



Presence of the Holy Spirit

HOLY SPIRIT, HEAVENLY DOVE

ED HINDSON

(John 16:5-15)

Jesus promised His disciples that, although He was leaving this world, He would never abandon them. How would that be possible? Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to stay with them and help them through every difficulty they would face (John 14:16-18; 16:7). God the Holy Spirit is equal in power, wisdom, and love to God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit infuses believers with the strength needed to live for Christ (Eph. 5:18) and to bear the fruit of Christian character (Gal. 5:22, 23).

The disciples were in dire need of a counselor, because Jesus would no longer be available to mentor them in person. The word *counselor* (Greek, *parakletos*) refers to someone who is "called alongside" to help. While God uses human counselors to minister to us and guide us, the ultimate Counselor is the Holy Spirit, who guides us into God's truth (John 16:13). He is always there prompting us, prodding us, encouraging us, guiding us, and maturing us through all the challenges of our lives.

The Holy Spirit has a divine name—the "Spirit of God," (1 Cor. 2:11). He has divine attributes—omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10), omnipresence (Ps. 139:7), and omnipotence (Zech. 4:6). He creates, convicts, regenerates, baptizes, fills, and empowers believers. He indwells us (John 14:17), teaches us (John 14:26), guides us (John 16:13), and intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26).

NAMES AND SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is called by several different names in Scripture. He is the "Spirit of God" (2 Chr. 15:1), the "Spirit of the LORD" (Is. 11:2), the "breath of the Almighty" (Job 32:8), the "Spirit of the Lord GOD" (Is. 61:1), the "Spirit of your Father" (Matt. 10:20), and the "Spirit of Christ" (Rom. 8:9).

The Holy Spirit is unseen, but is de-

scribed by certain symbols: breath or wind (Gen. 2:7; Ezek. 37:9), the dove (Luke 3:22), oil (Luke 4:18; Heb. 1:9), fire (Mark 9:49; 1 Cor. 3:13-15), the seal (Eph. 1:13; 4:30), the guarantee (2 Cor. 1:21, 22; Eph. 1:14). These symbols help us understand the various aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives. He moves sovereignly like the wind. He lights on us like a dove. He anoints us like oil, and ignites us like fire. He also seals us to the heart and life of God. His presence in our lives is the guarantee (or down payment) of God's grace, and the assurance that He will keep all of His promises to us.

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Himself was assisted by the Spirit during His earthly life and ministry. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), anointed by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18), filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1), led by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1, 2), offered to the Father through the Holy Spirit (Heb. 9:14), and raised to life through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11).

The Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21). He moved upon the writers of Scripture so that the words they wrote were the inspired truth of God. Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13). Paul affirmed that the ap-

tles of the New Covenant received the revelation of God's truth "through His Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:10). The same Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of Scripture guides us into the truth of God as we read Scripture today.

Christians experience the grace of God because the Holy Spirit calls us to Christ (Rom. 8:28; 1 Tim. 6:12). We are born again by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-7) who indwells our hearts and empowers us to serve the Lord with our lives (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:17; 1 Cor. 2:12). We are saved by God's grace (Greek, *charis*) and given spiritual gifts (Greek, *charisma*) by which the Holy Spirit empowers us to minister to God's people (Rom. 12:3-8).

ASSURANCE OF THE SPIRIT

One of the greatest aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives is the assurance He gives us about our relationship to God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. . . . The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom. 8:14, 16). We accept this fact by faith, but we are assured of it in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

God loves us more than anybody loves us. He cares about us more than we care about ourselves. He speaks to us by His Holy Spirit. For those who have not yet believed in Him, He is calling. Softly and tenderly, the voice of God's Spirit calls people to find eternal life in Him. He invites unbelievers into a deep and personal relationship with Him—a relationship in which He promises He will never leave them nor forsake them. For new believers, God does not leave them on their own to figure out how to pray, read the Word, or grow spiritually. The Holy Spirit personally guides them every step of the way. For those who have been believers for a long time, the Holy Spirit's continual presence

is a source of comfort and guidance through every step of life.

As Christians, we are never alone. God dwells in us through His precious Holy Spirit.

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of the presence of the Holy Spirit include:

- > Genesis 1:2
- > 1 Samuel 10:6
- > Job 33:4
- > Joel 2:28, 29
- > Luke 12:12
- > Acts 2:1-4
- > 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:13
- > 1 Thessalonians 4:8

To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on the presence of the Holy Spirit at Ephesians 4:30 on page 1555. See also the personality profile of the Holy Spirit on page 1416.

DO NOT GRIEVE THE SPIRIT

²⁵Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,"^a for we are members of one another. ²⁶"Be angry, and do not sin":^a do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷nor give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be

kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

WALK IN LOVE

5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

³But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

4:25 ^aZechariah 8:16 **4:26** ^aPsalms 4:4

SOUL NOTE

Saying Grace (4:29) Words are powerful. They can wound or heal. Spoken in love or in anger, words often are remembered by the hearer for many years. A believer's words must be carefully chosen and considered in light of one's relationship with Christ. New life in Christ not only affects where a person will spend eternity, how that person lives, or their self-esteem, but it should also profoundly affect their words. We should never speak with "corrupt words"—such as coarse language, gossip, or slander. Instead, our words should "impart grace" to our listeners. What do our words say about our faith? **Topic: Communication**

KEY PASSAGE

Presence of the Holy Spirit

A VERY REAL PRESENCE

(4:30)

When we accept Christ as Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Jesus had promised this Spirit to His followers (John 14:15-18). The Holy Spirit marks God's people as His own (Eph. 1:13); we are "sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30).

Although the Holy Spirit enters our lives to help us live for God, He does not turn us into robots. We constantly battle the sin nature, and at times we fail. When we willfully continue in sin, however, we "grieve" the Holy Spirit.

Having the Holy Spirit with us and in us is a great privilege, but it brings great responsibility. We do not want to grieve Him, so we must be responsible enough to be sensitive to what He tells us. We try to follow His guidance because He has given us a great privilege, sealing us to be with God forever. Far from being an excuse for sin, that privilege gives us high motivation to live for God.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about the presence of the Holy Spirit on pages 1400, 1401. See also the personality profile of the Holy Spirit on page 1416.

sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

THE CROWD'S RESPONSE

⁵And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all

these who speak Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹²So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

¹³Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."



Presence of the Holy Spirit

PERSONALITY PROFILE

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN BELIEVERS' LIVES

(ACTS 2:1)

During the Last Supper, Jesus gave His disciples an extended introduction to the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that He and the Father would send a Helper (Comforter) to dwell in them. Among the Holy Spirit's tasks would be the following:

- > To dwell with them and be in them (John 14:17).
- > To teach the disciples all things (John 14:26).
- > To bring to their remembrance what Jesus said (John 14:26).
- > To testify of Jesus (John 15:26).
- > To convict the world of sin because they do not believe in Jesus (John 16:8-11).
- > To convict the world of righteousness because Jesus has gone to His Father and can be seen here no longer (John 16:8-11).
- > To convict the world of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged (John 16:8-11).
- > To guide the disciples into all truth (John 16:13).

After His resurrection, Jesus added to the Holy Spirit's job description. He told the disciples they would soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit and receive power to be witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:5-8).

The arrival of the Holy Spirit in the early church certainly created an audio-visual impact. Sounds like wind, sights like fire, and people speaking languages they did not learn announced the age of the church. Thousands heard in their own languages about the "wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11).

The Holy Spirit has continued His ministry of conviction and conversion throughout history. Every believer is "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13) when he or she believes the good news about Jesus. From that point on, the Holy Spirit remains a constant Helper, Comforter, and Companion of believers. He may not choose to make Himself known in such obvious ways, but those who live their lives in dependence on God's Spirit will discover that what they need in the way of power and guidance to accomplish God's will shall be provided. By His Spirit, God lives in those who trust Jesus.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about the presence of the Holy Spirit on pages 1400, 1401. See also the key passage note at Ephesians 4:30 on page 1555.

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"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

2 Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like one who treads
in the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone,
And from the peoples no one was with
Me.

For I have trodden them in My anger,
And trampled them in My fury;
Their blood is sprinkled upon My
garments,

And I have stained all My robes.

4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
And the year of My redeemed has come.

5 I looked, but *there was* no one to help,
And I wondered

That *there was* no one to uphold;
Therefore My own arm brought
salvation for Me;

And My own fury, it sustained Me.

6 I have trodden down the peoples in My
anger,

Made them drunk in My fury,
And brought down their strength to the
earth."

GOD'S MERCY REMEMBERED

7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of
the LORD

And the praises of the LORD,

According to all that the LORD has
bestowed on us.

And the great goodness toward the
house of Israel,

Which He has bestowed on them
according to His mercies,

According to the multitude of His
lovingkindnesses.

For He said, "Surely they *are* My people,

Children *who* will not lie."

So He became their Savior.

9 In all their affliction He was afflicted,
And the Angel of His Presence saved
them;

In His love and in His pity He redeemed
them;

And He bore them and carried them
All the days of old.

10 But they rebelled and grieved His Holy
Spirit;

So He turned Himself against them as an
enemy,

And He fought against them.

11 Then he remembered the days of old,
Moses and his people, saying:

"Where is He who brought them up out
of the sea

With the shepherd of His flock?

Where is He who put His Holy Spirit
within them,

12 Who led *them* by the right hand of
Moses,

With His glorious arm,

Dividing the water before them

To make for Himself an everlasting name.

13 Who led *them* through the deep,

As a horse in the wilderness,

That they might not stumble?"

14 As a beast goes down into the valley,

And the Spirit of the LORD causes him to
rest,

So You lead Your people,

To make Yourself a glorious name.

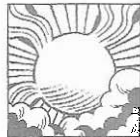
A PRAYER OF PENITENCE

15 Look down from heaven,

And see from Your habitation, holy and
glorious.

Where *are* Your zeal and Your strength,

SOUL NOTE



Source of Help (63:10) Isaiah realized that God's people had suffered greatly because they had "rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit." Therefore, "He turned Himself against them as an enemy." The people refused to repent, and had turned away from the only One who could help them. When people rebel against God, they grieve the Holy Spirit. The New Testament says, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" (Eph. 4:30). To grieve the Holy Spirit by sin and rebellion is to turn away from our only source of hope. **Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit**

- 24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,
And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.
- 25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,^a
My great army which I sent among you.
- 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
And praise the name of the LORD your God,
Who has dealt wondrously with you;
And My people shall never be put to shame.
- 27 Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel:
I *am* the LORD your God
And there is no other.
My people shall never be put to shame.
- 29 Your young men shall see visions.
And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
- 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
- 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.
- 32 And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there shall be deliverance,
As the LORD has said,
Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

GOD'S SPIRIT POURED OUT

- 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,

GOD JUDGES THE NATIONS

- 3** "For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah
and Jerusalem,

2:25 ^aCompare 1:4

SOUL NOTE



Marvelous (2:19-27) God delights in doing miracles. He loves turning hopeless situations into delightful possibilities. Joel warned his people that a terrible army would invade their land and destroy their hope. Even the very heavens and earth would tremble at the devastation (2:10). In the face of such disaster, however, Joel spoke of a day when God would do "marvelous things" (2:21). God's works are truly marvelous. In response, we should "praise the name of the LORD" (2:26). **Topic: Joy**

SOUL NOTE



Outpouring (2:28-32) Joel predicted that God's grand invitation to turn to Him (2:12) would be extended to all people: "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." Christians are the beneficiaries of God's outpouring. The world hasn't been the same since the day a small band of apostles were energized by God's Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. On that day, Peter quoted this passage from Joel and encouraged people to repent and believe in Christ (Acts 2:16-21, 38). All who have accepted this call and received God's Spirit fulfill this prophecy of God's grace. **Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit**

‘And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

¹⁰ In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.’ ”

VISION OF THE LAMPSTAND AND OLIVE TREES

4 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. ²And he said to me, “What do you see?”

So I said, “I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. ³Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.” ⁴So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, “What are these, my lord?”

⁵Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?”

And I said, “No, my lord.”

⁶So he answered and said to me:

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:

‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’

Says the LORD of hosts.

⁷ ‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!

And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” ’ ”

⁸Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

⁹ “The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple;^a

His hands shall also finish it.

Then you will know

That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

¹⁰ For who has despised the day of small things?

For these seven rejoice to see

The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

¹¹Then I answered and said to him, “What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?” ¹²And I further answered and said to him, “What are these two olive branches that *drip* into the receptacles^c of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?”

¹³Then he answered me and said, “Do you not know what these are?”

And I said, “No, my lord.”

¹⁴So he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.”

VISION OF THE FLYING SCROLL

5 Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll.

²And he said to me, “What do you see?”

So I answered, “I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.”

³Then he said to me, “This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: ‘Every thief shall be expelled,’ according to this side of the scroll; and, ‘Every perjurer

^{4:9} ^aLiterally house ^{4:12} ^aLiterally into the hands of

SOUL NOTE



By God's Spirit (4:6) Zechariah predicted the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem—something that appeared impossible. The returning exiles had laid the foundation of the temple and even had built an altar (Ezra 3:2; 5:16), but the work had stopped. God promised through Zechariah that the temple would indeed be rebuilt: “not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.” God would accomplish what seemed impossible. The promise is true today. God's people can do what may seem impossible when they work not by their might and power, but by God's Spirit.

Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit

the remission of sins, "as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the LORD;
Make His paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled
And every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight
And the rough ways smooth;
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"*^a

JOHN PREACHES TO THE PEOPLE

⁷Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ⁹And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

¹¹He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

¹²Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

¹⁴Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying "And what shall we do?"

So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵Now as the people were in expectation and all reasoned in their hearts about John whether he was the Christ or not, ¹⁶John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,^a and for all the evils which Herod had done, ²⁰also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

²¹When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

²²And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

²³Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was sup-

^{3:6} ^aIsaiah 40:3-5 ^{3:19} ^aNU-Text reads *his brother's wife*.



SOUL NOTE

Special Baptism (3:16) Some people thought John the Baptist was the Messiah, the Christ. John explained that he only baptized with water, but Christ would baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire." The baptism with the Holy Spirit occurred later, after Jesus ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit on His followers (Acts 2). People are baptized with the Holy Spirit when, by faith, they accept Jesus as Savior and become a part of God's family. The Holy Spirit comes to live within believers' hearts, giving them the power to be witnesses for Christ and to lead God-pleasing lives.

Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit

down to eat. ³⁸When the Pharisee saw *it*, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner.

³⁹Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you.

⁴²"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ⁴³Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!^a For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over *them* are not aware of *them*."

⁴⁵Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also."

⁴⁶And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. ⁴⁷Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. ⁴⁸In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and persecute,' ⁵⁰that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, ⁵¹from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

⁵²"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

⁵³And as He said these things to them,^a the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, ⁵⁴lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.^a

BEWARE OF HYPOCRISY

12 In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all: "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ²For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. ³Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

JESUS TEACHES THE FEAR OF GOD

⁴"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

⁶"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins?^a And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

^{11:44} ^aNU-Text omits *scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites*. ^{11:53} ^aNU-Text reads *And when He left there*. ^{11:54} ^aNU-Text omits *and seeking and that they might accuse Him*. ^{12:6} ^aGreek *assarion*—a coin of very small value

SOUL NOTE



Put In a Good Word (12:11, 12) Telling others about Christ can be difficult, especially in a hostile environment. Jesus told His followers not to be concerned when called to answer for their faith—because an emergency spokesman would be ready. When we become frightened or tongue-tied, the Holy Spirit will tell us what to say. This does not release us from studying God's Word. We must know what God says and be ready to defend our faith (1 Pet. 3:15)—but we must not worry. Jesus promised that the Spirit would guide our words. **Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit**

is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

⁴⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.^a ⁴¹But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" ⁴²So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.^a ⁴³And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

THE SCRIPTURES OPENED

⁴⁴Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

⁴⁶Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise^a from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins

should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem^a until you are endued with power from on high."

THE ASCENSION

⁵⁰And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple praising and^a blessing God. Amen.^b

24:40 ^aSome printed New Testaments omit this verse. It is found in nearly all Greek manuscripts.

24:42 ^aNU-Text omits *and some honeycomb*.

24:46 ^aNU-Text reads *written, that the Christ should suffer and rise*.

24:49 ^aNU-Text omits *of Jerusalem*.

24:53 ^aNU-Text omits *praising and*.

^bNU-Text omits *Amen*.

SOUL NOTE



Spiritual Power (24:49) An automobile is useless without fuel; an electric light bulb cannot illuminate a room without electricity. Likewise, it is impossible to live the Christian life in our own strength. Even the disciples who had lived and walked with Jesus needed help. Jesus promised the most powerful help possible—the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians must have “power from on high” (the Holy Spirit) to live God-pleasing lives and to witness to others.

Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit



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INDWELLING OF THE FATHER AND THE SON

¹⁹"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord,

how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

²³Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

THE GIFT OF HIS PEACE

²⁵"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My

SOUL NOTE



Another Helper (14:15-18) Jesus' followers show their love for Christ by obeying His commandments. Jesus has set the pattern of love and obedience, and His disciples are expected to follow His example. Jesus reassured His followers, however, that they would not have to obey in their own power. He would send a helper—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in Jesus' followers, helping them to remember His commands and to obey them. We do not have to go it alone—the Holy Spirit in our hearts helps us to know what is right and then to do it.

Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit

SOUL NOTE



If You Love Me (14:21-23) Jesus repeated the statement (14:15) that His followers show their love for Him by their obedience to His commands. Love is more than words—true love involves action. Whoever says he or she loves someone and then ignores that person or acts rudely doesn't know the meaning of love. Words of love are important, but actions and behavior provide the proof. Do we obey Christ's commandments or do we live as if He made no difference in our lives? Do we draw close to Him daily, or do we ignore Him? Our love is revealed by our desire to follow Him. **Topic: Love Languages**

SOUL NOTE



Spiritual Growth (14:26) Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them, helping them to remember everything that Jesus had taught. Paul wrote, "We have received . . . the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God" (1 Cor. 2:12). The Holy Spirit is our source of spiritual understanding. We trust the writings of the New Testament, knowing that the Holy Spirit guided the writers. Then we allow the Holy Spirit to help us understand and apply God's Word to our lives.

Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit

A VITAL CHURCH GROWS

⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹Then those who gladly^a received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church^a daily those who were being saved.

A LAME MAN HEALED

3 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." ⁵So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." ⁷And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸So he,

leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

PREACHING IN SOLOMON'S PORTICO

¹¹Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹²So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

¹⁷Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come

2:41 ^aNU-Text omits *gladly*. 2:47 ^aNU-Text omits *to the church*.

SOUL NOTE



The Best Gift (2:38, 39) Peter called his listeners to repent, be baptized, and "receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." To repent means to turn from sin, to turn the direction of one's life away from rebellion and selfishness, and to live for Christ.

Baptism is the public confession of one's commitment to Christ. It identifies that person with the Christian community. The Holy Spirit enters a believer's life, helping them to know and do God's will. Jesus had said, "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper" (John 14:16). Believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling within, and that helps them to live for God. **Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit**

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has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*”^a

CHRIST CRUCIFIED

2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony^a of God. ²For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human^a wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

⁶However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹But as it is written:

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man*

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”^a

¹⁰But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

¹³These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy^a Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can they be discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶For “*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*”^a But we have the mind of Christ.

SECTARIANISM IS CARNAL

3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?

1:31 ^aJeremiah 9:24 2:1 ^aNU-Text reads *mystery*. 2:4 ^aNU-Text omits *human*. 2:9 ^aIsaiah 64:4 2:13 ^aNU-Text omits *Holy*. 2:16 ^aIsaiah 40:13

SOUL NOTE



Future Vision (2:9, 10) The promise of verse 9 would seem impossible without the fact of verse 10. The “things which God has prepared” for His people—the future blessings in heaven with Him—are not seen, heard, or even imagined by ordinary humans. Yet believers can see, hear, and imagine these blessings because

“God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.” The presence of the Holy Spirit in believers’ lives gives comfort and guidance as we live on this earth; His presence also gives solid assurance of our future in heaven. **Topic: Presence of the Holy Spirit**