basis by The Holy Spirit.

This baptism is the anointing (authority and empowerment) for serving Jesus and indicates a person's authority and position in The Kingdom of God. It has nothing to do with filling the soul or Holiness but is a mark of maturing as a Christian.

The example of Jesus

Jesus was baptized by John and The Holy Spirit came upon Him. It was after this baptism that His earthly ministry began and not before. In this is our example that the anointing for a ministry has to be given by God for a person to be able to do it as God desires them to do it.

The persons must also accept the suffering and other things God does to prepare them for ministry which is why we should never complain about suffering as that questions God's reasons for it.

Attitude to the Receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit

Let me start by saying that God looks at the heart reason for what you do and not what you do or say. So while an action may appear to be wrong, God looks at the heart and sees it was not incorrect because of the reason you did it. His Love and Mercy takes over and He then makes the situation work for your best. Even when the motive for desiring the thing is wrong, God still works for our best (Rom 8:28 principle).

This applies to beliefs where our heart is right but we have been misled by people who do not know the truth so that we are in error but not of deliberate rebellion against God (which is what sin is). It is an error of ignorance where one who should have guided us into truth led us into error. That is why you should not condemn people as their heart may be right but the outworking of their desire incorrectly expressed because of erroneous teaching and God alone may know the truth. Even then we all have a responsibility to examine scripture to see whether what we have been taught is correct.

The Baptism of The Holy Spirit is an empowerment as that is how Jesus described what happened at Pentecost.

Luke 24:2 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Empowerment is to do with authority which is why Jesus said to them to wait until they were authorised by God to minister. So it is

something you wait for until God provides it for you. Unless you have the authority you do not have the power or the right to use it.

So what attitude are you to have?

Patient obedience while God trains and matures you until God determines it is time to receive the empowerment (Baptism of The Holy Spirit) for the purposes of the new ministry He desires you to do for Him.

Some requirements to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (from Acts)

You must follow Jesus wholeheartedly - there should be no compromise with the world in your life

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

You must be one with Jesus and His Body and not one with a church, denomination or other Christian type organization because Jesus does not recognize these. Jesus recognizes only his body and its parts. You may go to church activities but for the spiritual purposes of Jesus and His Will for you, is the reason you go. To go for any other reason may be disobedience or ritual. If you do not go to meet Jesus or fellowship in The Kingdom then why are you going to church?

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

You must be where Jesus wants you to be (Acts 1:8, they waited in Jerusalem as instructed by Him).

Their obedience and heart for Him bought them blessings. They were anointed for service and after that event spoke boldly for Jesus instead of hiding in a room.

The believed what He said which is why they were gathered together in the upper room and waited patiently for Him to fulfill His promise of The Holy Spirit to them.

What does Eph 5:8 mean?

(Eph 5:18) And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

When the Holy Spirit falls on a person there are various manifestations. The person may become 'slain in the spirit' where the power of The Holy Spirit is so strong in the person the conscious mind cannot handle it so they pass out (or similar). They may 'laugh in the spirit' for which there is no biblical precedence but note that David danced when overcome by The Spirit when they were bringing the Ark of Covenant back to Jerusalem. There is 'rejoicing in The Spirit' but that is not uncontrolled laughter but a feeling of joy at what God has done.

The problem with seeking a spiritual experience for the sake of it or for being seen to be spiritual is that God does not honour that endeavour, but Satan does. So you may demonstrate a spiritual thing but it will not be The Holy Spirit but a demon behind it.

So we are told not to 'get drunk with wine' using the flesh to get the feeling of The Holy Spirits filling but to seek His Spiritual filling instead.

Does the filling of the Holy Spirit decrease as the day grows older?

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is done to empower you for ministry. For it to decrease as the day grows old means your empowerment for ministry must also decrease. This does not happen. What usually happens is the day grows old, we do not feel as close to God as we should because we are tired, the flesh seeming to be stronger and more demanding on the mind and the Holy Spirit feels further away. The same thing happens when we lust or have an inordinate desire. The flesh overpowers in some degree The Spirit's influence on our mind.

If you do not control your emotions and mind, Satan will use them to control you.

This does not mean we are further from God. We are always 'in Jesus' and never move from that position as that is guaranteed by scripture to all who faithfully follow Jesus as Lord. Our earthly feelings are variable according to mood and this is what makes us feel further from God.

We are to discipline the flesh so it does not block or diminish The Holy Spirit's influence on us.

Tongues

If you have not been given the gift of tongues you should not be praying or speaking in tongues. You will know if you have the gift as you will use it to promote The Kingdom of God and use it to help people be like Jesus. Any other usage is not of God as it is for your own purposes and/or Satan's purposes.

Remember that tongues are a gift and not something that automatically happens at the Baptism of The Holy Spirit or conversion so to try and cause a person to speak in tongues is not of God as God gives the gift and does not train a person to be able to speak in tongues.

Tongues are a sign to them that do not believe (which could occur if the person understood someone speaking a language they did not know). So its usage in a Christian situation does not appear to be what it is designed for. It would only be used for evangelism as it serves no purpose for a believer, unless the gift of interpretation of tongues was present. Even then it is not necessary as the language of the congregation is sufficient. Why would Jesus need to use tongues when there was a common language to convey His message to the church or person?

However there are occasions that the true gift of tongues has occurred where the people speak in their own native tongue and are able to converse with someone who does not know their language.

Prophesy, words of knowledge and words of wisdom seem to be the gifts that is to minister to the church and not tongues.

1 Cor 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

1 Cor 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

But it does have its place in a church apparently.

1 Cor 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

So when are you to speak or pray in tongues?

When The Holy Spirit says too and He will give you what to say. Any other time does not serve the purposes of The Kingdom of God and is a waste of time, edifying the speaker only.

Note the following:

1Co_14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1Co_14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

Paul said it was better to speak plainly than in tongues and if you spoke in tongues it must help the church in some way. Note also interpretation of tongues should occur or the speaking in tongues serves no purpose for the church.

Now to the text

1 Cor 14:2-4 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto

men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

A person who prays to God in tongues is understood only by God as God alone understands what the person is saying. It does not build the church up, unify it or help another. If The Holy Spirit is behind it then He will speak spiritual things but no one will understand them. Better to prophesy, Paul says, so that all will learn.

As the person is not understood he will only edify (build up spiritually) himself. He will not build the church up so it is in a sense wasted tongues and does not fulfill the purpose for which the gift was given.

If the Spirit has told to give a message in tongues He will also provide an interpreter. If there is no interpreter then better be silent as it is implied by this The Spirit is not behind it.

Praying in tongues is usually not for a church situation

It must be at the instigation of The Holy Spirit and guided by Him or it will be a fleshly prayer and not serve the purposes of God.

Tongues are to be used for evangelism for unbelievers and praying in tongues does not serve this purpose as it is not for an evangelistic type situation, unlike the true gift of tongues. The tongues must also be understood by The Believer in their language or it is not the true gift of tongues of which the only example of speaking in tongues occurred just after Pentecost when Peter spoke to many

different nations at one time and was just speaking in His native tongue.

Jesus said His followers would speak in tongues but Jesus and people in the Old Testament are not recorded as speaking in tongues. This was because the Holy Spirit had not yet been given to mankind in His fullness until Jesus left earth and The Holy Spirit replaced Him.

Act 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

The purpose of tongues was to communicate the Gospel to people who did not understand your tongue.

Act 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

This is the true gift of tongues, the preaching in your own language and being understood in the language of another. This does happen but rarely these days as it seems to be ignored where tongues is concerned, but I does happen at times but not in the west usually.

However, God may use it to pray something into existence in the same way He uses ordinary prayer, using tongues so that Satan does not know what is being prayed into existence. There is also the possibility The Holy Spirit will guide you to pray in tongues when you do not know what to pray (Ro 8:26-27).

However, as we are to pray in secret it would be rare for this type of usage of tongues to be in a church situation.

Tongues are used to praise God

Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Tongues are a gift of The Holy Spirit to be used for the purposes of The Kingdom and nothing else. The gifts are for the promotion of the Kingdom and the helping of people to become more Christ like and are not for personal use. So praying in tongues would seem to contradict this if it was not guided by The Holy Spirit for the purposes of The Kingdom.

Problems with Baptism and the gift of Tongues.

Is it right to pray in tongues so as to edify yourself (build yourself up spiritually)?

The gifts are for the building up of each other (1 Cor 12:7) and for proving the Gospel of the Kingdom. (Luke 8:1-2). The passage referred to is 1 Cor 4:14

1Co 14:4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

This verse is almost like a warning by Paul that it is selfish to edify yourself and not devote your energies in service to the body.

The objective of the gifts is to build another up and through this build yourself up. This is why we are told to build up one another Just as God builds us up. As you serve others and help them mature, you yourself are matured.

Speaking in a language in which you do not know what you are saying has two disadvantages:

You could be saying something wrong and not know it and so are actually doing the opposite of edifying yourself

You are building up yourself and not letting God do it so you may be building up the wrong areas of your life as well as missing out on God's blessing. Remember that Satan will encourage you to build up wrong areas in your life and not fulfill God's purposes in other areas.

We are never to promote ourselves or build our self-esteem from the things we do. Edifying yourself seems to be against this principle and may give the devil access to you through spiritual pride so that he may even be able to 'guide' these 'gifts'.

Self-edification (which tongues does unless used as Jesus desires it to be used) is not from God. We are to let another person praise us, preferably someone not of our circle of friends but outside of it. Then it will be true praise.

Paul also said:

1 Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

So your understanding of God is not built up and you are not drawn closer to Him. What then is built up? It is not your spirit as you do not understand what you are saying. It has to be the flesh as that is what is left.

The only real case I can think of for praying in tongues is in Romans 8:26,27 when we do not naturally know what to pray for and

pray as guided by Holy Spirit for the burden He has placed on your heart or the problem you are facing at that time. He is listening to us and our needs as well as praying for us. So it is not self-edification but a cry for help.

Signs and Wonders

Signs and wonders are one result of The Baptism of The Holy Spirit (the empowerment and authority to do these). They are used for evangelism to demonstrate The Kingdom of God is there.

People, who seek signs, will not find them unless the demonstration of these serves God's purposes which is either the Salvation of someone or to draw people closer to Him. This is because God wants you to seek Him and not His works.

1 Cor 1:22-23 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

The devil will give you the signs you are seeking so you will follow his brand of Christianity which divides and destroys the Body of Christ and is a form of idolatry as the signs become much more important than the giver. This is the danger in Pentecostalism and why there are so many leaders who fall and churches die! They stop seeking Jesus and glory in the signs.

When you stop seeking God solely and look for His works rather than for Him in them you have a form of idolatry. Satan then has

easy access and soon error creeps in, ministers fall and churches die.

Signs are used by God for His purposes and not to fulfill our desires to have them. God does not have to do them and will not if they are sought instead of Him or the benefit of another. The danger is that Satan will give his version of them for his purposes.

This is the danger of signs and wonders that they replace He who gave them (as people become blinded by the miracles and lose sight of the miracle giver, Jesus). Paul Said:

*"The Jews seek a sign and the Greeks seek knowledge
but we seek Christ crucified"*

It is well to heed his warning!

The world is looking for the supernatural. The Church is generally not providing this as they minister and usually do not demonstrate the Power and Authority of The Kingdom of God. So Satan has been able to present his version of the gifts and win many people away from following Jesus to his new age cult and religions.

When the church demonstrates The Kingdom of God in the Guidance and Power of The Holy Spirit and the Authority of Jesus, only then will people be won for Him and His Kingdom.

If you are not demonstrating The Kingdom of God you had better find out why and what you need to change in your life to be able to do this. Only as you demonstrate The kingdom of God can you minister as Jesus and the Apostles did.

1Co 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Only as you hear The Holy Spirit and be guided by Him will be in a position to live as a citizen of The Kingdom of God should and live as demonstrate it as you should.

The Holy Spirit as a Teacher

The Heavenly Father is the most perfect example of how an earthly father should be

The Lord Jesus is our example of how to live as a Citizen of the Kingdom of God

The Holy Spirit is our example of how a Teacher should teach and guide a student.

The Holy Spirit Humbles Himself to serve us as does The Father and Jesus.

In this is our example of how people in authority should serve as well as mentor others.

All The Holy Spirit does for you is out of His perfect love for you

He does not force you to believe what He is teaching you as He will not go against your freewill. He gives you all the information

you need to decide for or against what He is teaching you and gently guides you with the truths you need to know to make a decision for or against it. He does this until you reach a decision in regard to whether to accept or reject what He is trying to teach you.

He only tells you factual truth and does not teach knowledge for the sake of knowledge or promote theories that have no factual basis. His objective is to give you wisdom (applied knowledge) and not just information (Duet 29:29).

He always guides you to focus on Jesus and His Will or Guidelines in all you do as He builds the Kingdom of God in and through you.

He guides you and tells you what you need to know to live and serve Jesus but focuses on the spiritual aspects of these so that you will learn the spiritual truths you need to know to live as a Citizen of The Kingdom of God. He also teaches you how to apply these truths to daily life.

His objective is to prepare you for life in heaven so you will relate to God correctly. Remember earth is God's training ground preparing you for heaven.

He is always there for you, waiting to help or guide you (Jn 16:13) so you will learn to live as God desires you too live. He even prays for you when you do not know what to ask God for (Rom 8:6-27).

He never criticizes you negatively when He points out things to you that you are doing wrong. He constructively helps you as you seek to overcome a problem or weakness that you have and walks beside you as He gently guides you through trials and the attacks of Satan.

Shame guilt and condemnation were done away with by Calvary and these now come from Satan. The Holy Spirit convicts a person which causes no negative emotions in a person unlike the guilt shame and condemnation Satan places on a person.

The Holy Spirit never asks you to do or deal with more than you are able too but helps you to do what God asks you to do as well as to deal with any situation or trial you are going through (1 Cor 10:13).

He never speaks a harsh, unkind, legalistic or negative word to you. His speech is always sound. Seasoned with Grace to build you up and encourage you.

Guilt condemnation and shame were dealt with at Calvary and are never placed on you by The Holy Spirit but by Satan. So you remove Satan to remove them.

He does not react negatively to anything you do. He may not like or condone what you do but He does not reject you for doing it and He will help you in any way He can to overcome any problems or weaknesses you have so you will stop doing the wrong things you are doing.

He is Perfect Love and all He does for and to you is done out of this attitude of Perfect Love exhibiting the 'Fruit of The Holy Spirit' in all He does for you (1 Cor 13:4-7, Gal 5:22-23)

He is your example of how you are to mentor others in spiritual things and the things of daily living.

You could not ask for a better teacher. But you must want to learn from Him as well as do what He tells you to do (Jn 7:17).

How you listen to Him will determine your salvation and whether you go to heaven or hell when you die.

The Holy Spirit is a servant and because of this is a good teacher. A teacher is a servant of both Jesus and you.

Learn to hear and obey The Holy Spirit so you will learn what you need too so that you will not be found wanting when you face Jesus and give Him an account of your life

He reveals The Kingdom of God

One of the roles of The Holy Spirit is to reveal The Kingdom of God and its requirements to people (Job 32:8, Jn 16:13).

Jesus revealed The Kingdom of God and its authority. The Holy Spirit was sent by The Father on behalf of Jesus so people would understand what they needed to know about The Kingdom of God and be guided by The Holy Spirit to be able to live the life The Kingdom of God requires of them.

He also empowers us to do the miracles and exorcism that demonstrate The Kingdom of God is real and that Jesus is its ruler.

Any church or denomination not fighting Satan does not show the reality of Kingdom Authority and that Satan is real as is hell.

The Spirit marks us as belonging to The Kingdom of God and then does all that is necessary to guide us and empower us to represent The Kingdom of God in the same manner Jesus did!

If you are not representing The Kingdom of God in the way Jesus did then examine your relationship to Jesus as it may be incorrect.

You should be either: representing The Kingdom, fighting for it, teaching it, demonstrating it, learning how to do these or resting from the battle with Satan.

The Holy Spirit and Teaching (Jn 16:13, Job 32:8)

God has personally prepared a path for you (Eph 2:10). You are not a clone and neither is your life. It is a path specifically tailored by God to be that which is best for you and which will mould you most closely to His character, and prepare you to be forever with God in His Kingdom.

On this path is every task God has for you to do for the purposes of serving The Kingdom and the salvation and rewards that result from this.

The only Teacher you have who knows this path is The Holy Spirit and He will personally guide you and teach you all you need to know as well as empower you to live it (Acts 1:8). He may use people at times but they will be people guided by Him to help you. No weekly spoon-fed Bible study, generalised daily prophecy or sermon is sufficient as the Christian life is a minute by minute walk and not an hourly, daily or weekly event.

This is why it is so necessary to listen for the guidance and teaching of The Holy Spirit in everything we do.

This also us why you constantly need to study, memorize and meditate on The Bible so that The Holy Spirit can use it to guide and teach you what you need to know to live as God desires you too!

These activities need to be a constant part of your life as they change you from within. Through these activities The Holy Spirit shows you the truths you need to set you free from the lies of Satan, displacing his lies and replacing them with the truths of God (Jn 8:32). This does not remove a demon but makes them less effective in their attacks on you. It is deliverance and/or spiritual warfare that removes them, their attacks and their influence on you.

You must learn to walk with one ear on The Holy Spirit so that He can teach you the Things of The Kingdom of God and guide you to do the work of that Kingdom.

Why is important to study what The Holy Spirit does in the life of a follower of Jesus?

For the first 70 years of Christianity there were people alive who had seen Jesus, touched Him, ate with Him, learnt from Him, seen His miracles both before and after His death and resurrection. They knew Him and had seen his miracles as well as His rising from the dead.

We do not have that luxury now and people will usually only see Jesus now through the life of a Citizen of The Kingdom of God expressing His Quality of Love and Authority over the world and Satan as it is expressed by His Citizens., which is the expression of their faith in Him and of their relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit is your guide in teaching you about Jesus and His requirements and directly affects how you express Jesus in your life. Without His guidance, teaching and empowerment you really cannot live your life as a follower of Jesus: representing and showing Jesus, representing His Kingdom the way He desires us too

through the way you live as His follower (a citizen of His kingdom) living and expressing His Authority coirretly..

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

It is He that gives you understanding of how to live for Jesus and empowers you to do the miracles that demonstrate The Kingdom of God. So we need to know about Him, to study about His role in your life as well as how to hear His guidance more clearly. This is so He can better teach you how to live in a way that will show to the world Jesus, as well as the difference knowing and following Jesus makes in a person. Crucially though, He teaches you how to serve (obey) Jesus as a citizen of His Kingdom.

There is no excuse for not knowing what The Spirit desires to teach you as He knows best how to give you understanding of what God desires you to learn so you will be able to understand if you want too! And we also have the promise of God to those who want to learn about Him:

Jn 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

It is all a matter of attitude.

Why do you need the Holy Spirit?

Rom 8:14. To be a child of God and a citizen of The Kingdom of God you need to be guided by The Holy Spirit in daily living and in how to interpret the laws of The Kingdom found in The Bible.

The Holy Spirit marks you as belonging to Jesus and protects your spirit so that demons cannot enter it.

The Holy Spirit has been sent by Jesus to guide you in your Christian life as well as to empower you to do the work of The Kingdom of God!

The Holy Spirit is your teacher (Jn 15:13, Job 32:8) and prays for you when you do not know how or what to pray (Rom 8:26-27).

Without His guidance and empowerment you cannot live and mature as a citizen of The Kingdom of God.

Always remember that God is Love and The Holy Spirit is God so that all He does to you is done out of His Perfect Love for you. What He does and says is for your own benefit so you ignore Him to your own hurt and/or peril. Ignore Him much and you will blaspheme Him and lose your salvation.

If you trust God's Love you will unquestioningly do what The Holy Spirit says you are to do.

The Holy Spirit is to be obeyed because He is God and not just someone who loves you. All He does is a result of His Perfect love for you. The Holy Spirit never makes suggestions. What He tells you is God's will for you and not something God might like you to do.

The Holy Spirit - Is He personal?

Some people believe that The Holy Spirit is impersonal and does not guide people personally these days. Jesus said He would give each of His followers The Holy Spirit to:

Comfort them Guide them teach them

To enable them to do the work of Jesus

If The Holy Spirit is not a personal Holy Spirit talking to each one of us individually or is not able to do this, then Jesus lied and He cannot be redeemer as He cannot be a sinless offering. So we are back under The Law and the sacrificial system of God.

*Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God,
they are the sons of God.*

If The Holy Spirit does not lead you how do you know what God desires you to do. Many things occurring these days are not in the Bible and there are no clear cut guidelines in regard to many other things if at all. An example is Denominations. These are not in the Bible. So if The Holy Spirit is not guiding you about things not in The Bible? Who is? It leaves only man or the devil or both.

This is why it is so important to be able to be guided by The Holy Spirit so that you know what to do when a Biblical principle is not mentioned about how to deal with the situation.

There are others who believe that the gifts of The Holy Spirit are not for to- day's church. That presents a problem as these are what we use to minister to others with. Jesus said the following in His Bible:

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Either the gifts are forever or Jesus is a liar and cannot be our redeemer. If he has lied, He also cannot be a sinless offering and Lord and thus cannot be Saviour.

There are also those that say they were only for the early Church. History shows them being used after 500AD and later so this is incorrect.

The Bible states that everyone is given something of The Spirit (a spiritual gift) so that the presence of The Holy Spirit is shown in that person and the person can minister to others on the behalf of Jesus. If this is not true then The Bible lied and you cannot believe any part of it.

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The Spirit is also to guide us into all truth for our benefit and was given to us by Jesus to do that. If He is not a personal Spirit communicating directly with us He cannot do that. That makes Jesus a

liar, the Bible in error and thus not inerrant. If it is not inerrant then we cannot trust it for anything let alone salvation.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but what- soever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Either this is true. Or it is not!

The Holy Spirit and the Citizen of the Kingdom of God

You are never alone as His presence is in you. All others on earth may reject you or desert you but He will never leave you or give up on you unless you reject Him completely. If you reject Him He has not left you but you have left Him.

He is a gentleman and a servant. He is gentle and will never force you to do anything but will gently guide you into God's Will. He is a servant as He humbles Himself to guide you and meet any of your needs that you let Him meet (and a few you do not know about), but only in accordance with The Will of God.

'Sons of God'

Those who are in a righteous (correct) relationship with Jesus, (guided by The Holy Spirit) are called "sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). This refers to being adopted by God as a 'son' or 'daughter' of His with all the rights of His natural born son, Jesus. Jesus calls us family (relatives by adoption of His Father). Accordingly, God looks

after us as His son/daughter because we love Him and His natural born son, Jesus.

What Father, who loves his child, does not provide for their needs. The Father has given us Jesus, as well as everything we need to be able to get in to a righteous (correct) relationship with Him and The Father so we can spend eternity with them in heaven. What more can He give us but the physical and spiritual things we need to live and do His work. This He promises and does (see Mat 6:33 for the conditions of this provision).

So remember your relationship to God as an adopted son with all the rights and responsibilities of an adopted son and as long as you trust His love you will be content with what He does to and for you and will desire to be taught and guided by The Holy Spirit to maintain this.

His Work in a Believer

The presence of The Holy Spirit in your spirit marks you as belonging to God

His presence sanctifies you (1 Pe 1:2). It sets you apart for God and His Purposes and this should be shown by your lifestyle which should show the Fruit of Holy Spirit and the attitudes of God in you in all you do, as well as the holiness that sets you apart for God and His purposes which all show that you belong to Jesus and His Kingdom.

His presence shows you are justified (in a correct relationship) with God (1Co 6:11). He declares you are worthy to approach God because you are righteous (in a correct relationship with God) through faith in Jesus and what He taught us and did at Calvary.

His presence renews and regenerates you (Tit 3:5). He restores you to a correct lifestyle when you decide to follow Jesus and spiritually restores you when you fall away into sin if you repent and once again wholeheartedly try to follow Jesus as your Lord. Deliverance may be necessary to do this

His guidance matures you into the image (character) of Jesus as you follow what He teaches you as well as your letting Him work in you to change your attitudes and habits (2Co 3:18). Hence the warning in Gal 3:3;

"Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (through man's reasonings of what things should be)"

His presence bears fruit in you (Gal 5:22,23.) I will deal with the fruit in detail later as it is how you represent the character of God in this world.

His presence in you allows God's goodness to be directed towards you and guides you to the correct relationship with God necessary for this to happen (Eph 5:9).

His presence gives you the patience to pursue complete righteousness (the relationships you have with The Father and Jesus) in faith. (Gal 5:5).

God's Love is in The Holy Spirit and His presence in you allows God's Love to be in you and not just directed towards you (Col 1:8).

This is the difference between a Christian and non-Christian. A Christian has God's Quality of Love in them because The Holy Spirit is in their spirit. A non-Christian can only have God's Love directed to them and cannot really display it to others in the way a Christian can.

His presence gives you joy and peace

As you labour as a citizen of The Kingdom of God (Rom 14:17)

Through His power working in and through you (Rom 15:13)

Even in trials (1Th 1:6)

His presence helps you stop being sensual (Jud 1:19) enabling you to avoid the lusts that Satan uses in an attempt to snare you (1 Jn 2:15,16).

His presence strengthens the inner man (Eph 3:16) so you can do the things God desires you to do.

His presence guides you to understand the truths God desires to teach you so you can love others truthfully and not from wrong motives (1 Pe 1:22, Job 32:8).

His presence in you helps deliver you from trials (Phi 1:19) as He sustains you and guides you through them so you complete them in the way God desires you too and are delivered from them.

His presence removes you from observing the requirements of The Sacrificial Law (Gal 5:18) as you are now under the forgiveness Jesus obtained for you at Calvary so you are no longer under The Law but under The Grace of God (Acts 15).

He marks you as belonging to Jesus

The Father adopts you as His own child and sends The Holy Spirit to mark you and evidence this (Rom 8:15) and because of this adoption you have access to The Father (Eph 2:18).

His presence in you also places God's type of Love in your heart so you can show it to all (Rom 5:5). This goes with the new spiritual heart you are given and occurs because The Holy Spirit sheds God's Love into your new spiritual heart.

He guides you in worshiping and obeying God (Phil 3:3) so that you do not trust in fleshly ways of doing things. Remember, worship is by the way you obey Jesus in all you do and The Holy Spirit Guides us in this.

He keeps (protects) the good things of God in you that God has committed to you (2 Tim 1:14)

He lives in you and shows by this you belong to Jesus (Rom 8:9)

He brings back physically dead people to life (Rev 11:11).

He unifies the body of Christ and builds it into a place for God to use and by your unity with the 'Body of Christ' shows that you are living as you should in relation to God (Eph 2:22), (Eph 4:3), (1 Jn 4:13).

You have the Earnest (God's guarantee) of The Spirit to indicate God has bound himself to you. An earnest is something of value given by one person to another to bind and evidence a contract (2

Cor 5:5). There is nothing you can give God to show this relationship except your Love and Obedience. So once again (in His Grace) God in His Love to you gives you something tangible to evidence this relationship (The Holy Spirit).

The Holy Spirit's Presence is in you showing that you are God's Temple (1 Cor 3:16).

There is a warning not to defile the Temple of God in you (your spirit) which is where the Holy Spirit resides (1 Cor 2:17). You have the Holiness of God in your spirit which should fill you with awe and make you want to separate from you all that destroys this Holiness. You are also not your own to command as Jesus has purchased you with His Blood (1 Co 6:19) and you should flee that which tries to make you reject the rulership of Jesus (pursue holiness).

If you obey and serve Jesus (guided by The Holy Spirit), you are rewarded with everlasting life as well as other rewards in heaven. (Gal 6:8).

He fellowships with us (He relates intimately with us)

Through fellowshiping with The Holy Spirit we fellowship with each other (Phil 2:1) as true fellowship is only in the unity the Holy Spirit provides. If The Holy Spirit is not in charge of fellowshiping then it is only socializing.

He motivates people (not forces them) to confess Jesus has come in the flesh and by this show they belong to Jesus (1 Jn 4:2-3) and fellowship with each other.

The admission that Jesus has come in the flesh is never done by demons or people they control so it is a test of a person's faith to see whether God or Satan is in control of them.

He helps us with our problems when we do not know what to do as He knows what God desires and can intercede on our behalf with God for what we need (Rom 8:26,27) to deal with our problems.

The Holy Spirit is the most intimate person we can fellowship with as His presence is in our spirit - the core of our personality and being.

He guides and teaches you

The Holy Spirit in you verifies you are a child of God by adoption and shows this by guiding you in your daily life, if you allow Him too (Rom. 8:14,16, Rom 8:5).

He talks to you in a way you can hear usually by placing: thoughts, emotions, sensations or feelings in you (Heb 3:7).

He also talks to churches if they will listen to Him (Rev 2:29).

He tells the future, when you need to know it, and warns you of danger (1Ti 4:1). Too many do not trust God for their future and want to know what will happen, God does not want them to know so that they will develop their trust in Him but Satan gives them a word and they wonder why it does not happen or goes wrong.

Also God will not tell you at times what is going to happen so that Satan will not know and try and stop it.

He inspires people to write about the things of God (2 Pet 1:21, Job 32:8)

The Holy Spirit gives you visions of spiritual things (Rev 4:2).

He reveals the deep things of God as He knows the mind of God (1Co 2:9).

He reveals what God has freely given you (1 Co 2:12).

He reveals The Father and gives you knowledge of Him (Eph 1:17).

He reveals The Gospel and empowers the presentation of it (1Th 1:5).

He revealed the suffering and Glorification of Jesus before it happened (1 Pe 1:11).

He teaches you how to compare spiritual things (1Co 2:13).

He teaches you the Mind (attitudes) of Christ (1Co 2:16).

When He guides you, you can tell of mysteries of God (1 Co 14:2). This occurs when you are "in the spirit" (guided by The Spirit) (Rev 1:10).

He Prays for You

The Holy Spirit prays for you when you do not know how to pray (Rom8:26-27). His presence is in you and can see your every need

as well as know them because He is God and knows everything God desires for you. What an amazing thing: The God of this universe is praying for you. This is why we know all things work for our best. God is praying for you and God is waiting to answer that prayer in accordance with His Will and you know that He desires only what is best for you.

The Holy Spirit is your comforter

AV-comforter , advocate 1, (summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid J. In the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant one who, (in a sense, goes through trials and joys with you as He goes through your life residing in your spirit.

The Holy Spirit was destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father, to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom. This He still does in Christians today.

We are in a spiritual battle and need a spiritual guide and helper to fight our spiritual enemy (Satan). One who can see into the spirit world and tell us what is happening as well as what to do about it. The translation 'comforter' identifies The Holy Spirit as the spiritual helper sent to help us fight this spiritual battle and who intercedes with God for our need (Rom 8:26,27) when we do not know what to pray.

He is the one that walks with us through the highs and lows of life, helping us in times of trial to correctly deal with them so that we will successfully endure them.

He is a gentle servant waiting for us to ask for help and also working on our behalf to guide us to deal with and repel the enemy's attacks.

Witnesses to God and Jesus

He witnesses that Jesus has come to earth and died in a human body (1 Jn 5:7-8).

He witnesses to the trinity in Heaven (1 Jn 5:7)

He gives you the knowledge and understanding to call Jesus your Lord. (1 Cor 12:3).

He bears witness to the truths in your conscience as you speak about Jesus (Rom 9:1).

He unifies the body of Christ and because of this you are able to have fellowship with God and others (1 Cor 12:13, 2 Cor 13:14).

His Love and Presence brings unity (Rom 15:30). There is only one Spirit, one faith, one body (Eph 4:4) and one gospel (Phil 1:27).

He assists in preaching the Ministry of The Kingdom

He empowers the presentation of The Gospel and works with you so you will present the Gospel with heavenly wisdom and not just man's reasonings (1 Cor 2:4, 1 Pet 1:12).

He reveals the Gospel (the good news of what God has done for you and everyone else Eph 3:5).

He assists in preaching The Gospel, evidencing the truth of the preaching with signs and wonders (Rom 15:19). It is this that makes the Christian Gospel different to other religions and evidences that God's Kingdom exists and that its representatives are on earth. That Jesus is its King and Lord of all creation and has authority over all of it.

He gives Spiritual Gifts to the followers of Jesus (1 Cor 12:4-11), for the purposes of confirming the Gospel (Heb 2:3-4), and ministering to the followers of Jesus.

He empowers you and matures God's quality of Love in you, as well as a giving you a sound mind because of the truths of God in you being consciously followed by you (1 Tim 2:7).

John 16:8-11 He convicts people of sin

He convicts people they have fallen short of the requirements of God and are in rebellion to Him and are also not following Jesus as Lord of their life.

He convicts people of their incorrect relationship with God and that eternal life is found in a proper relationship with Jesus and The Father (Jn 17:3)

He convicts people of the judgment of Satan and his kingdom and that there is a judgment of those who reject God and are by default members of the kingdom of Satan.

It is The Father who gives a person an understanding of their need of Jesus and draws people to Jesus. Once they accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour then The Holy Spirit takes over and ministers to them.

His work in nonbeliever or backsliding Christian

We see in the lives of these people nothing happening. But in reality The Holy Spirit is trying to convict them of their wrong doings and rebellion against Jesus and their need to repent and seek Jesus. We need to have faith in The Holy Spirit and His working as He is God and He is doing the best that can be done to draw these people back to Jesus. We need to be patient and conduct spiritual warfare in the way He instructs us to fight against His enemy so that the enemy cannot interfere in the work of The Holy Spirit in these people.

He is patient. It is we who are impatient expecting Him to work overnight and to do miracles. We need to have faith in His working and His doing what is best and just wait in this faith for Him to do what He can with these people. We are also to be available when He asks us to do something in regard to them.

What is your role in evangelism?

You are to be available for The Holy Spirit to speak through you the words He needs to express so He can use these words to convict people of their need of Jesus and of going to hell if they do not Follow Jesus. If He does not do this through you then you do it through the wisdom of man and men's words and not the Power of The Holy Spirit. Because you are not listening to The Spirit Satan can step in and suggest what you should do.

You are to be available for The Holy Spirit to use to show the authority of The Kingdom of God over the kingdom of Satan (through signs and wonders empowered by The Holy Spirit).

He does not need to use you to do this but does so for your benefit and encouragement.

How are we to love The Holy Spirit?

We are to love Him in the same way He Loves us or we will not exhibit His Quality of Love, the Love God has for us. His Love for us is greater in degree but not in quality. In other words He has a greater capacity to love than we have but it is still the same principles and type of love being exhibited by Him that we are to show in our relationship to God, ourselves and others.

How are you to show this love?

It is expressed in the fruit of The Holy Spirit as it is shown through your life. Love is the first fruit and it is the basis of all the other fruit.

You should rejoice God's presence is in you and that He relates to you in a personal way, teaching, guiding and empowering you in all you do.

The peace you have no matter whatever happens because you trust the relationship you have with The Father and Jesus and their control over all the circumstances of your life so that all things occur for your eternal best.

The patience you show as The Holy Spirit teaches you and guides you to be like Jesus and live as Jesus desires you to because you Love Jesus.

The tenderness in which you relate to The Holy Spirit, because of your love for Him and His love for you in serving you, even though He is God.

Seeking what is best for The Kingdom of God as you respond to the guidance of The Holy Spirit out of love for Him.

Trusting The Holy Spirit (and thus Jesus), in all that He asks you to do on the behalf of Jesus.

In humility and awe serving The Holy Spirit in the knowledge He honours you by His presence in you.

Moderation in all you do to reflect the character of God in all you do out of love for God and His love for you.

The way of the person who expresses God's Love to The Holy Spirit

A person with God's Love trusts God's timing of events

They are respectful of The Holy Spirit and will serve Him and will do whatever He asks them to do for Jesus.

They do not envy the gifts others have as they believe each is given the necessary gifts they need to serve God where they are at in their Christian walk and that others with different service to God will naturally have different gifts to them. They appreciate the fact God has given them gifts so they can even serve Him.

They realise that in their self they have no power to express the gifts or power of God. So they do not promote their own abilities but promote what God has done through them.

They do not bring The Holy Spirit into disrepute through inappropriate attempts at expression of the gifts or miracles, but only express these as The Holy Spirit directs them. Any other way is from their flesh and they will fail to please God and the incorrect expression of these will be brought into existence by Satan.

They do not seek their own recognition or promotion at the expense of that of The Lord Jesus knowing full well they are only able to do things because The Holy Spirit empowers and allows them to do these on behalf of The Lord Jesus.

Because they serve Jesus and are led by The Holy Spirit as they do this they realise that when people attack their service they are really attacking God so they give to Jesus their vindication and do not attempt to vindicate themselves (Mat 25:40).

Because they see people as God sees them they do not seek evil in people but look for the good in them as well as how they are to serve people (as shown to them by The Holy Spirit). They may shown the evil in people but do not seek it. God does not clutter you with things you do not need to know.

They delight when God, His Kingdom and His Principles are promoted and they rely on The Holy Spirit to guide them in these and in the recognition of these things.

The do not complain when others ridicule or criticize them for expressing their faith as it is guided by The Holy Spirit and the only judge they are concerned in pleasing is Jesus and not man.

They have a positive attitude to what The Holy Spirit is doing in their life and the life of others and assist others in their spiritual walk, being guided by The Holy Spirit in this

They seek to serve others in their spiritual growth in the way God guides them too and are servants to others just as God is to them.

They have a correct relationship with The Holy Spirit which allows The Holy Spirit to empower them, guide them and express to others God's requirements of their service.

In Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is a person and unless you love Him as you love Jesus and The Father you are bringing Him into disrepute and not living, loving and relating to God as you should.

The only reason you can love with the same quality of Love that God does is because The Holy Spirit changes you to be able to do this.

The only reason you can exhibit the Fruit of The Spirit in your life is because The Holy Spirit guides you how too.

The only reason you can understand spiritual things is because The Holy Spirit teaches you how too.

The choice to listen to The Holy Spirit and put into practice what He teaches you is yours alone. You will have no one else to blame for not putting into practice what He teaches you.

The Holy Spirit Authorises you and empowers you

The Holy Spirit authorises and empowers each one of us personally to minister on behalf of Jesus and His Kingdom.

Act 1:8 but you will receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you will be witnesses of Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

If He was not a personal Holy Spirit He would not be able to do this. It would also be wrong of God to say that each of us would 'receive' The Holy Spirit individually and He would work with each of us individually. It also means that if we are not listening to Him we are not being empowered by Him to do the work of Jesus. Then who is helping us? It can only be man or the devil or a combination of both.

If we do not have the empowerment, guidance and gifts of The Holy Spirit it means God is asking us to do His work without the tools He and the apostles had available. He cannot be a God of Love then if He asks this of us.

The Holy Spirit shows us what God wants us to pray, do or command for Jesus. This guidance is especially important in intercession, spiritual warfare, deliverance and prayer which will only be successful if they are done in accordance with The Will of God.

Pentecost - The Anointing for Ministry

While a person can serve Jesus without the empowerment of The Holy Spirit they will not be able to minister as Jesus desires them too for two reasons:

They are not usually anointed (authorised) by Jesus for the ministry they are carrying out.

They must use reason and the Bible to guide them in ministering as they do not hear the Holy Spirit's guidance in the way they need too for the ministry they are doing.

If they are ministering out of Love for Jesus and the person being ministered too Jesus will honour it and may even give the gifting necessary to minister to that person. But if it is done as denominational/church duty it may be for the wrong reasons and Jesus may not be able to honour the person ministering. Jesus may still help the person being ministered to though.

Without the anointing (empowerment) of The Holy Spirit you cannot demonstrate the Kingdom of God with signs and wonders. This is why the apostles had to wait in Jerusalem until they were empowered for ministry. This is why Jesus began His ministry only after John The Baptist baptised Him and The Holy Spirit descended onto Jesus. This is why we need to wait for the anointing by The Holy Spirit.

The church that denies the Baptism/Anointing (authorisation and empowerment) of The Holy Spirit is powerless in the spiritual realm which is why many church groups are weak and dying and must turn to man's methods to try and survive.

Too many people go out and minister in the wrong area as they have a piece of paper that authorises them to minister in that area. But they are not where God wants them to minister and so do not have the empowerment (anointing) of The Holy Spirit and the blessing of God on that ministry. They have not sought wholeheartedly God's Will as to where they are to serve Him and thus are not where God wants them to be and they wonder why they are ineffective in ministry or struggle so much. They are ineffective because God cannot fully Bless or guide their ministry as it is not in His perfect Will for them. As they are ministering in their own strength they will eventually burn out or be discouraged by the results they achieve.

Why do some of these ministries prosper? Because they use man's methods and at times the devil helps them prosper and keep the incorrect ministry going so the minister believes God is blessing that ministry and is encouraged to keep going in it. God can possibly still use this ministry but not as He would like too (Rom 8:28 still applies).

Before you minister ensure you know where God desires you to minister and seek His empowerment (anointing) for that ministry.

To illustrate what happens when man uses reason and is not guided by The Holy Spirit an example is given in Acts.

Acts 1:23-26 records the selection of the apostle to replace Judas. Note the apostles had narrowed the field to two people through reasonings that these two were the most suitable. Then they prayed to get God's guidance and of course picked Matthias. If they had waited for The Holy Spirit to fall on they would have waited until

He told them who to select and there would not have been a choice but they did not do so. Matthias is not heard from again in the New Testament in any real ministry capacity. The question arises then as to who actually guided them as The Holy Spirit would not have condoned the choice of Matthias and would not have approved of him. So Satan must have pretended to be God so they would pick Matthias and not Paul.

This shows how careful you need to be to ensure the right spirit is behind your decisions.

Using reasoning (that Judas needed to be replaced) resulted in wrong choices and gave Satan a chance to sidetrack the work of God. They expected The Holy Spirit to guide them so Satan steps in and gives them guidance. They cannot hear The Holy Spirit as they have made up their mind what the answer should be (one or the other of the two men).

The Holy Spirit does not give a choice as God knows whom He needs, where He needs them and when He needs them. In fact He waited over three years to replace Judas with Paul. He had to wait for Paul to convert to Christianity and be trained by Him for three years before Paul was ready for the ministry God had called Him too.

Just because you are trained in an area does not mean you are the replacement for the leader of that area when they leave. God may want you to develop skills in other disciplines through involvement in other types of ministry work.

Just because a denomination authorises you to preach and places you to fill a vacancy in a church does not mean God wants you to go there.

Now to the passage itself dealing with Pentecost. But first a comment

In the upper room at Pentecost there were men and women gathered there (Acts 1:14). All received The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and anointed for ministry and not just the men. Why were women anointed for ministry if God was not going to use them to minister His Love and truths to people both in and out of the church?

In the early church before Paul came on the scene, men and women ministered as equals, so why not now? All Paul's early letters have women as important as men. The latter ones (the pastoral epistles, Ephesians) it is believed were written by others but using Paul's name as a mark of respect have women not as important as men and subservient to men in marriage and ministry.

It is in these that we have the subordination of women and clergy/laity dichotomy that the Nicolaitans had.

Women are not to lead in their house nor in order and that is the only real limitation placed on their ministry.

God has a special place for women in His heart which is why he appeared to them first after the resurrection. They can love others in a way men cannot which makes them more fragile and easier to be emotionally bruised and damaged than men. Also, each partner has complimentary gifts and it is only as they work in unison will ministry be truly in unity with God and demonstrate His complete character.

The only criteria for women to minister are:

A single woman does not minister to a single man

They are anointed to minister in the ministry they are working in

Their house and marriage is in order if they are in a leadership position. This does not stop the ministering under the leadership of another if their household is not in order.

In the spiritual realm that we are suppose to minister and in heaven (our example in all things) there is no difference between male and female. So why do denominations and Churches make this difference when it is not there in the early letters of Paul that are recognized as being written by him?

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Pentecost and its aftermath (Acts Ch 2)

Notice in v1 of acts 2 that they were all in unity waiting on God. This is the first requirement for God to work, a oneness of spirit with Him and each other. There was no wind, only the sound of a wind so those that "breathe" The Holy Spirit on people based on this wind are in error as there was no wind in the room. The Holy Spirit made His presence known through using cloven tongues that were like a fire. Note: Like a fire and not an actual fire as there was nothing to burn (which a fire requires).

There is no statement He actually entered them. He did not need too as His Presence was already in them or they would not have

been followers of Jesus and marked as such by The Holy Spirit being in them. To baptise is to immerse. So there was not entry of The Spirit in them or it would have been called something else and it would have been noted that the Spirit has entered them. His presence was in that room and they were immersed (baptised) in His Presence.

The anointing does not enter you. You may feel the presence of The Holy Ghost working through you affecting your body as He works the Will of God. But He does not enter you to anoint you. It is not necessary, as the empowerment is from Him as you declare the Will of God and His presence is already in you marking you as belonging to Jesus as well as your authority in The Kingdom.

I note that Jesus did breathe on the disciples before He Ascended into heaven but it was symbolic to mark the coming of The Holy Spirit and to show them as belonging to Him and not to authorise and empower them for ministry. This was done later at Pentecost. Any person breathing on people to impart a gift or anointing is doing so incorrectly as they cannot give the spirit to mark them as belonging to Jesus because that occurs at Salvation and they cannot give what is not theirs to give anyway.

The gift of tongues came forth from those in the upper room because The Holy Spirit descended on them. This was not angelic tongues but tongues of other people's languages so that they could understand the message when they were preached to by the apostles (Acts 2:4-12). Remember they were being commissioned to spread the good news of Jesus throughout the world and it was necessary for people in other cultures and of other languages to be able to un-

derstand them. So the disciples were given this gift of speaking in their own language but being understood in the language of the person they were speaking too. I have heard of this actually happening in the 20th Century but it is rare and I believe the true gift of tongues will always have someone there it is directed too who will understand it.

Demons can do a similar thing. Note that there is a demon called a scrambler demon, who can make a person hear the opposite of what is actually being said. This is to start division between people. So always make certain you actually heard what the other person said when there is a problem of communication.

Anyone teaching that tongues other than this type were present at Pentecost is in error.

These 'tongues' grasped the attention of peoples from different races and cultures who could not understand how these Jews could speak in their language. Some thought they were drunk with wine so Peter got up and preached in his own tongue to all that were there and all the different nationalities understood what was said in their native tongue. So another mark of the tongues that occurred at Pentecost is that it was not incomprehensible to the speaker as they were hearing what was said in their own native language which they spoke every day.

Note that the gift of tongues was given to promote the Gospel not to prophesy or edify people. It was to show forth the marvelous works of the Lord Jesus.

The Gift of Tongues at Pentecost was one of the manifestations of The Holy Spirit but there were other manifestations all designed to encourage people to believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour (v21).

Signs and wonders are for the promotion of Jesus, His Gospel and The Kingdom of God not to give the church or any of its members prestige or importance. In fact being used to express these in your life should drive you to greater humility.

In v22 Peter declares that these signs and wonders were a continuation of what Jesus did in the midst of them in spite of which He was put to death. Peter then declares Jesus was raised from the dead and that the signs and wonders He did continues in the followers of Jesus. In v23-36 Peter explained whom Jesus was in terms of the Messiah in the Old Testament and people responded and wanted to know what to do to follow Jesus.

His response was that they should be baptized in the Name of Jesus (so they would identify with Him and repent of any baptism to and worship of other gods they had worshipped before) and accept what Jesus had done at Calvary (the remission of sins, redemption etc.), and that they would also receive The Holy Ghost.

3000!! I repeat 3000!! Of all different nationalities believed what was preached, were baptized and became followers of Jesus from that one demonstration of signs and wonders at that one sermon (v41).

The unity continued as did the Miracles and daily worship (v42-47) and would do so as long as they followed the teachings of Jesus. So why do we not see the same thing happening today? The answer is simple. We are not following Jesus as we should.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of The Holy Spirit are just that. Gifts from God resulting from His Grace and Love towards us and are designed to be used for His Purposes as well as to help us do His Will.

You can ask for them or 'impart' them. But it is up to God whether or not they are given. If He does not give the gifts requested then Satan will try and give you his version of corrupted gifts and at times will succeed because a gift is expected and the source is expected to be The Holy Spirit. As The Holy Spirit does not give this gift Satan fills this empty spiritual space with His version of the 'gifts'.

You do not need to ask for gifts, guidance or understanding. These are all promised when you live according to Mat 6:33. Not asking, but waiting for God to give one avoids this trap of a false gift being given to a person. Its being given also shows the start of the period when it is to be used as well of the ministry it is to be used in.

Gifts, like the Baptism of The Holy Spirit, are given for the purposes of service and are really part of the anointing (authorising) a person to minister in a certain area God has promoted them to minister in.

'Signs and wonders' are for evangelistic purposes while gifts are given to minister to a citizen of The Kingdom of God. This is why healing is mentioned as a gift and as a sign of evangelism. The gift of healing used in evangelism is to demonstrate to non-Christians the power of God over Satan and his works and that The Kingdom of God has come to them while the gift of healing is to demonstrate the Love of God to His people

Spiritual gifts are given for one purpose only. It is to assist a person in doing their work as a citizen of The Father's Kingdom and through their correct usage bringing Glory to Jesus. Any other reason is a misuse of the gifts, makes the gift an idol and is a sin against God if deliberately done.

The gifts are given as God determines and not because someone asks for them. If God was to give you what you ask and it was not beneficial for you it would cause you to stumble and/or sin. Accordingly, God gives you only what you need. It is we who desire more than we should and in doing so can allow demons to give us their corrupted gifts, who will gladly help us 'achieve' what we should not have or do as well as express these gifts in the way they desire them to be manifested.

The true test of a person's gift is whether it is used for the purposes of The Father or for their own edification whether they use their God-given gift to promote The Kingdom of God or to promote their 'own ministry' achievements.

By their fruits you will know the source of their gift.

Ministries that advertise that at their services you will receive The Holy Spirit or gifts of The Holy Spirit, be healed or prophesied over or other gifts will be present are misusing the gifts and the anointing and they are using them to sell their ministry and not to glorify Jesus unless they have asked Jesus and have been told what will happen to specific people. Even then it can only be in regard to some people and not all who will attend the service. They are also ignoring the role people have to play in having a right attitude towards God to be able receive the gifts as well as the fact that the

gifts of The Holy Spirit are a result of promotion and for service and not for self-edification and their expression is for the purposes of encouraging the faith of a person.

They are ignoring the fact that God determines what gifts a person has as well its expression and also where and when He desires these gifts to be used. It is in these types of services, that advertise the gifts are to be given to anyone, that demons step in and place their 'gifts' on people in place of The Holy Spirit. Beware of people freely giving the gifts and anointing of The Holy Spirit to whoever asks for them.

The gifts of The Holy Spirit are given for our good {benefit}:

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

And The Holy Spirit is the one who decides how they should be given:

1 Cor 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

They are given to unite The Body and to help each other care for one another:

1 Cor 12:25 That there should be no schism (doctrinal division) in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Each of us is given the gift(s) we need to play our part in The Body (Kingdom)

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Cor 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

There are three main passages that list the gifts of The Holy Spirit

Rom 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching: Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1Cor 12:8-10 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, divers kinds of languages; to another, the interpretation of languages

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

These are the three main lists of spiritual gifts. Note the five-fold ministry are also a gift from God and are not earned by working or studying but by the maturity in your relationship with Jesus and are provided by Jesus to help you minister in the area He has sent you to minister in. In other words they are not the result of years of service in a denomination or church or seminary, university or other types of degrees or certificates. One wonders what God makes of the modern system where these five 'gifts' are 'learned' and 'exams' passed to be given the right to use them even though God may not have approved the person to minister in the position for which he has been qualified by man's criteria.

There is a 'cloud' over the fivefold classification because it is found in a book not considered to be written by Paul but by another using his name so that it was not something Jesus taught and may really have no biblical authority for existing.

The Various Gifts

I will give a brief description of the gifts then discuss other relevant points about some of them later in this chapter.

The various gifts are as follows in (alphabetical order)

Apostles: An apostle is someone sent by a person in authority on a special mission to represent them. In a Christian context they are sent by Jesus to evangelise in areas churches do not exist and to establish these churches. It is of no use to send them to preach the gospel to churches where it is already known.

Apostles do not stay after they are established a church and administer it as that is not their role and they do not stay and spiritually minister after it is established as that is a pastor's role and not theirs.

A church cannot declare anyone an apostle unless Jesus tells them to as they are His representatives and not a church's representative. God alone can give them the ministry for which He declares them to be an apostle of His.

They will stay in a place for a period. Either to found a new *ekklesia* or to spiritually strengthen the group they are staying with. Then they will move on to new areas.

An apostle does not go to an establish Church and stay there afterwards as that is not their role. If they do that they are not apostles but pastors, teachers or administrators. In fact a church can only declare someone an apostle who is going to leave them and go out and church plant in places where there are no churches. They cannot declare a person an apostle and leave them in the church to minister.

So any apostle who says they are sent to an established church is deceived as they can only be teachers, pastors or administrators as apostle is sent away from established churches to work and not to an established church to minister in.

If they are sent to a church for any other reason it can only be as a prophet or teacher usually to warn the church when the prophets in the church are not doing this.

Discerning of spirits: The ability to tell the nature of a spirit in a person, whether it belongs to Jesus or Satan. There is also the ability to look into a person's soul and see what their spirit is like. Often a person's eyes will show the spirit in them, and even demons in them looking out through them.

Evangelists: The ability to tell clearly the good news of the Gospel of The Kingdom as well as demonstrate it in some way (through signs and wonders).

Exhorting: The ability to encourage another to persevere in their trials and suffering to endure whatever is happening to them.

Faith: The ability to believe God when others would have given up doing so.

Healing: Physical and spiritual healing of a person. Spiritual and inner healing is done in the deliverance ministry, which is part of the Pastoral Ministry but which every Christian should be able to do. Physical healing is more the gift this refers to.

Remember. The gifts are for the church while the miracle of healing is for evangelism to demonstrate The Kingdom of God is there

Jesus may not heal immediately

There may be lessons to learn through the illness

You may have asked for the wrong reasons

Jesus may delay it to use the healing to bring someone into The Kingdom

The demon causing the illness (and the sin associated with them) has not been dealt with

Jesus may be using the illness to show His reality to others as you endure it in faith in Him even though He is not healing you

Through the example of your faith in the way you deal with the illness you will Show His Lordship and sustaining power

He may want you home with Him in heaven (The example of Hezekiah shows what can happen if you are healed and God does not desire it because of what will happen afterward).

Other reasons we do not know about (Duet 29:29, He only tells us what we need to know)

Whatever happens will be for your eternal best (Rom 8:28)

Mercy: The ability to show God's love when others cannot. Everyone can show love and compassion but these people can do so when others find it hard to do so.

Pastors: Those who look after the people of Jesus on a day-to-day basis, pray for them and minister The Word to them. Bishops and similar are just pastors who mentor other pastors.

These spiritual leaders do not get involved in worldly affairs such as administration or maintenance (see Acts 6). Their role is to wait on God then advise people of what God says. They are mentors and counselors relying on God to tell them what to say to people.

There is a gift of **administration** which anyone running the physical organisational side of a church or organisation needs to have.

People like deacons and elders who oversee the day to day running of an *ekklessia* are examples of people who should have this gift.

Prophets: The ability to speak on God's behalf in regard to future events or current situations. Their gift is used to correct, encourage and warn but also to call people to repentance, especially those that are out of a proper relationship with God. Anyone with the gift of prophecy who is not calling people to repentance when God says too is not using their gift properly.

Prophets should be warning leaders of nations and telling them what God says they should be doing but are not!

Ruling: The stewardship of others under their authority and possessions. These people have a gift to be able to organise and maintain things, using wisely what God gives them to be stewards of, whether it is people or assets. These are the people you want running the church finances and administration. They will be deacons in the church and not elders as elders minister the word and pray (See Acts 6). It is also handy for the running of a family.

Teachers: The ability to teach the things of God correctly and clearly to people in a way the people can clearly understand and apply them.

The word of knowledge: The ability to tell of things unknown in the natural by them or another about a person or object. This is to do with things a person does not know but needs to know to minister to them self or others.

The word of Wisdom: The ability to give God's guidance on a situation, problem or question that is not covered by the Bible. (Wisdom is applied knowledge).

The working of miracles: The ability to change supernaturally natural events. Note: All the gifts are empowered by The Holy Spirit and as people pronounce their faith in Jesus and His authority He expresses these gifts in this world through people and uses them to minister through people to others.

Tongues: (Various kinds of languages). There is only one type of this gift. It is the ability to be understood in a language foreign to the one you speak, (demonic and angelic tongues are still a tongue that is foreign to us).

Tongues, Interpretation of: The ability to understand what a person is saying in a language that is foreign to you.

Both are mentioned together as if they only really are both used together and not individually. One is of no use without the other. Without the interpretation you do not know if it is from God or Satan. There is no need usually for interpretation in the church service as there should usually be no 'tongues' as it is only for communicating to others who do not speak your language and that is not usually necessary in a church service.

Why have the gifts been given?

Eph 4:12-13 summarises this as follows

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Literally

For bringing to full maturity all those who have set themselves apart for Jesus, to help those in the offices appointed by God to minister in the way God desires them too, for the building up of all those who follow Jesus until we come to a common agreement and unity in our belief in and knowledge of Jesus, to the level of maturity He requires of us who have The Holy Spirit's presence in us.

The gifts are given for the benefit of all and not just for the benefit of those considered worthy of them.

Webster 1 Co 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

God gives everyone the gifts they need to live the Christian live.

How does one receive a gift of The Holy Spirit?

Websters 1Co 12:4-7 Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of workings, but the same God, who works all things in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

The Holy Spirit gives them as He wills in accordance to need of the ministry or service and not as we think we need them.

I quote two verses:

Webster Jam 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, nor turning shadow.

Webster Mat 6:32-33 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.

All good gifts come from The Father so you can ask Him to release them towards you but only if you are seeking the good of His Kingdom and are wholeheartedly seeking His righteousness and ministry in accordance with His Will for His Kingdom. But it is The Holy Spirit who distributes them as He thinks necessary and works through your faith to release them as He tells you too. He is the one whose presence is in you and knows what you need and what God wants you to do with whatever He has trusted to you with.

Laying on of hands

The uses in The New Testament are as follows:

For the healing of the sick. Laying on of hands on the sick and their being healed are a sign of a follower of Jesus.

(Mar 5:23) And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come

and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

For the Impartation of a gift.

(1Ti 4:14) Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

The Holy Spirit would have told them to impart these gifts or healing or it would have been a sin to try to do so without God's authorisation. A prophet or someone with the gift of 'Words of Knowledge' announced the gift to impart and then it was imparted.

Note the conditions:

The person to impart the gift may be any mature Christian who has been authorised by God to impart that gift. The gift must be ordained by God (authorised) so the gift is really from Jesus (and at His direction) and not the people actually laying on hands. They are just carrying out the orders of their Lord and Master. It is Jesus that authorises the gift to that the person under the guidance and empowerment of The Holy Spirit.

It may also be a group of people who have Jesus as Lord of their life and service and so represent Him and hear Him clearly to know what He wants them too.

Gifts must be in accordance with the Will of God so should not be quickly or carelessly given. Time must be taken to ask The Holy Spirit what type of gift(s) to give as well as when to give them and not just assume these things. To assume and not ask God may result in sin and the warning here is against people who go around

supposedly imparting the His Gifts of The Holy Ghost at their command and direction while ignoring God's Will in this matter. The devil will gladly give gifts in place of those of The Holy Spirit. The people they are 'ministering' too are receptive to a gift and are open to it because they have been told that they are to receive one and have usually not checked with The Holy Spirit to ensure it is from Him.

(LTi 5:22) Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

1 Corinthians Ch 12

1 Cor 12 is the main passage on spiritual gifts and is coupled with 1 Cor 13 the main passage on what God's quality of love really is.

It is no coincidence that the gifts are mentioned followed immediately by the main passage on God's quality of Love which I how to express the gifts and any type of ministry.

Introduction

So many people desire the filling of The Holy Spirit as they desire Spiritual power and Spiritual Gifts! There is nothing wrong with that if it is asked for the purpose of The Kingdom, for showing the Love of God in ministering to others and to defeat the work of God's enemy, Satan. But if Love for others with the desire to serve them is not the motive for the Gifts then those imparting them or receiving them have missed the purpose of them and God will not give them gifts to use but the devil will try and substitute his own

version of these gifts. The Gifts are an expression of God's Love and should be ministered in that way!

After talking about the gifts in 1 Cor. 12, Paul says "*I will show you a better way!*" then talks about God's type of Love. Remember that the Fruit of The Holy Spirit all flow from the first one - Love, which flows from and is a result of God's Love awakening a responsive chord in you!

God did not need to make you but did so, so that He could show His Love toward you.

The Nature of The Holy Spirit is Love (Because He is God so everything He gives to us must be expressed in that quality of Love or it will not be expressed as God desires us to express what He gives us to use on His behalf.

Desire the Fruit of the Spirit so you can live like Jesus! It is no use having the gifts if you are not living the life! The Gifts you can live without. But without the Fruit of the Spirit you cannot live as a Christian should. If you do not express God's Quality of Love how can He give you a gift based on His Love? For the gifts are a weapon of God to destroy the works of the enemy in a person. Notice that all the gifts are for personal ministry. Miracles are for evangelism, the gifts are for ministry to The Church but that does not stop using either in the church or evangelism.

Paul emphasizes the Love of God working through you as being greater than any Gift of the Spirit!

If I do something and the Love of God is not revealed or released as do it the act will be based on expediency and selfish purposes. Even though it may be morally good and appear the correct thing to do it may not be the Will of God and may be done for the wrong

reason but God may still use it for the sake of the recipient of the gift but you will reap little or no reward for that service.

The Love of God in you releases the Fruit of the Spirit so that the action is done in the character and attitude that Jesus requires of His followers.

As a spiritual child one is expected to behave as a child (selfish). But as a mature follower of Jesus, the Love of God should be expressed in all you do!

When all is over, in heaven there will only remain three things in relation to you:

The Love of God in you and the resultant activities and relationships formed by this with Him and others,

Your faith in Jesus and His promises,

The rewards Jesus promised you in heaven, the knowledge of which helps you to endure the sufferings resulting from obeying Him.

Desire Spiritual gifts but remember that the greatest of all gifts is Love, for in it is found the purity and nature of God from which all things flow!

Turning to this passage

Spiritual Gifts can be imitated by demons (as can miracles Rev 16:14)). So Paul is about to give a lesson in regard to the source of the Christians' Spiritual Gifts, what they are and how they are to be used.

vl. Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

The people of Corinth had obviously seen demonic spiritual gifts in their worship of their gods and had been persuaded to follow the idols (demons) that showed these gifts before they became Christians. So they would have been familiar with the demonic manifestations of the 'gifts'. They had carried over into their Christian life some of the aspects of their understanding of these demonic gifts so Paul has to teach them the gifts from a Christian perspective to counteract this wrong learning so they would understand how to use the gifts properly.

Gifts from demons are used for selfish purposes and the purposes of Satan. Gifts from The Holy Spirit are used to serve The Kingdom and those in The Kingdom.

Satan knows the attractive power of demonstrating gifts and miracles so his demons use these to attract people. It is interesting that the 'gift' Satan uses most is the false equivalent of prophecy and words of Knowledge, the consulting of psychics, mediums and astrology.

Many follow Satan (often unwittingly or unknowingly) as result of demonic appearances, prophecy (mediums and psychics) and manifestations. If the church was to demonstrate the Power and Glory The Kingdom it too would attract people and not lose them to Satan and the spiritual; demonstrations by the various religions of the new age.

This lack of demonstrating the Authority of The Kingdom of Jesus is why the western church is dying .

Christians have the source of their gifts in the Lordship of Jesus Christ over their lives. God will not trust you to minister to His people (with a gift) if you are not going to listen to how He wants you to use it (as directed by The Holy Ghost).

v2-3 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

There are different types of Gifts. They are used in different circumstance and manifest in different ways but the source is always The Trinity. The Holy Spirit gives you a gift so you can serve The Lord Jesus for the purposes of The Father.

v4-6 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

We are reminded that the purpose of the gifts is to help others. The moment we identify our self-worth with the degree of expression of these gifts through us, we either become proud at being used or depressed at not being used enough. The gift becomes an Idol being used for purposes other than that which God intended it for.

The reason we need to listen to The Holy Spirit in regard to their use is so that we do not evaluate them according to our understanding of what we should be doing with them but according to our

obedience to God as when we are obedient to God we are doing His purposes so we know we are using the gifts as we should.

We do not need to know why God is using that gift, only that it is serving His purposes. In reality we never need to know why God is using us to do something but just to obey.

The King never has to tell His soldiers why they are doing something. They just trust His judgment and obey believing it will be best for them.

The other comment to make is that everyone has some gift from God which they are required to use for His service. Gifts are also a reward for service and promotion as you are prepared for a new and greater area of service. Greater in the way God defines greatness and not as man determines or reasons it to be.

v7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

A basic comment on the gifts is as follows:

Word of Wisdom: This is different to prophecy, which is God's telling of future events and guiding His people through this. The Word of Wisdom is used in counseling to guide people through everyday problems. It is supernatural as it is to do with things that cannot be reasoned out under the normal rules of Guidance.

Word of Knowledge: is the ability to tell others of things that cannot be humanly known by a person as they are either secret or unknown to the person counseling or at times the one being counseled and cannot be discerned naturally. This gift is usually used when a person cannot see what to do next so God gives them a hint.

*v8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom;
to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

The gift of 'Faith: is given to all who become Christians but here refers to faith that exists in spite of all that is adverse and contrary to it as the person has the assurance of God that what they have their faith in will come to pass. It is the gift given to martyrs so they can face death.

Healing: is supernatural (of the wounded soul and/or spirit) or natural (of the damaged body).

v9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

God is sovereign and can do what he likes, however what He does is logical and rational. He also works within the guidelines He has mandated. To work outside the guidelines He has given both us and Satan would make Him a hypocrite.

We are also to remember that He is Love and all He does is in Love, that He sees the overall situation and in control of it and that healing may not be what is necessary for His purposes either now or later if at all!

Is it His Will to heal?

Will it give God Glory?

Does it show God's quality of Love?

Will it further His Kingdom?

Is it what is best for the person?

Does it go against the rules He and Satan have to abide by?

God is sovereign and can act when people are not able to make a decision for healing such as in:

Mental incapacity (unable to understand they need healing or know what it is)

Too ill to be able to decide whether they need healing or not

Not conscious to decide as they are so ill

God may not heal immediately. The sickness may serve the purposes of His Kingdom and bring Him Glory and the waiting be what you need to mature as He desires you to.

This may also be to have the illness recorded by doctors as well as to show that medicine cannot cure it. So that when Jesus heals the illness, it will witness to doctors the Power of God. This is why you do not stop taking medication after a healing until a doctor takes you off it as this witnesses to the healing.

So healing may not be instantaneous but be delayed. This is why you need to ask God why there is no or little healing as it may be His purpose not to completely heal immediately

The Lord is concerned with the whole person and not just the immediate need of the person and healing may not be a need for wholeness at that time.

At times, God uses sickness to remove you from the world and the activities that stop you hearing Him so He can do a greater purpose in you or through you as you do the task He has prepared for you to do in this illness.

Purposes for healing

Evangelism - Signs are for non Christians

To show God is greater than Satan

To show His Kingdom has come

Build up the faith of Christians

Heal people from damage Satan did to them - either mental and/or emotional damage or Physical damage

To Show He loves you

God does not have to heal - It is part of His Grace towards us that He does

Problems with healing

Do we have the faith necessary to believe God can do it?
The faith as big as a grain of mustard seed? One of the smallest of seeds.

Will it go against Gal 6:7-8 (We sow what we reap). We may need to repent of things we have done.

God's Mercy minimises physical damage but some things cannot be undone such as a pregnancy by a single mother.

Calvary removes all the spiritual consequences but not necessarily the physical consequences

Is sin preventing healing?

Is deliverance needed?

Is repentance needed?

Is it a timing issue because healing would be better done at a later time

The Person's free will does not accept that divine healing occurs

The person does not want to be healed

Wrong motive for desiring a Miracle

Self-promotion/self-esteem obtained by being used by God to heal

Not done for God's Glory

Not done out of love for the sick person

As usual The Holy Spirit is to be consulted before you act in The Name (Authority) of The Lord Jesus to ensure it is His will to heal and that you are acting in His Delegated Authority.

Remember Jesus did not heal everybody but only those that called Him Lord or were not able to make a decision for or against Him or the healing demonstrated He was The Messiah.

Miracles: are manifestations that control nature or natural things. What occurs as a result of the miracle will not naturally be possible and will go against what reason says should have happened.

The ability to Discern Spirits is not the ability to see them but to know in your spirit whether they are of Jesus or Satan and some-

times that a demon is behind the gift. This gift is vital for the 'Inner healing and deliverance' ministry which is the main reason it is given. This gift is also used when it is needed to 'test the spirits'.

Demons can control weather and animals and this discernment of spirits can tell you whether God or they are behind the weather, animal or other types of activities so you can deal with these things appropriately.

The true gift of Tongues is manifest in service of The kingdom of God as Jesus is proclaimed to a people who do not speak the language you speak. This means that there is no excuse for not speaking to anyone in your language about Jesus. The gift of tongues may be given you as you speak and the person will understand what you are saying about Jesus and His Kingdom.

People misuse this gift of tongues as it is designed for evangelism and expanding the Kingdom of God and not for prophesying. Prophesying is a separate gift and tongues is not needed if you are prophesying to people who speak the same language you speak. God showed at Pentecost that tongues were to be used for evangelism. The evangelism conducted at Pentecost by the apostle Peter, is the only example of the use of tongues in the Bible as if to indicate this is the only real use for that gift.

Salvation is found only in a relationship with Jesus and The Father and the evidence of salvation is not works (tongues) but a changed life that lives for Jesus and not to exhibit gifts, miracles or knowledge.

v10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

The whole purpose of the Gifts is to build each other up and by this build and unify the body and manifest God in this world but only as guided by The Holy Spirit so that the purposes of God are achieved.

v11-14 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink in-to one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

Remember that demons can copy the gifts and miracles. The test of the working of a gift is in the type of fruit that results in the person being used to impart the gift as well as the manner in which this gift is expressed in the life of the person receiving this gift.

If the gift is from Jesus it will give God Glory, further The Kingdom of God in some way and assist the person it is used to help

Empowerment and guidance of The Holy Ghost

Joh 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

The purpose of the guidance of The Holy Ghost is to know the Will of God so it can be done on earth. As we declare God's will in prayer or command in His delegated Authority The Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8) brings it into existence.

The process is as follows:

In Heaven, Jesus has mandated something is to occur

We go to The Lord Jesus and ask Him what His Will is and He tells us it in line with the mandate He wants expressed on earth.

He will tell you what it is (or as much of it as you need to know to do what is necessary for it to be brought into existence).

You then go out and declare it through prayer, a command or action.

The Holy Ghost is the go-between in all of this

The Holy Ghost then brings it into existence on earth.

You can see the importance of being able to hear The Holy Ghost so you can hear what God desires you to do.

This is the usual way God has chosen to work on earth through our obedience to Him. As a King though, He reserves the right to work directly with people when they are not able to hear or are not listening as well as to plan battles and attacks on the enemy and set them up in the spiritual realm.

We are His representatives on earth, His ambassadors, doing His work in a foreign enemy land. (Remember our citizenship is in heaven and not earth, so earth is a foreign land to us spiritually). Those not doing His work or representing Him are tourists and not ambassadors. They may think they belong to the Kingdom of heaven but may not and need to evaluate their role in this foreign land very carefully in case their eternal salvation is at risk.

You represent Jesus when you do what He desires you do, whatever it is and whether or not it is done publicly.

Unity in the Body of Christ

While the Gifts may be used for evangelism to show the Love of God the main reason for them is to guide, build up and heal the body of believers that form the true church. Man's reasoned ways and management systems cannot meet the spiritual need of the Body of Christ which is why church management programs and counseling based on man's psychology (and similar) do not meet the needs of this spiritual body. This is the reason why churches that neglect the Gifts eventually 'die' or stagnate spiritually having the form of Christianity but not the empowerment to show they are different to man's organizations.

Denominations or churches are not The Body as they are not recognized in heaven and indeed have no outposts in heaven.

The true church is one and indivisible, not a denominationalised system where each has their own slant on theology and denominational rules or creed. Paul deals with this and the unity of the body after he lists the gifts.

12-14 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are

one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many

We are saved into The Kingdom of God and not a denomination. We are baptised into Jesus (and His Kingdom) and not into a denomination! We are baptised into the church of Jesus - one, indivisible, each part needing the others. If one part does not perform its part all the other members will suffer! Remember! Jesus does not recognize denominations, churches, ministries and similar but only the Body and its assemblies and members.

That there should be no schism (doctrinal division, the basis of the different denominations) in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

When this verse is fulfilled then will the true church completely defeat the enemy of God in the authority of Jesus and the Gifts and Power of The Holy Spirit.

Are the gifts for today?

The early church turned the world upside down. What did they have to do this?

The Delegated Authority of Jesus to remove the works of the enemy (exorcism of objects, deliverance of people Mark 16:17, his plans, his purposes, and his infrastructure)

The encouragement, guidance and empowerment of The Holy Ghost

The Gifts of The Holy Ghost and Jesus

Complete trust in God's Power (Authority), Plans, Purposes, Provision and Protection

A knowledge of a contemporary Jesus (that He had existed, did what He said and was very real to them as a person and God)

The first four points are what God gave them to use, the latter was the relationship they had with Jesus, The Holy Spirit and God.

Many of the modern churches in the West states the first and third points are no longer applicable to this modern era and so are not available to modern Christians. They serve a callous and uncaring God who expects them to do the work of the early church without the equipment God gave the early church to do His work and wonder what God no longer works as He did in the early church.

God says in Malachi 3:6 "*I change not*" and in Rom 11:29, that he does not withdraw His gifts. He cannot have recalled the gifts He gave to the early church to use and has not changed His mind about our using them. If God has changed His mind about using the gifts today then Rom 11:29 is incorrect and the Bible is in error and thus cannot be believed as the inerrant Word of God. God would also clearly have stated He had done this or else He would not be able to condemn us for ignoring them.

To ask people to work in a supernatural sphere without the supernatural provision of God is callous and inappropriate. But this is what many in the western church ask its members to do. They have removed the supernatural element from the battle and wonder why 'their' church is dying and not achieving what God requires it to achieve.

They pray, it is true, but do not do what God asks them to do. He gave us the authority to cast out demons, to heal the sick, to preach The Word with miracles and did not tell us to ask Him to do it for us. The church prays and wonders why God does not act when most of the time He wants them to act. Prayer is important but it cannot replace the 'word of command' or our responsibility to act as He requires us to.

Jesus demonstrated The Kingdom of God and taught about it. He destroyed the works of the enemy and set people free from the enemy's bondage. Jesus said these signs would follow all who were led by His Spirit (Mat 16:17-18):

They would:

Cast out devils;

Speak with new tongues;

They would lay hands on the sick, and they would recover.

If you are not:

Preaching The Kingdom

Illustrating it by using your delegated authority to deal with devils,

Using the Gifts of The Holy Spirit,

Removing the works of the enemy in a Christian's life (deliverance and healing),

Destroying the works of Satan and

Walking accordance to the guidance and empowerment of The Holy Spirit (signs and wonders)

Doing all in God's Quality of Love for His Glory and the furtherance of His Kingdom you might not belong to it.

If you are not doing any of these then you are not living as the early church did and are not doing the work of Jesus, unless you are resting from the battle, teaching others to fight the battle or learning how to fight it.

If you do not use the supernatural weapons and gifts that Jesus gave you then you will be using the methods and coping systems of the world to compensate for the apparent lack of empowerment you have and the church will appear to them as being no different to them except that you are more moral and disciplined in some areas than they are. If the world cannot see the supernatural in your life, that Jesus and The Holy Spirit are still at work in the world, then they will not see any reason to follow your beliefs and that means they will see no reason to follow Jesus.

They will see the church as just another organization or social thing and will go to the New Age or Satanism where the supernatural is occurring because demons know this is what attracts people. Without the supernatural element the church is not a relevant faith to

follow which is why cults are so easily able to lead people from the true church.

Unless the supernatural is relevant in your life you are not relevant to all who would want to follow Jesus and who would be encouraged to put their trust in Him. You are also not representing Him and His Kingdom as He requires all His subjects to destroy the work of the enemy in people and society.

If you are knowingly rejecting or not doing any of His work how can you call yourself a citizen of His Kingdom and a follower of Jesus (a Christian)? His early followers were noted for doing His work (evangelism, deliverance and teaching of the Kingdom) and loving others as He loved them. If you are not doing this then what will you say to Jesus when you are asked to give an account of how you used your life on earth?

You will not be judged for trying to use the gifts and not succeeding or incorrectly teaching the Kingdom out of incorrect knowledge about it. You will be judged for not bothering to do either when you knew you should have or for not studying The Bible to learn what it says about them.

When the church demonstrates The Kingdom of God with power and authority and with His Love flowing through them to the people they are sent to minister too then it will attract people to His Kingdom. Otherwise it may as well be a social club for all the relevance it will have to the world and God's enemy.

And Satan will watch it and laugh at it as it does not do what God desires it to do to defeat him.

Should we desire more gifts than we have?

Can Christians ask for more gifts than they have? Yes! But should they? No! Gifts are to equip us for ministry and are given by The Lord to equip us in an area in which He wants us to minister in. You only need more when a new area of ministry opens up and if God does not give it to you Satan may try and give you his version in place of God's.

Desire more gifts only if you are willing to pay the price to obtain the gift and be prepared to suffer to be moulded to receive them and work in a ministry where these gifts will be used in. Desire the ministry and not the gifts and God might prepare you to minister in that ministry and give you the gifts you need to do so.

God is economical and gives you what you need and not what you do not need. To be given a gift you must prove you are worthy to receive it and this is done by obedience in trials and suffering as well as by being a good steward of what you already have so God can trust you with more. He will then trust you with more people (ministry) and also with what you need to minister to these people (spiritually authority, gifts, finances and similar).

God will not give you ministry in an area you have not shown that you are able to minister correctly in. Unless you rule your family in the way God desires you too He can never give you people to lead on his behalf. Unless you are a good steward of what He has given you He can never use you in an important position of stewardship (either spiritual or physical) but Satan will.

You are always either serving Jesus or helping Satan in some way by not serving Jesus.

God expects you to minister to the best of your ability and there is no requirement but wholehearted obedience. However, to be a leader He has made requirements and until you fulfill them you should not lead another.

As you faithfully walk in the principles of Mat 6:33, you will be given all the training you need to minister and/or lead that includes the anointing to minister in an area of which the gifts are a part of.

Another side effect of this walk is that you will show more and more of God's Quality of Love in your life as you draw closer to Him through the increased Lordship and the resultant changes in you increasing your openness to His Character as expressed through you by The Holy Spirit.

Gifts are not given because we are spiritual. They are given because we have been obedient and have been spiritually promoted. With the promotion comes the necessary giftings to add to the ones you already have.

To seek a gift you are not ready for and then have a person try to give it to you opens you up for Satan to give you his counterfeit version of the desired gift. You are not in the Will of God by desiring something He does not want you to have so are open to attack by Satan.

To desire a gift to make you more spiritual is idolatry as it is put before what Jesus wants you to have. To desire it to serve Jesus is how you should desire the gifts. Remember He will give you what we need, not what you think you need.

How do you know what Gifts you have?

Ask The Holy Spirit and He will tell you unless you ask Him from a wrong reason.

Any gifts you have will be relevant to the ministry God has given you but not to any one you assume you have. Also, any gifts you assume you have may not be relevant to the ministry you have and as they are nonexistent will usually cause problems trying to use them in the ministry you do have.

Gifts will be naturally expressed in the way you hear The Holy Spirit tell you to use them and when you use them you will minister firstly to Jesus and then to others (Matt 25:40).

They will also be in The Bible as being one of the Gifts of The Holy Spirit.

Can the gifts of The Holy Spirit be taken away?

They can never be taken away (Rom 11:29) but you can drift away from God so you do not hear the Spirit's voice clearly and cannot use them as He desires you to and Satan can influence them (he can give similar gifts to his followers so knows how to use them against God). We can only properly use the Gifts of The Holy Spirit for the purposes of Jesus in conjunction with the guidance of The Holy Spirit. So not to hear His voice means you will not be able to use the gifts as effectively as you would if you were in a proper relationship with Him.

If you blaspheme The Holy Spirit He is removed along with all else except the gifts but these are taken over by Satan so are no longer used or if they are, they are perverted by Satan.

Testing for the Gifts

Should one test themselves to see what gifts they have and what gifts they want or think they need?

To do this assumes you are the person who chooses the gifts you need and not God and that you need to see if God has not given you a gift you think you need. You are saying God does not know what He is doing as He has not given you something you believe you need.

The Father gives them to Jesus who allocates them as we need them and then the Holy Spirit imparts them to us. You are given the gifts you need to minister for Jesus and not the ones you think you need or others say you need. So to say you need a gift and then strive to obtain it because a test shows you do not have it is to leave yourself open to Satan giving you a polluted version of that gift.

A problem with the church is that people seek gifts they do not need and Satan gives them his version so that they minister from the flesh and not The Spirit. They act as if they had the gift and wonder why it is not as it should be when they use it and often will rationalise what happens so it appears what was suppose to happen actually happened.

Do not seek to obtain a gift because God will need to take you through suffering and trials to prepare you to be able to properly use that gift in the way He desires it used.

How much are you willing to suffer to be prepared for a new area of ministry and receive the gifts you will need for that new area of ministry?

Develop the ones He has given you and wait for Him to prepare you and give you any new gifts when He has prepared you to be able to use these gifts properly in the ministry He is calling you to.

Should we desire the gifts, especially prophesy?

Why do you desire the gift? If it is to be more spiritual then your motive is wrong and the devil will give you his version of them. If it is to minister, then you may obtain them if they will assist you with the ministry God has planned for you.

The Bible makes the following statement:

1 Cor 14:1 (LITV) Pursue love, and seek eagerly the spiritual things, but rather that you may prophesy.

The Message Bible comments on the desire for gifts:

1Co 14:12 It's no different with you. Since you're so eager to participate in what God is doing, why don't you concentrate on doing what helps everyone in the church?

Prophesying is not just telling the future. It is speaking Gods words to the church to encourage and build them up as well as warn them to repent. This is the main role of a prophet. Telling the future is not important as it confirms the prophet's gift but does not mature the church, but a prophecy may encourage a person to endure in trials.

In The Old Testament the role of the prophet was usually to call people to repentance and this is still what you should be doing, even if only encouraging them not to do something rather than stating The Bible says they are sinning.

If you are so concerned about the body that you want a gift, serve the body out of His Love for them and God will then give you a gift to help you. If you serve so God will give you a gift you make the same mistake of prosperity theologians who say God must do something if you do something. That God must prosper you if you give more than you have to.

This is wrong because God only gives you what you need and not what you think you need. Beside you are only stewards of what you have and what you give back to Him is what He already owns. All you can really give Him is your loving obedience and faithfulness.

God says to show that you are worthy of a gift and then He will give it to you to bless you so you can serve Him more through serving His Body.

God does not honour the flesh and serving to get a gift is fleshly, as it is from the wrong motive. It could also be a sin by not doing what God really wants you to do. He may want you to do something else He needs done and you are not doing it as you are pursuing your will and not His will.

Should we desire Prophecy above all?

Gifts are used to minister to the body while signs and wonders are usually reserved for the demonstration of the Kingdom during evangelism.

People usually desire prophecy as a gift when they minister to the body but prophecy is of little use in deliverance or pastoral counseling, which is a large part of Christian ministry. 'Words of Wisdom' and Words of Knowledge' are more useful in deliverance and counseling (pastoral type work).

Should we seek gifts instead of prophecy? Paul says not too. He says that love is more important as it is the basis of all ministry.

So should we seek Love? Jesus said not to. He said we are to seek to develop further the relationship we have with Him and to seek the purposes of His Kingdom and all we need: gifts, provision, spiritual authority, Fruit of The Spirit etc., of which Love is the prime one, would be given to us.

Seek Jesus and not the manifestations of His Kingdom: signs, gifts, the five- fold, His provision and ministries etc., and all you need of these will be given to you and not what you think you need (Mat 6:33).

Prophecy Types

There are two classes of prophecy:

Prophecies God makes for His eternal purposes which always come to pass

Prophecies given to a person which are always conditional

These always have a condition of obedience (Faith is understood as being there to cause the obedience Heb 11:6)

Four types of prophecy given to people:

A promised blessing because of past obedience

A maintaining of current events because of continuing obedience

A promise of future blessings requiring obedience now and in the future

A warning requiring repentance

If a prophecy given to a person does not eventuate then the condition for the prophecy to occur has not been fulfilled or the prophecy was from man and not God.

God knows the person will not fulfill the condition but has to tell them the prophecy or He would not be a God of Love

The condition will always require an action based on Faith in God and His Love for them.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

God's Fruit in a life is not success as the world measures success. It is found in a changed life that exhibits His Character: The Fruit of The Holy Spirit! Fruit is an expression of a tree so the Fruit of The Spirit is the expression of The Christian's character. Just as the fruit of a tree depends on the trees nature so the Fruit of a Christian de-

pend on the Christian's nature, which is why Jesus said: *'By their fruits you will know them'*”.

The Holy Spirit is God. He expresses the Character of God in all He does and guides Christians to express the Character of God in all they do.

The fruit of a Christian is the result of the attitudes and understanding they have and when these align with those of The Holy Spirit they will then express the Fruit of The Holy Spirit (the Character and attitudes of God) in their life.

Love is the basis from which all the other fruit flows. According to your degree of love for someone (God, yourself, family etc.), will be the quality of how you demonstrate this fruit in your relationships.

It is hard to demonstrate this fruit when the person is obnoxious, rejects you or is hard to love for some other reason. This is when The Holy Spirit strengthens you to love them, in the way the Father and Jesus loves them and by this assists you to demonstrate The Fruit of The Holy Spirit to them. God also uses this to mature you more to His character.

Until you can love people with the same quality of love with which The Father and Jesus loves them with you cannot really minister to them in the way God desires you too. It is as you are truly led by The Holy Spirit in all you do that you will love others and minister to them in the way The Father and Jesus desire you to.

(Gal 5:19-21 NCVj The wrong things the sinful self does are clear: being sexually unfaithful, not being pure, taking part in sexual sins, worshiping gods, doing witchcraft, hating, making trouble, being jealous, being

angry, being selfish, making people angry with each other, causing divisions among people, feeling envy, being drunk, having wild and wasteful parties, and doing other things like these. I warn you now as I warned you before: Those who do these things will not inherit God's kingdom.

(Gal 5:22,23 NRSV) By contrast, the Fruit of the Spirit

...

(Gal 5:22,23 KJV) But the Fruit of The Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace Longsuffering, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law!

The 'Fruit of The Spirit' is the evidence of The Holy Spirit in you, guiding you in your expressing the Love and character of God to others. The fruit are an expression of your love to Jesus and The Father and are a sign you belong to them. It is what contrasts with those who belong to Satan or even lukewarm Christians which is why it is so important to have it because if you do not you may need deliverance in an area of your life or you might not even belong to Jesus.

Paul states the attitudes of worldliness then contrasts them with what should be the attitude of a Christian! It is to be noted that the more time you spend with intimately with Jesus, the more you will show His Love and as a consequence, the Fruit of The Spirit in all you do in your life. The more time you spend with Jesus the more

you know what He desires in you and the more you will assimilate of His mind's attitudes into yours.

'Fruit' in this verse is singular tense so there is only one type of Fruit but it has many colours. A Christian should show this one Fruit (love) in their life as it is the Character of God whose presence is in them and whose image they are being conformed too. Every Christian has The Holy Spirit in them so that the Fruit is in them. But how much of it they show in their life is up to them and the more they understand and show God's quality of Love in all they do the more of this Fruit they will show to the world.

The nature of God is love and its expression is that of a servant. If God's quality of Love is in you, then you will serve others in the same way He serves others and express His character as you do it.

Love is the key to expressing God's nature and character as well as relating to others correctly as it is the way He relates to them.

Love is a result of God's nature, and His character in you.

It is only as you are led by The Holy Spirit to develop The Fruit of The Spirit in you will you live the Christian life as God desires you to live it!

What type of love are you to show?

Jesus only gave one commandment from which all the other commandments flow. This is to love God and others with the same quality of love with which He Loves you (Jn 13:34-35). That is the only type of love to show others.

The concept of different Greek words to describe the type of love you show to others is humanistic. You are to love all equally. It is just the expression of this love is limited by the type of relationship

you are in. You express your love differently to your wife than that you express to your sister or a strange woman. But you are to love them all in the way God loves them and serve them as He would serve them.

Only in Satan's world are there four types of love. In the Kingdom of God there is only one type of Love and there is no way of avoiding the expression of this quality of love. There is no escape clause excusing you from doing this.

Love (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

The Fruit that is mentioned first, which should be the hallmark (the most noticeable attitude) of a Christian, from which all the other facets of this Fruit flow and which also contrast a Christian with the world, is love. Not just any type of love, but the same quality of love that marks God and His relationship with people. A Love that caused Him to forsake all, come to a Godless world (where His enemy rules) and die for the people in it so that those people could be with Him in a wonderful relationship and enjoy the delights He has prepared for them, if they accepted Him and His teachings.

He allowed those He had created to put Him to an unjust death because of the good it would do for them.

The example of Jesus is our example of Love. The giving up of things far greater than we can ever imagine to come to earth and die for those who would reject Him.

Phi 2:5-10 (WEY) Let the same disposition (attitude be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Although from the beginning

He had the nature of God (i.e. was God) He did not reckon His equality with God a treasure to be tightly grasped. Nay, He stripped Himself of His glory, and took on Him the nature of a bondservant by becoming a man like other men.

And being recognized as truly human, He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross.

It is in consequence of this that God has also so highly exalted Him, and has conferred on Him the Name which is supreme above every other, in order that in the Name of JESUS every knee should bow, of beings in Heaven, of those on the earth, and of those in the underworld (demons),

When you give up a universe to face someone who is going to kill you terribly and who will not appreciate what you have done then complain about what is happening to you. Jesus faced this and did not complain and He is our example.

The love of God is explained in 1 Cor 13:4-7 and is self explanatory:

1 Cor 13:4-8a is as follows (ESV):

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own

way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends...

Joy

Not just any joy. But the joy:

of knowing you have eternal life

of forever having a personal relationship with Jesus,

of being delivered from the evil kingdom of Satan and hell, of being counted worthy of doing the work of Jesus,

of knowing what His Love for you really means

of knowing who you are (a child of The Kingdom)

of knowing where you will go when you die

of not having to worry about anything (Mat 6:33) as you do His Will,

Because you trust God's Love, Purposes, Plans and Control over all your circumstances!

This type of joy is content in all circumstances because it knows that whatever God does or allows is for their best (Rom 8:28)

Remember, God is in control of everything or He cannot be God. His Purposes and Plans are Perfect or He cannot be God. If He is

not Love He is a hypocrite so cannot be God. Either He is God and does only that which is good for you or He is not!

Peace (Is 26:3)

Not just rest but a peace that pervades all we do. Because we know The Father is in control of all our circumstances, loves us and meets our every need and that all things work out for our good! This is a peace that does not have a care as it casts all its worry on Jesus and trusts Him fully to deal in any matter concerning us in a way that is most advantageous for us and for the task God has called us to do.

It is peace resulting from the security in the Love relationship we have with God because He only does all that is best for us.

Long-suffering (Patience in suffering 1 Cor 15:58)

This attitude of 'patience in suffering' results from knowing that our reward is Jesus and that at the end of the suffering is rest in the Kingdom of God with Jesus. It also is suffering while doing the work of Jesus. Because of our love for Jesus we willingly bear any suffering for His purposes because of the resulting benefit it will bring to others and to The Kingdom of God. We should not care what happens to us as we trust Him for whatever happens to us. We know He will never do us any wrong but will always work only for our best.

If we die in the process then we gain everything we have lived for!

Even death at times may be best for a Christian, given what they may face if they do not die. At times Jesus has taken people to stop them losing their salvation. No death is out of God's control so it is best for the Christian concerned.

There are no accidents with God!

These people understand Matt 24:13 and Rev 12:11.

Mat 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Rev 12:11{KJV} And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Rev 12:11 (BBE) And they overcame him through the blood of the Lamb and the word of their witness; and loving not their lives they freely gave themselves up to death.

Gentleness (kindness out of compassion and love)

People who love with the same quality of love with which Jesus loves people cannot willingly hurt another or be harsh with them. This term 'gentleness' portrays this. It is kindness and compassion to others out of love for them. It is the attitude Jesus has with sinners and the unlovely that the world discards and that many have difficulty relating too. It is an expression of the Love Jesus has to all.

They may hate what the person does but the love the person like The Father in heaven does.

Goodness

This person is virtuous and honest in all they do. They have integrity of character. Their character expresses the goodness of God. They are pure in their motives and seek evil for none, esteeming the values of God above all the world's values so that God's values permeate their nature and they reflect the goodness of God in all they do. They are without guile or deceit in all they do!

Faith

This is an active belief and trust in what Jesus asks them to do: because of whom Jesus is, what Jesus has done and said as well as all that Jesus has promised to those who obey Him.

This belief permeates everything they think and do. They evaluate everything in accordance with the Will of Jesus and the values of His Kingdom.

They are assured of whom they have believed in and the promises made by Him (Jesus) and that He is able to carry them out.

The faith of this person cannot be shaken and they will die rather than deny their belief in Jesus, whom He is, what He has done and what He has promised to do for them (Heb 11:6.) It is an expression, like all the other fruit, of their love for Him.

These people are able to fully believe what Jesus has said for them to believe when most cannot.

Meekness (Humility)

The meek person realizes that he is only what he is by God's grace and takes no credit for what God has done or is doing. He has a true estimation of himself before God and knows that all that is good

comes from God. He knows he lives only because God keeps him alive and that He is able to work and serve God only because God allows him to do this and also that God gives him what he needs to serve Him.

He has no doubt as to his need to completely rely on God and as a result does not declare his own greatness or achievements! He cannot! He realizes he has only done what God has asked because God has prepared these for him and allowed him to do them and that there is nothing in what he has done that he can claim any 'glory' or originality for!

He knows he is only a steward of what He has and that God has the ultimate say about what He does with what God has trusted him with.

He is meek because he knows he cannot take pride in what he does because Jesus has done it through him and he is only a vehicle for God to work through.

Because of these attitudes, he has the heart of a servant and God can use him greatly.

God does not Love you for what you can do for Him. He can do it all Himself. He Loves you because He made you and is your 'Father'.

Those who respond in Love towards Him He will use to serve Him and they will be with Him in heaven.

Those who reject His Love will be with His enemy in hell when they die.

Remember, enemies are placed in prison where they cannot harm the good citizens of the kingdom. This is one reason hell is necessary.

Temperance (self-controlled in all things)

This person controls (disciplines) them self in all things so that they never abuse anything God allows them to have control over (what they are stewards of in other words) and are also able to control them self so that they can express the 'Fruit of the Spirit' in all they do. While all the 'Fruit' flows from love, self-control is what allows a person to express them properly. These are the faithful and good stewards of all God has entrusted them with.

Against such people that love with the quality of love with which God Loves us, that express the Fruit of this love, there can be no application of the Mosaic Law. This type of Love fulfills God's requirements of The 'Law of Love' and the 'Fruit of the Spirit' is the expression of God's Love, through us, to all.

The above attitudes and way of thinking are designed to remove worry and fear from your minds as these cloud your thinking and make it hard for you to hear God. These attitudes also ensure you have the correct attitudes and habits to be a good citizen of The Kingdom of Heaven and to be able to fearlessly do the work of The Kingdom. In a sense they are Mat 6:33 in action!

Worry and fear are attitudes Satan tries to make you have so you will doubt God's Love for you as well as His control over all your circumstances so that you will be more hesitant to serve Jesus and trust in His will and control.

A Christian should always be positive. To be otherwise is to question God's love toward them as well as too bring it into disrepute.

God is in complete control and His nature is Love. So whatever happens to you is for your best as God is using it to conform you to the image of Jesus.

The Bible tells you to be positive (Rom 8:28, Gen 50:20)

Job 3:25 (NCV) For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me and what I dreaded has happened to me.

This lack of trust in God being able to protect what Job had, was the sin that allowed Satan to attack Job. Job feared God would not be able to protect him as well as what God had given him. So Satan was able to remove the hedge of protection God had placed around Job (Job 1;10). God was not able to maintain it because of Job's doubt.

If you believe something will happen to you it may. Satan is always happy to fulfill your fears if it is against the Will of Jesus and help Christians be harmed in some way. If you trust in God's Providence and Control of all you will not be concerned about anything that happens to you as it will be best for you (Rom 8:28). God's Love is being expressed through what is happening to you so it is best for you.

The Christian life is a life of positives based on trust in God's Love! Not on negatives or fear that takes away hope and which binds the person in ritual and legalism. Fear comes from The Devil and not from God (2 Tim 1:7) as does all guilt, shame and condemnation after the death of Jesus on Calvary. So in the Name of

Jesus they should be sent to Him to be dealt with and The Holy Spirit asked to fill you so they cannot come back n.

This positive attitude of faith needs to be cultivated through the Will of the person affirming God's promises in regard to all negative situations. In trusting God no matter what happens.

The more we are led by the Holy Spirit, the more we will trust God, express the character of God and serve Him on a daily basis in the way He desires us to serve him.

God illustrates the Fruit of The Spirit in the way He relates to us.

Love

God is Love and all He does for you is out of this Love He has for His created people. All he does is out of His Perfect Love for us. This is the quality of love we should express to all around us.

Joy

The Joy He has of seeing people growing into His Image (Character) on earth as a result of responding to His Love being expressed to them. He also delights in the relationship we Have with Him and His people and looks forward to us being in heaven forever with Him. We too should delight in the life of His faithful followers as well as in what He does for them.

Peace

The Peace that occurs because He is in charge of our life and which flows to us because He is our Lord. This is the peace we should

have with all and which can only result if we are in a correct relationship with Him.

Long-suffering

The patience He shows, like a Father does to His errant children, as He works to draw them back to Himself. It is also the patience He shows when He provides the events and trials that mature us to His image. He does not rush things but patiently builds them up in a perfect way that is best for us and He will take years to do something we want finished in a minute. This is the patience we need to have that does not want things done quickly but in His time and in His way.

Remember that He makes all things beautiful in His timing and not ours.

Gentleness

He is like a loving parent and does not act in a harsh way to us but always in an encouraging, compassionate, loving manner to encourage us to keep going in what He has given us to do. God is an encourager and so should we be.

Goodness

The characteristic of desiring what is best for all because they are a creation of The Father. We should desire what is best for all we interact with because The Father loves them. Because we love The Father we will want to do what gives Him pleasure. His character is such that goodness naturally flows from it as it should from our character as should all the Fruit of the Spirit flow.

Faith

He places faith (trust) in us that we will do His Will and Love Him just as we should and that we will trust what He allows too happens to us. If only because He is in control and that all things that occur to us are for our best in some way. So we should not complain but trust Him in all things.

Meekness

The Servant Heart of God that humbles Himself to put the need of others before His own need. He is our Lord but relates to us and serves us in this humility just as we should in humility serve all that God brings to us to serve. The more authority you have the higher the call to serve others and lead by the example of this service. In the same way that God leads us by His example of service.

(Mat 20:26-28) But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Temperance

God is economical and only does what He needs to. He never over indulges in anything or in the way He expresses himself. We too should be moderate in all we do. Doing only what He tells us to do and buying or gathering only what He wants us to buy or gather so that Satan cannot take our time from what God wants us to do by having us look after things we should not have.

God is our example to follow and we should have these attitudes to all:

To love others with the same quality of love with which God does

To Joy in the spiritual progress and maturity of others and the relationship they have with God and us

To be at peace with all through helping them be at peace with God and through not worrying what happens to us because God has allowed it to happen for our best.

To patiently endure in serving God and others desiring to serve them on behalf of Jesus and be willing to suffer and endure to help them be like Him because we love Jesus and desire others to have the same relationship with Him that we have.

To show gentleness to all in the way God is gentle with us so that people do not fear us but are attracted to Jesus because they see His quality of Love in us expressed toward them.

To only do good to all people and never evil of any kind so that they see our servant heart and the love in it that only desires what is best for them.

To show Jesus is worth following no matter what happens. Because we trust Him and His love for us regardless of what happens to us.

To be humble in all we do not trying to control others but treating them as equals and as worth knowing and not as inferiors, because they are all children of the Father and should be treated as such (Gal 3:28).

To do all things in moderation so that people see our lives are not controlled by possessions or activity but that we use what we have for the purposes of God and are not driven by the world and its peer pressure to conform to it.

As we do these things we show God is worthy to be followed and the demonstration of the Fruit of The Spirit in our life becomes an act of worship and praise to the Father and to Jesus!

Attitudes to avoid

There is really only one attitude to avoid (lovelessness which can manifest as indifference) as there is only one command to obey:

*Joh 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you,
That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye
also love one another. By his shall all men know that ye
are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

The only wrong attitude is that of not loving another as God loves them. Obey this command and you will never sin.

All your life is really spent working at this commandment:

In relationship to God

In relationship to our self

In relationship to others!

As preparation for eternity in Heaven so that you will have the correct attitude you need to go to heaven and learn how to live there.

Any activity: service, ministry, employment, relationships, socialising etc., that is does not show God's type of Love is wrong and is not of The Kingdom of God.

God's Guidance

Prophecy is so abused as a gift that I am going to deal with it at length as well as how to know The Will of God for you which in prophecy seems to incorrectly be the main focus these days. Prophecy has its place must it must be correctly used.

Very few prophecies in The Bible give a blessing unless it is conditional. It is nearly always a warning or call to repentance

Ignoring of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is your guide and the one who empowers you to do supernatural things so to ignore Him is to ignore God's guidance for you and His empowerment of you. It is to ignore the one God has sent you to help you live as He desires you to live and serve Him.

This means He must tell you what to prophecy, when to prophesy it and how much of it to prophesy.

Without His guidance it is fleshly prophecy influenced and guided by Satan. To ignore The Holy Spirit is to ignore God's provision for you as well as to ignore all that happened at Pentecost. This is the reason much prophecy does not come to pass. People prophecy what they wish will happen and not what God says is going to happen.

Without the guidance of The Holy Spirit you will try do the work of God without the guidance and empowerment of The Holy Spirit. You are then left only with reason (Man's Methods) and what the Bible says which does not cover many situations these days. The

use of reason means you have to reason out what God want you to do and God says you cannot do that.

Isa 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God says you cannot do that.

To ignore The Holy Spirit results in powerless person that will eventually be led astray as reason becomes all important and ends up overriding of the Bible because men make a god of reason.

The Holy Spirit speaks through The Word (Bible) giving you understanding of how a scripture applies to you. Demons can also give understanding of scripture but do not tell you how to apply it correctly - usually taking scripture out of context, twisting it or quoting it incorrectly, trying to make you feel guilty or unacceptable to God through giving it a meaning it was not meant to have and by this perverting your knowledge of the Bible. This is done to try and control your thoughts and eventually you.

The Holy Spirit guides you through His personally teaching you and giving you understanding of things as you meditate on what He teaches you (Job 32:8, Jn 7:17, jn 16:13).

Prophecy, The Word of Knowledge, The Word of Wisdom

Demons can also to give you prophecy, a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom with the objective of misleading you. They will try to make you feel you have not pleased God and/or that God does not Love you. This usually happens because you are placing your

trust in prophecy or word of knowledge or wisdom and not Jesus and what The Holy Spirit says about the situation.

They may also suggest that what you are doing, which really is not God's Will for you is pleasing God so encourage you to do more of what you are wrongly doing.

What they do is to have what tell you be partly true so you will think it is all true and so accept it.

Whenever God is behind anything there will be peace even though you may be going through tough times.

The Holy Spirit will tell you something that will require faith in your hearing Him correctly to go and obey it. Satan will stir up reasons in you to question that what you heard was correct and through that try to talk you out of doing what the Holy spirit wanted you to do so you will miss doing God's Will for you.

You need to trust the gift God has given your or you will not be able to be guided The Holy Spirit' as you should be and will miss out on doing God's Will for you. Remember, God will never give you anything that you are not able to use correctly or ask you to do anything you cannot do or which is against The Bible. But Satan will!

A word of caution! Demons also speak in these last three ways listed below but it causes fear or uncertainty when they do and they cannot imitate the peace of God in your heart unless you have corrupted your conscience so that you can no longer tell the difference

between the demonic attempts to imitate God's peace in you and God's actual Peace, itself.

Also, if you desire something more than you should, demons can give you prophecy or similar for what you want, even though it is against God's Will for you, and you will have peace because you have lusted after the object wrongly and are expecting an answer to confirm your wrong desires. Usually this occurs with things that are not wrong in themselves, and which usually are godly pursuits, but they are not what God desires you to do.

Remember, Satan is at his most devious when he misuses godly things to lead you astray.

Emotion also can cloud your understanding of The Spirit's guidance, because your desires can influence what you hear. It is necessary to give all your problems and desires to Jesus so they do not influence your hearing the guidance of The Holy Spirit and then to tell Satan to leave in 'Jesus' Name asking The Holy Spirit fill your soul so that they cannot come back in.

Never argue, react, reason or assume anything but take all things to The Holy Ghost to advise you on them (when the Bible is not clear about them) so Satan cannot use his past conditioning/habits of you to control you and so The Holy Ghost can guide you to overcome this conditioning. But to completely get rid of these wrong attitudes, habits and reactions really needs deliverance and will-power as well as desire not to allow these things to influence you.

You demonstrate that you are a child of God as you let The Holy Spirit guide you in your daily life. It is also a form of worship through showing that God (The Holy Spirit) is worthy to be followed. There are many areas in which God has plainly made His

Will known, and these absolutes (things you must do) are known from studying The Bible. Then, there are the grey areas, and it is in these areas of uncertainty that The Holy Spirit must guide you to know God's Will. When you do not know what to do about something ask him what to do. If you do not know how to pray about something or what to pray about something then ask Him to pray for you. (Romans 8:26,27)

Why do you not ask The Holy Spirit more things?

Satan has conditioned the world to reason first in using its values and to ask God second. Each moment should be a continual dialogue between yourself and The Holy Spirit (even if only by listening for Him to communicate with you). Remember, Jesus said that The Holy Spirit will guide you into all Truth and not just spiritual truth. So whenever you need His help you can just ask Him. If He does not answer, then you know it is not the time to know the information you sought or you have asked the wrong question or He may even be not the answering so Satan will not know His plans. After all, only God needs to know things and all you are required to do is to obey Him how He tells you too.

Just in case a demon is blocking you hearing The Holy Spirit, in Jesus' Name cast any out that might be doing this and ask The Holy Spirit to replace them and ask Him again what you desired to know. Pray as follows:

In Jesus' Name I command any demon blocking me from hearing The Holy Spirit to go to the Throne of Judgment to be dealt with and take all they did to me with them and I ask you Holy Spirit to fill my soul com-

pletely and take the place of any demons that have left me.

You are never alone because The Holy Spirit's Presence is in you. He is always there to talk with you and listen to you and you can hold a conversation with Him in your mind any time you want.

How to Hear God and His Requirements:

There are at least ten ways that God uses to guide you apart from the direct guidance by the Holy Spirit and these are often confirmed by The Holy Spirit but not necessarily always.

Five Ways God Speaks:

Through what He says in His Bible (where possible, everything must be taken back to the principles in God's Bible).

Godly counsel (which includes Words of Knowledge and/or Words of Wisdom.)

Current circumstances (if the door is not open to do the action, don't push it open. Let God open it).

Answered prayer, (but be careful as the devil also answers prayer and may provide his answer first in order to try to displace God's.)

The witness of peace in your spirit over any decision.

The last is the most important for those who are citizens of The Kingdom. The Holy Spirit will fight gently with your spirit and will not give you peace while you are being disobedient or planning to be disobedient.

There are at least five Other Ways God Speaks to people

Dreams and visions

Audible speech or personal visits with Jesus, The Father or the Holy Spirit

Thoughts, images, emotions placed in your mind

God-inspired prophecy

Visits by angels. Remember Angels are only messengers and will never ask you to obey them or do their will or promote truths not in The Bible.

All of the above ways are still subject to the witness of peace in your heart regarding what was advised or communicated to you. It is very important to discern the spirit behind these as Satan can appear as a messenger of God and try to mislead you. When he tries to mislead you, there will be fear and not peace in what you see, hear or feel.

God is original in what He does and is not limited to the above means.

How does one deal with what they are told using these guidelines? You place them in storage in a mental pigeonhole for future reference or use unless there is a warning, in which case, you act on the warning, or there is an action you need to do, in which case you do it.

There is a warning that if you desire something excessively (lust after it), Satan can give you an answer in one of these ways. Be-

cause you desire it so much, you cannot hear God's Spirit and you will have peace when you should not. To avoid this, you must not covet something so that it becomes an idol because then Satan can mislead you concerning it. This is why you take all things to the scrutiny of The Holy Spirit and if possible have a second witness to what you are told.

Prophet/Prophetess

What does a prophet or prophetess do?

They are people God uses to declare His Will. He uses them too:

Encourage

Warn and correct

Guide

Promote unity in The Body of Christ

To help The Body of Christ mature into the Character of Jesus.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Prophets and prophetesses are messengers and not message originators so must give the message without alteration and as God is the message giver they should refer all criticisms of the message to Him and let Him deal with them. They are only message bringers and should ignore criticism of the message God has sent them to bring to a person.

If the person does not accept the message is from God then it is God's problem not theirs. It is not the prophet or prophetess that is rejected. It is God, the message originator whom they reject.

The prophet/prophetess needs to know the appropriate time to give the prophecy, how much of it to Give and how much of it to retain. They are to remember that with every warning is a way of escape (1 Cor 1:13). They are to remember that every blessing will have a qualification for it to be fulfilled if it has not been already fulfilled and they need to tell these to the people they are prophesying too or they are not giving all of the prophecy they should.

Guidelines for Prophecy

What is the purpose of Prophecy

The purpose of prophecy, as is the purpose of all the gifts, is to help the citizens of The Kingdom of God to prepare for life in heaven and to spend eternity with Jesus. Pastors do this as well as teachers and those who use words of Wisdom and Knowledge.

Why then do we need prophets?

Pastors and teachers prepare people in their present situation. People with words of wisdom and knowledge deal with the spiritual side of things and give a precis of a situation and what to do in respect of current situations while pastors and teacher deal with the more obvious things that do not need supernatural input from God.

The prophet is used to foretell the future and what God requires of you in the present to prepare you in some way for the future. There will be one or other of the following:

A warning with a way to avoid the judgment (1 Cor 10:13)

A reward with a condition for receiving it to encourage you to keep going or an explanation of what they have done to receive it (Heb 11:6)

Guidance (Ps 32:8, Jn 16:13)

Promises for the future to encourage you to endure the trial you are in (Jer 29:11)

Prophets are to call people to repentance and because prophets do not call people to repent the church is in the mess it is in.

Sometimes there will be judgment pronounced without a way out of it as the person's sins have placed them beyond redemption. This is rare though.

Guidelines for asking prophecy for another or yourself:

Ask The Lord Jesus if you are to ask Him if He has a prophecy for you or for the person who is requesting one from God. He is your King and The Holy Spirit serves Him. If you expect one and there is not one Satan can give you one that suits his purposes, which will appear to be from God and answer in some way the question you wanted to ask God. The answer will appear to be correct but will only cause grief.

If God says that there is a prophecy for the person then ask the following:

Where you are to give it

When are you to give it

How you are to give it

How much of it are you to give of it

If there is no answer from The Holy Spirit then in Jesus' Name command any demons blocking to leave, ask The Holy Spirit to take their place and then ask Him again and if there is no answer then ask why He did not answer.

He may not say anything in which case it is not time to give a prophecy or have an answer or He may give an answer for the reason He does not want to give a prophecy. Ask Him why he did not give a prophecy as at times this answer may provide more guidance than an actual prophecy.

Remember that God may not tell you or someone else something because you or they already know the answer or so that Satan will not find out what the answer is and try to stop it or substitute his answer for it.

After finishing the prophecy just ask Jesus if there is any more to tell them.

Do not ask for feedback but listen if the person wants to give any.

Problems with hearing The Holy Ghost

To hear The Holy Ghost you need to remove that which hinders you from hearing Him. Usual hindrances and how to correct them are as follows:

You do not believe The Holy Ghost is personal so that you do not believe He speaks to you.

You have no desire to hear Him or you are distracted from hearing Him

You do not know how to hear Him (training in this may be required)

Demons are blocking you from hearing Him (tell them to go in Jesus' Name to The Throne of Judgment and to stay there and ask The Holy Spirit to take their place)

You hear Him but cannot understand what He is saying (ask for the understanding to interpret what He says)

Unrepented sin or unforgiveness or not reconciling to another when you have offended them is blocking you hearing Him (repentance required)

Personal thoughts or external sounds are distracting you crowding out what He is saying (learn to block them out and bind any demons causing them)

You doubt you can hear Him properly (not trusting the gift He has given you).

You are afraid that what you hear is incorrect. (Learn to tell Gods peace from the devil's anxiety)

You will have peace prophesying if the prophecy is from The Lord. If it is not you will feel uneasy or sense a blockage.

When you give a prophecy you should stop when told to by The Holy Spirit.

To not stop is disobedience and a misuse of your gift.

No matter how silly the prophecy or word may appear to be, give it. It may mean nothing to you but it may to the person receiving it. You are there to give the prophecy, not necessarily to understand it. You are a transmitter of the prophecy not the originator. To evaluate it and give what you think you should to the person so you are not rejected in any way or thought to be wrong for what you said, is rebellion against God. You need deliverance to deal with this problem.

When warning someone, remember God always gives a way out. Every warning prophecy has a way to avoid the judgment or to minimise it, so you must give that way out. If it is only judgment, hold it until you get the way out or it will not be complete. The exception is when the person does not want to repent of sin and is not seeking a way out of it and in a sense the prophecy is passing God's sentence on them. This is usually done by a prophet sent specifically to do this

When you are to give a prophecy you will have peace about the timing of it and the amount of it. Do not give the prophecy until you have this peace.

If prophesying only blessings or similar, you must also give the qualification that will allow the blessing to be received. If you do not have this then wait until you do or the prophecy is not complete.

A prophecy can be one word. Length does not mean quality. Say only what Jesus tells you to say. No more! No Less! You are only the transmitter, not the Author of the prophecy.

Prophecy given to a non-Christian

This type of prophecy rarely gives a blessing from God to the person but is warning to repent and follow Jesus and to get their life in order and not to resist or reject Jesus. It should encourage the person to consider the claims of Jesus as well as show why the person needs Jesus.

Given to churches

These usually bless or rebuke the church and are followed by a list of the things God is either pleased with or hates in that church. Remember, while it is given to a church it actually refers to the people in the church as a building has no life in itself. Only the people in it are answerable to God. Examples of this sort of prophecy are in the letters to the churches in the Book of Revelation and, apart from the listing of things the Lord hates or delights in, they follow the pattern for personal prophecy to Christians.

Timing issues

If you tell a prophecy too early, Satan will know what is to come and will try and stop it or replace it and the person may try to bring it to pass too early which allows Satan to work. You could upset their entire life with a badly timed or given prophecy. The timing issue makes prophecy a heavy responsibility.

In prophecy, timing is perhaps the most important thing. Anyone can give a prophecy, but few seem to be concerned about the timing of it or how much to give to the person.

You need to know how much of the prophecy to give and when to give it.

As for lifestyle of a prophet/prophetess

Holiness and obedience to Jesus is a must

You must walk continually being led by The Holy Spirit.

As you meet people listen in case The Holy Spirit has something for you to say for to person on behalf of Jesus.

When not to consult prophets and prophetesses

You do not need to consult at prophet or prophetess if:

The answer is plainly clear in The Bible.

You already know God's Will in the matter and it has been confirmed by two witnesses.

The guidelines on "how to know the Will of God" have helped you reach a conclusion as to God's Will in the matter. (These are listed earlier in this chapter)

You know the answer you want is against God's revealed Will

When to consult a prophet or prophetess:

None of the above guidelines to finding God's Will has helped you discover God's Will in the matter.

You think you know His Will but are still unsure, as it is not clear and you need a prophet to be a second witness to whether it is God's Will or not.

You feel you need to know something but don't know what it is. Before consulting a prophet or prophetess you need to ask The Holy Spirit if you should. You may not need to know the answer yet or God may not want you to know the answer yet (Deuteronomy 29:29)

God may not want you to know the answer so that you do not "help Him" make it come to pass and wreck what He wanted to do. Another reason is for this hiding of prophecy is so that Satan cannot try and stop the plans, divert them or offer his answer before God's. Remember, if Satan can, he will offer an answer that appears to be God's and will try to get you to accept it before God can give to you His answer. The promise is that if we seek to obey God and promote His Kingdom we will be given what we need so prophecy really is not necessary except to guide us back to the path we should be on or encourage us to continue on that path.,

A good prophet or prophetess will know if God has something to tell you and will do so guided by The Holy Spirit. They will tell you what God wants to reveal to you, or that it is not the right time to reveal all or part of it, or that He is saying nothing and will explain why if The Holy Spirit tells them why.

Remember that it is out of the mouth of two or three witnesses that a matter is confirmed.

Does a prophet or prophetess need to know what the person is asking?

No! As that is usually between the person and God.

All they need to do is hear the answer and give it as The Spirit requires them to give it.

Attitudes to living and prophecy

Mat 6:30-34 states:

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall you eat? or, What shall you drink? or, Wherewithal shall you be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

There are various principles these verses:

v30 God cares for inanimate things how much more will He take care of His Children

v31 So you should not worry about your provision for this life if you follow Him wholeheartedly and not ignore Him by trying to provide for your own needs

v32 People who do not know God seek for these things as they do not seek the requirements of God's Provision

v33 As you seek God's Kingdom (His will and purposes) He will give you all you need to do His work. You will never need to ask for ANYTHING YOU REALLY NEED!

v34 You have enough things to deal with today without looking for things in the future to deal with.

So the way to not worry and be anxious about the future is to do God's will as He promises to provide all you need in this life if you do that. This provision includes preparation for the future as well as a future and a hope in heaven as promised by Him to all who obey Him as Lord!

So do we really need prophecy if we have this attitude and are being led by The Holy Spirit?

No!

Why then do we have prophecy?

To encourage us to keep going by showing God knows our situation so He can comfort us in it and to warn us if we are doing something wrong. But then 'Words of knowledge' does that also.

So what is the difference between them?

Prophecy is can only ever be for the future while 'Words of Knowledge' are for a current situation.

As you walk in the principles of Matt 6:33 all that has been prophesied or promised to you will occur as they are part of the path (Eph 2:10) prepared by God from before the foundation of the world for you to walk in and so that all on that path will eventuate. This includes ministry and all the future promises He has for you. But you must stay obediently on that path, walking one day at a time doing each moment what God desires you to do and not worrying about the future in any way.

On this path are also all he requires you to do to reap the full reward He has for you in eternity and The Kingdom as well as prepare you to live in The Kingdom with Him in eternity.

If a person is led by God's Holy Spirit, seeking The Kingdom of God and God's Will, they do not need to know what God has for them in the future as they know whatever it is will be for their best. Prophecy is not necessary, as they will be content in whatever state they are in. They realise they only need to know what God has for them to do next. They trust God and are happy to accept whatever He does to or for them.

Prophecy may be given at times to encourage you but usually the faith walk only is given prophecy at crucial times as God desires the person to rely on Him alone and to trust regardless of what happens. He will guide you through the situation by The Holy spirit and this is usually sufficient to help you in this walk.

Prophecy for the future is normally only for those who cannot hear God's Spirit or who do not have complete faith or trust in God and His Plans for their life. Prophecy is designed to correct, guide and encourage you in your Christian walk. It is also for those who have

strayed, lost hope or need guidance and who cannot hear the Holy Spirit usually because of fear or sin.

Sometimes you will be given a prophecy to help you in something, especially when God is going to do something unusual and by this prophecy prepare and encourage you as you go through whatever is about to happen to you.

We are told to be content in all circumstances. The only way to do this is not to be anxious or worried about anything but to trust God completely in all things. His Love, His Plan for your life, His Purposes, His Control over all our circumstances, over every area of your life:

Ministry (Spiritual) Employment (physical) and recreation

Physical need and things He has given to you to be a steward of which is an expression of His Love and stewardship of you.

Relationships to God, family, Christians, non Christians

Spiritual growth and rewards

Faith trusts in the promise giver Jesus and not in the prophecies they may get that are said to be from Him. At times Satan will try to sneak a few in so you need to be careful and check the source of all that comes your way.

Sometimes your path is clouded by prophetic promises. This is because you put faith in the promises and not the promise giver, Jesus. The seeking of Jesus and His Will is more important than any prophecy you are given so you need to leave the fulfilling of these prophecies to Him and continue in the walk of Mat 6:33 trusting in His Love for you, that whatever happens is for your best regardless of whether these prophecies come true or not.

If they do not come true then obviously they are not from God and Satan has managed to sneak a prophecy in. You may need to repent of something, making Jesus Lord of that area again.

Faith believes Jesus can do what He said and accepts the waiting period for the prophecy to be fulfilled and does not worry if things are not going the way they expect things to go for the prophecy to be fulfilled (Rom 8:28, Gen 50:20, Ec 3:11)

Remember the perspective of God in regard to Prophecy

God looks at things in seasons and not years so to divide up your life into years and relate prophecy to those years is incorrect. You also live in eternity and so you need to look at things from that eternal perspective and not from earth time. Perhaps that is why it is so hard to place a date or time on a prophecy as dates are not relevant to God's seasons but only to man's timing.

Warning

The most parodied gift of God that Satan uses to control people is to do with prophecy' and 'words of knowledge' but perverted for his use. Examples are:

Astrology and fortune telling

Mediums, Psychics and spirit guides

Demonic prophecy and 'words of knowledge' through Satanists and carnal Christians

Demonic prophetic teaching imitating The Holy Spirit

A Christian should never be involved in these as it removes the Lordship of Jesus from their life and makes them vulnerable to demons. If a Christian has been involved in these then deliverance is needed and any prophetic words received should be taken to The Holy Spirit for confirmation.

Prophecy and Suffering

You need to trust God: Who He is as well as what He has done and all the promises you have through what Jesus has done.

You also need to trust His Control, Purposes and Plans for you to endure the suffering. He will also provide the strength you need to go through it if you let Him.

He says in Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

And in Prov 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

One of the problems of prophecy is that what is prophesied can become an idol so you hold onto and hope in it for your future happiness instead of the control Jesus has over circumstances. Instead of placing your hope in Jesus and being comforted by Him, you take our eyes off Him and look to the prophecy for comfort.

As your current situation often bears no resemblance to the events necessary for the prophecy to be fulfilled you get anxious at the

possibility of the prophecy not coming to pass and often you cannot see any humanly possible way of it ever occurring and may try and help it come to pass. You get stressed out and often become an emotional mess. You forget faith is usually crystallized in an instant. God is a God of the suddenlies. In an instant the promise has occurred, the trial is over and the season of promised blessings commences.

If this idolatry has occurred you need to repent of this idolatry you have indulged in and refocus back on Jesus.

All you need to really know is the next step God wants you to do and not the future because it is in His hands and is part of His Perfect Plan for your life. If you do His next step for you, you will be in His perfect Plan and what He has promised in The Bible as well as prophesied for you will eventually occur. The promised future will take care of itself (Mat 6:33).

So how are you to approach prophecy?

You are too accept a prophecy and wait for it to happen and not try to find out more about it unless God tells you as Satan often will try to help you with a prophecy so you will be led astray and not do the Will of God. You take things as they come and not plan for the future unless told to prepare in some way By The Holy Spirit.

Whatever Jesus asks you to do will contain what is necessary for you to do for the future He has prepared for each of you individually and at times has prophesied to you as well.

So you may get a prophecy but it is necessary to live moment by moment in God's Will for it to come true. This stops you helping

the prophecy to be fulfilled and by this hindering it. If you do what God wants you to do at that moment you are doing His the requirements for any prophecy to be fulfilled.

Not knowing the future is normal for Christians (Is 50:10,11) which is why it is a walk of faith. Reasoning what it will be (even if only filling in the gaps left from prophecy) will only result in sorrow as you can reason yourself out of God's Will for you into a discomfort zone not of His Making and expose yourself to Satan and his attacks.

Prophecy will guide you but will only tell you what God wants you to know (Duet 29:29) so that you can do His Will. The danger is to try and fill the gaps in the prophecy through using reason and leading yourself astray from God and His Will for you.

The only prophecy you must act on immediately is a warning to correct something you are or are not doing or on that requires you to act immediately in some other.

Dealing Prophecy if it affects others adversely

No matter what a prophecy says you cannot desire its fulfillment if it means another is to suffer or you will:

Not show God's Love to them

Be side tracked in your focus away from any tasks you are doing

Desire it more than Jesus

Try and help to bring it to pass or stop it and get in the road of God

Take you out of God's perfect will for you

Allow Satan to offer an inferior answer

Remember what happened to Jonah, the reluctant prophet. Besides it is none of your business what God does with the prophecy.

You must patiently wait and work at doing what He has asked you to do until you understand the prophecy so He can implement it in your life, trusting in Mat 6:33 and saying:

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, you shall live, and do this, or that.

The Holy Spirit will always prepare you for the fulfillment of a prophecy so don't try and reason how it will be implemented as often understanding this is impossible. As He matures you to be ready for the prophecy you will start to understand it and see things in a different spiritual light.

You may not desire the prophecy to occur but you must be willing to accept it if Jesus does bring it to pass. If Jesus brings it to pass it will be for the purposes of His Kingdom and thus best for all concerned. It will not be because you desire it to occur but will be because it is His perfect Will.

Prophecy from The Holy Spirit is the Will of Jesus for His Kingdom, so you cannot criticize, reject, alter or grieve over it as that would be to say Jesus is asking you to prophesy something that is not the best for another and would imply He was not Perfect and thus not God.

Dealing with desires resulting from Prophecy

No matter what a prophecy says you cannot desire its fulfillment in a way that it becomes a consuming thing in you or you will:

Be side tracked from Jesus in your focus on it

Desire it more than Jesus

Try to help bring it to pass' taking you out of God's Perfect Timing

Allow Satan to influence it in some way with other prophecy

You are to patiently wait for it to come to pass, continually giving it to Jesus to be Lord of, doing what He asks you to do each day and trusting Him to bring it to fruition (Mat 6:33 applies), saying:

'If the Lord Wills you shall do this and that'.

How to Hear the Holy Spirit

It is important to be able to hear The Holy Spirit clearly as He is your guide to live as Jesus desires you to live and to fight Satan in the way Jesus desires you to fight Satan. Remember that to be an adopted child of The Father you need to be led by The Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14).

Preparatory Prayer

Lord, I want to hear The Holy Spirit correctly so I can do Your Will and be guided to be your follower and live as your adopted son or daughter of The Father. I give this desire to you and am sorry for anything I have done wrong in this area or associated areas of hearing The Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' Name I command any demons that are blocking me from hearing and understanding the truths and guidance that The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit desires me to hear and understand in Jesus' Name to go immediately to The Throne of Judgment to be dealt with by Jesus and take with them all they have done to me. I ask You, Holy Spirit, to take their place and fill my soul so they cannot come back in.

How You Hear Him

Unless The Holy Spirit or Satan actually appear to you, they can only talk to you in your mind. When they are communicating with you it is as if they are your own thoughts or that you are talking to yourself. People often mistake this for a disorder as if there are apparently two personalities in them when demons are speaking audibly in their mind. Also, when The Holy Spirit is speaking, they usually think it is their own thoughts. So you need to know who is interacting with you.

They communicate through: thoughts, dreams, day dreams, emotions, sensations, feelings etc.

If it is not your thoughts, or one of the other communicating methods, then it is either The Holy Spirit or Satan placing them there. You can actually hold a conversation with the Holy Spirit or the demons representing Satan and ask them questions and they will answer. Only answers from The Holy Spirit are 100% truthful. Demons will answer in a way that furthers their purposes for you.

You will need to silence your mind. You may have trouble hearing Him (The Holy Spirit) especially if you are in a place full of distractions or in a place where Satan rules. Remember, The Holy Spirit, has a still, small (quiet) voice.

He will place an impression, picture, or thought in your mind, give you an emotion or feeling, or even speak to you in an audible voice. You will know it is from Him as it will not cause you to fear. He may speak in other ways than these, but these are the normal ways. You may feel a check in your spirit which is a 'No'. If He does not reply it is also a 'No', so you ask Him the reason why He said 'No' as He may tell you and you may find out more by this than by the answer you wanted.

If He gives you an answer it will line up with The Bible, and you will have peace in your heart over it. Remember, God will not contradict His Bible.

Satan will try to cause you doubt about what you are hearing then cause you to reason that it is wrong or impossible so that you believe you are not hearing correctly. Satan will also at times place fear or other wrong emotions or feelings in you to cause you to doubt God's Love, Control, Plans or Purposes for you. Satan does this to take away your trust in God and His Love for you, your Joy in Him as well as rewards and the things God has for you.

Satan will also try to have you misinterpret or misapply The Bible in a way that suits his purposes. At times Satan will block you hearing The Holy Spirit so you need to cast him out and stop him doing this and ask the Holy Spirit again what you desired to know. If you do not hear from The Holy Spirit, ask the following:

Are you in a place in which Satan rules so that the spiritual atmosphere is blocking The Holy Spirit?

Are you in sin (especially unforgiveness) and do you need to deal with it using the five steps?

Are you to ask this particular question of The Holy Spirit? If you do not get an answer, it may not be the time to ask It may not be the time to receive the answer It may not be an appropriate question to ask. SO ask Him why He did not answer and this may be more important than the actual answer to the question you asked Him.

Jesus may not want you to have the answer so Satan will not know what Jesus is going to do and try to stop it or replace it with his version of what you are to do :

Are you to command demons that are blocking you from hearing the Holy Spirit to leave in Jesus' Name?

Do you really want to hear the answer?

Are you seriously listening or just going through the motions of listening

You do not really need to know what God is doing as God will always do His best for you if you seek to know Him better and to do His Will. As long as you obey what you know He asks you to do, you will be on the path He has prepared from before creation on which are all the things He needs you to do as well as all the promises and blessings He has given you (Matt 6:33, Eph 2:10).

A danger is to desire something so much you do not hear God's answer but one Satan is able to give because it is the one you want to accept. This is why it is good to have another witness like the Bible recommends whenever you have an answer or prophecy from The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is your Companion in this life, so it is necessary to be in continual communication with Him as He helps you to navigate the traps of Satan and do the Will of God.

It is hard to be a child of The Father if you do not know what He desires you to do and The Holy Spirit has been given so you can hear what The Father desires you to do so you need to be able to clearly hear Him.

The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts.

The book of Acts is not a history book or it could have been written without reference to The Holy Spirit. The writing of Acts was not to give a history of the early Christians as much of it is left out. The thing that distinguishes the book of Acts from other histories is the narration of the role of the Holy Spirit in the early church and this is the main reason I believe that we have the book of Acts.

Remember there were no scriptures except The Old Testament, bible colleges or seminaries, denominations, Ministers and congregations divisions. They only had The Holy Spirit to guide them.

Examples of the workings of The Holy Spirit in the life of a follower of Jesus are given to us in the Acts of the Apostles. This shows the guidance and empowerment (anointing for ministry) of The Holy Spirit in the early church and how The Holy Spirit should work today in the life of a follower of Jesus.

The first principle is that you must wait for God to give The Holy Spirit to anoint you to minister too and for Jesus (Acts 1:3)

The Holy Spirit is given to empower you to serve Jesus (Acts 2:1) which is shown by the fact that Peter preached openly after he had been anointed by The Holy Spirit to represent Jesus (Acts 1:8). Before that He had gone home to fish and no longer preached Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus convinced Peter Jesus was The Messiah so He went with the other apostles and remaining disciples to wait for their authorisation to minister on His behalf (Pentecost).

The first gift given was the gift of tongues (Acts 2:4) for the purpose of proclaiming Jesus. The true purpose of every Gift to bring Glory to Jesus in some way! If man has any glory from a gift being used and it is not the reflected Glory of God then in that person's life the gift is being misused.

The first mention of the Holy Ghost in the book of Acts is as a guide when Jesus instructed the Apostles as to what He wanted them to do after He was gone (Acts 1:2) This role of The Holy Spirit is mentioned first as it is the primary task of The Holy Spirit, namely to guide us in our Christian life so that we are always doing the Will of Jesus. If we are always doing the Will of Jesus then everything else we need to do for Jesus will follow. That is why those that are led by The Holy Spirit are called 'adopted sons of God' because they are always doing their 'Father's' Will!

In Acts 1:8 is the next thing we are taught about the Holy Spirit. He empowers us to do the work of Jesus. It is only as He guides us and empowers us that we can we help others and do the miracles God wants to use us to do. He does them for us when they are com-

manded in accordance with the Will of God (which The Holy Spirits tell us) so that we know what to command in the delegated authority Jesus has given us. Because it is the Will of Jesus we know it will be done

The disciples were empowered to do the work of Jesus (Acts 2:3-5). Note the following:

In John 20:23 they had received the Holy Spirit so they were identified as belonging to Jesus but had not yet been anointed to do His Will. (Acts 1:8).

After they were anointed the first thing they did was to proclaim Jesus using the true gift of tongues.

They had been 'saved' earlier and there was no mention of tongues earlier in the Bible than Acts 2. So no tongues had occurred before that or God would have recorded it because the first event of anything in the Bible is important and indicative of what the event is to be used for.

Note: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was given so they could preach and teach Jesus and was a result of being His followers through their earlier salvation.

It is noted that 3000 people followed Jesus as a result of this first sermon by the apostles and disciples and not just by Peter.

Act 2:7-8 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

The early Christians all shared what they had with each other and showed their love for each other was real as they shared what their security was in those days (their excess possessions) trusting God to supply their need both then and in the future (Matt 6:33). They were one in purpose and heart as the church was guided by The Holy Spirit. They could do this because they realized they were only stewards and God would provide what they needed to give to others.

They knew they were just stewards of what they had and not owners and that God, the owner of what they had been given to them to care for Him, had the right to tell them what to do with what they had.

The next gift that was expressed was that of healing (Acts 3:6-7). These two signs (evangelistic tongues and healing) were declared to be some of the signs that would follow those that truly believed in Jesus (Mark 16:17-18).

Peter then preached openly to the Jews and their leaders no longer having a spirit of fear to face them and even accepted without complaint the fact he was jailed for preaching Jesus (Acts 3 & 4).

The result of their preaching was another 5000 followed Jesus including Jewish priests.

God does not like hypocrites, people who say one thing but really mean another. This He showed by the way He treated Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1). They were liars and their father was Satan which is why Jesus purged them from the church.

There was a movement of God happening in Jerusalem and all were sharing what they had with those who did not. Ananias and Saphiras pretended to do this and God removed them as they had rejected The Holy Spirit in their heart and lied about their Christian activities. A Holy God could not tolerate them so God removed this seed of ungodliness from their midst. They are probably the first example of unrepentant people being dealt with in The New Testament.

The evidence that The Kingdom of God had come was shown in the lives of the Apostles and Disciples through the power of The Holy Spirit and the signs in Mark 16:7-18 being a part of their daily life. Many souls were added to The Kingdom, healed and delivered as a natural part of the daily ministry of the apostles and disciples and by this empowerment of The Holy Spirit Jesus was Glorified and Honoured and the presence of The Kingdom declared.

As is always the case when God moves Satan raises opposition from the entrenched religious leaders. The religious leaders who seek God's Will examine what is happening with a view to embracing it if it is from God. Those controlled by Satan will try and stop it. This is what happened and is still happening in churches and denominations. But the move of The Holy Spirit was too strong and the Christians did the work of God in spite of the threats of the religious leaders. (Acts 5:17)

The other way to stop the a move or diminish a move of God is for Satan to raise leaders who say the follow Jesus but live their own version of Christianity and give an apparent evidence of their 'great' spirituality so that others follow them and do not follow those Jesus has trained and authorised. These are men who have promoted them self and do not have the anointing of The Holy Spirit so are

empowered by demons to deceive even the those God has called to follow Him (Acts 5:37). This is why so many heresies and cults occurred soon after the church was born.

The order in God's body is that those who look after the physical things are separate to those who look after the spiritual side of things. It is only for control purposes a person will want to be in charge of both. Those who are to minister spiritually are not to be concerned about the things of the world in regard to the church but are to wait on God and inform others what He says to them (Acts 6:1).

The early Christians were so on fire for God they were willing to die for Jesus and preach to those who opposed Him in case they would repent and turn to Jesus. The proclamation of Jesus and The kingdom of God was more important than their life and as they loved Him so much they willingly laid down their life for these (Acts 7). They were not afraid to obey any command The Holy Spirit gave them, even if it cost them their life!

The religious leaders could not control the power of The Holy Spirit and the demonstration of The Kingdom of God so tried to eradicate it. At first they tried to keep the early Christians from preaching in the Temple so they could not preach to the followers of these leaders. But that failed so then they tried to remove them or kill them (Acts 8:1).

If you keep The Holy Spirit led people out of a church they cannot influence or convict the church leaders of things they should be doing but are not! Also, the church leaders will not guide the Church in the way Jesus desires it to be guided. The evil in the church can-

not be exposed then and the church will not be empowered or led by The Holy Spirit so that it will not represent The Kingdom of God or do the work of Jesus as it should but will focus on the needs of the church or denomination..

The people in this church will not be taught all the truths they need to know and the church will end up at best a powerless church and at worst a social club. They will preach Christ and say they represent Him but will not do the work He requires to usher The Kingdom of God into that church. There may be social work amongst the poor and needy but it will not demonstrate the authority of The Kingdom or expand it in any way. But it will promote the denomination, church or organisation.

Note: Satan has the church doing good but it is not what Jesus said they would do in Mark 16:17-18. In fact Satan has managed to get this section removed from modern bibles so that the church will not even consider doing these things and authority and presence of The Kingdom of God is no longer present in most western churches.

They were in the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus before they were published but were removed when these texts were published.

People see the manifestation of The Kingdom of God and want this in their own life without wanting to pay the cost to obtain this authority. This is when commercialism enters the church and God is 'sold' to people through merchandise, courses etc so people are not trained by the spirit but through man's methods and books. People then associate themselves with a leader rather than Jesus. (Acts 8:18).

The early Christians had no Bible colleges, theologians, New Testament Scriptures, denominations, Christian organisations or

church structures but did what Jesus said to do and turned the world upside down. They only knew what Jesus had taught and expressed His Quality of Love to all around them. So much so that an early comment on Christians was "Oh how they love". This was because the primary real command they had from Jesus from which the others in The New Testament flow was to love others with the same quality of love with which He did and there was no escape verse that allowed you not to do this.

The work of The Kingdom prospered as it was led by The Holy Spirit and expressed Kingdom attitudes to people and so followed God's plans and not what man reasoned should be done.

The rest of the book of Acts reinforces these things and shows more of the workings of The Holy Spirit in the early church.

Many signs were done by the apostles as a result of this Baptism (anointing and authorization) of The Holy Spirit so that people were afraid to resist them (Acts 2:43).

The book of Acts then continues to demonstrate the effect of the anointing on people.

From the importance of The Holy Spirit in Acts it can be seen that you cannot live the Christian life as God desired you too if you are not guided and empowered by The Holy Spirit.

He was vital to the success of the early church and must you wonder how vital He is to the success of the modern church and whether the impersonal relationship most have with Him is the cause of the decline of the modern church.

The Holy Spirit anoints people to:

To promote them in the service of Jesus

To empower people to preach Jesus, teach Jesus and to demonstrate the Kingdom of God

The question you need to ask yourself is why these manifestations are not part of your Christian life if they are not manifesting through you. This demonstration of The Kingdom was so important to the early church. So why is it not so important now? Or has the church lost something it desperately needs to regain?

Blasphemy of The Holy Spirit

Unintentionally ignoring The Holy Spirit is not Blasphemy. Blasphemy is deliberately ignoring The Holy Spirit or maligning Him in some way, by this bringing Him into disrepute and not ever desiring to repent of this. You lose your salvation as a result of unrepented disobedience to Jesus.

The verse in question is literally as follows:

LITV Mat 12:32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, not in this age nor in the coming one.

There are two definitions of Blasphemy

Blasphemous language (expressing disrespect for God or for something sacred)

Blasphemous behaviour; the act of depriving something of its sacred character

Easton's Bible Dictionary says: Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Mat 12:31, Mat 12:32; Ma _3:28, Mar 3:29; Luk 12:10) is regarded by some as a continued and obstinate rejection of the gospel, and hence is an unpardonable sin, simply because as long as a sinner remains in unbelief he voluntarily excludes himself from pardon. Others regard the expression as designating the sin of attributing to the power of Satan those miracles which Christ performed, or generally those works which are the result of the Spirit's agency.

Blasphemy (ISBE)

blas'fe⁻-mi (aedoorieid, blasphe⁻mi'a): In classical Greek meant primarily "defamation" or "evil-speaking" in general;"a word of evil omen," hence, "impious, and irreverent speech against God." In the New Testament blasphemy, substantive and vb., may be (a) of evil- speaking generally.

It appears blasphemy is to deliberately speak evil of a member of The Trinity or to take away something from their Holiness. To Blaspheme The Holy Spirit is to talk evilly of Him or to remove some of His Characteristic as God, such as deliberately ignoring or negating His role in the working of the church or your life. This is be done through deliberately rejecting His personal presence and personal relationship and His personal teaching and guidance of you and can be done through deliberately rejecting or altering ad-

versely parts of The Bible as The Bible is His main document used to teach you.

It is also rejecting His Guidance through prophecy and gifts of 'Words of Knowledge' and 'Wisdom'.

There are people in hell who lived 'good' a Christian live but deliberately ignored The Holy Spirit in one area. By this deliberate rejection of The Holy Spirit in this one area, they lost their salvation (Rev 3:5).

The Holy Spirit is so important as your guide that deliberately rejecting Him in any way and not wanting to repent of this after salvation leads to loss of salvation. When you deliberately reject His Guidance because you want to do what you want to do, you become your own god. You reject The Holy Spirit as God and by this also Jesus as The Holy Spirit represents Jesus to you. Heb 6:4-6 will eventually apply as you have tasted the goodness of God and have continually rejected it.

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

This rejection is of the person and/or work of the Holy Spirit and not just of a deliberate sin that you can repent of after being convicted of it by The Holy Spirit. It is rejecting The Holy Spirit personally through willful, unrepented sin that sears your conscience and rejects His work in you so that you can no longer hear Him and

have become your own guide determining what is right or wrong. You may appear to be a godly person on the outside. But in your heart you have rejected The Holy Spirit and are destined for hell.

One of the main areas of rejection is refusing to forgive another when The Holy Spirit is gently telling you that you need to do it. So many 'Christians' are in hell only because of unforgiveness.

Mat 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

If God does not forgive you your sins you do not go to heaven.

Usually others cannot see this rejection as it is hidden at first so the maligning of Him is in the spiritual. Afterwards it is evidenced by your life in the natural. By their fruits you will know them Jesus said and the fruit of rejecting the Spirit and the resultant blasphemy of Him is a damaged mind.

To Blaspheme The Holy Spirit you first of all must have been led by Him or know who he is.

People who follow Satan often do so as the church was not there to help them and have no idea who The Holy Spirit is so cannot Blaspheme Him because they do not have knowledge of whom He is to be able to reject Him.

Because of this Jesus accepts them when they turn to Him and The Holy Spirit as they chose Satan because they knew nothing else but

what demons had told them and when they knew the truth about Jesus and The Holy Spirit they embraced it.

Sin requires knowledge. So until you have knowledge of whom The Holy Spirit is and what He requires of you, you cannot sin against Him.

Blaspheming God

People talk about 'blaspheming the Holy Spirit', but what about blaspheming God, or The Trinity or a member of The Trinity?

Whenever you deliberately speak in a negative or disrespectful way about God or something He has made or allowed, you cause Him grief by calling His Love, character or abilities into question you also bring His Name into disrepute - Both in the spiritual realm and the physical realm. If this is not repented of it will result in a loss of your salvation (Rev 3:5).

This is why we are to do all things with thanksgiving, without complaining or being critical of whatever happens to us. This is because God is in charge of all our circumstances and is working for our good through them and The Holy Spirit is there to help us in this and not to hinder us.

Blasphemy by the church

Blasphemy of God means to call into disrepute His character or person or to denigrate Him in some way.

Is the church guilty of blaspheming The Holy Spirit by ignoring His power and Guidance or not believing He is a personal Holy Spirit, through saying that His power and guidance are no longer a relevant to this day or church age or that you can no longer relate to Him on a personal basis?

Or through saying His Bible at times is mythology or man made myth? and by this denying God's ability to create the universe in six days?

If unrepented questioning of and/or ignoring the power and guidance of God is blasphemy, then the church may be guilty of blaspheming God. I can't say either way but it is logical, especially as The Bible clearly shows The Holy Spirit is a personal spirit sent by Jesus to help and guide you in your Christian walk.

If deliberately ignoring the requirements of God in regard to any of His Will and commands is blasphemy, then the church may be guilty of it.

I don't know.

But at times I wonder

Why you need to be led by The Holy Spirit

In the first 40 years after the death of Jesus there was little *written about the Christian faith*. There was The Old Testament and a few letters and maybe a Gospel but these were available only to a few.

So how were the early Christians guided?

It could only have been by The Holy Spirit so it was very important to be guided by Him either directly or *through* people who could clearly hear Him.

This is why in Acts you never saw a book or codex referred too (*unless it was the Old Testament*) as they did not exist so that Acts

showed how the early church functioned which is how Jesus taught them to exist.

The Spirit is central to all that happens in Acts so should be central in our life.

So what *has* happened?

Books started to be readily available and theologians came on the scene and these *and there books* were consulted and not The Bible. So The Holy Spirit was not consulted.

This was not helped when theologians said The Spirit *no longer related personally with Christians*. These same theologians made the modern bibles which are based on two forged codex and one that is ineligible for translation it is so corrupted.

Some say that homosexuality and lesbianism *is not in the New Testament*. Which is correct. But they forget it is spoken against in The Law which Jesus said He did not remove so that it is still current but some parts redundant *now because He fulfilled* their requirements of people.

So people consult theologians who may not be correct in their view and ignore The Spirit who is trying to lead them into truth.

And so the church is becoming more worldly as it ignores The Holy Spirit *and* listens to the reasonings of man.

Conclusion

You need to have a personal relationship with The Holy Spirit if you desire to live the Christian life in the way Jesus desires you to live it.

It is up to you how you want to relate to The Holy Spirit and hear what God says to you through Him.

But you would be a fool not to desire to relate to Him personally as your relationship to Him is the secret of your relationship with Jesus and The Father which is what Salvation is (Jn 17:3).

R
e
m
e
m
b
e
r

t
h
a
t

y
o
u

a
r
e

o
n

l
y

a

c
i