



Part Four

GAINING A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT:

"THE FAMILY OF GOD"

(God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and the Children of God)

In this fourth and concluding part of this series we shall consider what is stated to be

THE PRESENT DUAL MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TO TUTOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD IN HOW TO GROW UP INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST:

"...YOU RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION BY WHOM WE CRY OUT, "ABBA, FATHER."
THE SPIRIT HIMSELF BEARS WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD..."
Rom. 8:15-17

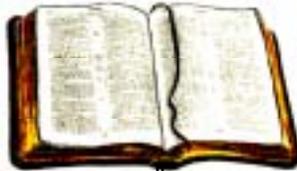
"BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS, GOD HAS SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO YOUR HEARTS, CRYING OUT, "ABBA, FATHER!" THEREFORE YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE BUT A SON, AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST...

"NOW I SAY THAT THE HEIR, AS LONG AS HE IS A CHILD, DOES NOT DIFFER AT ALL FROM A SLAVE, THOUGH HE IS MASTER OF ALL, BUT IS UNDER GUARDIANS AND STEWARDS UNTIL THE TIME APPOINTED BY THE FATHER..."
Gal. 4:1-7

"...THAT WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY THE TRICKERY OF MEN, IN THE CUNNING CRAFTINESS OF DECEITFUL PLOTTING, BUT, SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, MAY GROW UP IN ALL THINGS INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD - CHRIST"
Eph. 4:14-15

MANIFESTING "THE BODY OF CHRIST"

TO BELIEVERS IN CHRIST:



TO PREPARE MATURING SONS OF GOD TO BECOME THE BRIDE OF CHRIST:

"NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT... BUT WE ALL... BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD."
2 Cor. 4:17-18

"AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, "COME!" AND LET HIM WHO HEARS SAY, "COME!" AND LET HIM WHO THIRSTS COME..."
Rev. 21:17

"...THE BRIDEGROOM CAME, AND THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING..."
Matt. 25:10

"...FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME, AND HIS WIFE HAS MADE HERSELF READY." AND TO HER IT WAS GRANTED TO BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN, CLEAN AND BRIGHT, FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF THE SAINTS."
Rev 19:7-8

MANIFESTING "THE BRIDE OF CHRIST"

2 THE DIVINE TRIUNE GODHEAD AT WORK AMONG THE ADOPTED CHILDREN OF GOD:

Below I have printed for you the first fifteen verses of Ephesians chapter one as penned by the apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the real author of the Word of God.

I draw your attention to how Paul begins with identifying the initial work of the Father in the life of a believer and then progresses to the work of the Son, followed by outlining the finishing work of the Holy Spirit which is to follow in the life of the believer.

This is the Divine Godhead doing a complete work in the lives of the adopted children of God on earth. Each member of the Godhead has a specified work to do. What is initiated by the Father is carried to a new level by the Son. The final work is the tutoring of the Holy Spirit in preparing the children of God to grow into mature sons of God:

GOD THE FATHER AT WORK:

*"BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
WHO HAS BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING
IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST,
JUST AS HE CHOSE US IN HIM
BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD,
THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND
WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE,
HAVING PREDESTINED US
TO ADOPTION AS SONS BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF,
ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL,
TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE,
BY WHICH HE MADE US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED.*



GOD THE FATHER

GOD THE SON AT WORK:

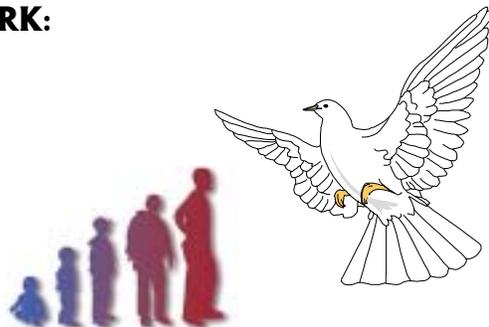
*IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD,
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES
OF HIS GRACE WHICH HE MADE TO ABOUND TOWARD US
IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE, HAVING MADE KNOWN
TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL, ACCORDING TO HIS
GOOD PLEASURE WHICH HE PURPOSED IN HIMSELF, THAT
IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES HE
MIGHT GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST,
BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN AND WHICH ARE
ON EARTH – IN HIM.
IN HIM ALSO WE HAVE OBTAINED
AN INHERITANCE, BEING PREDESTINED
ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF HIM WHO WORKS ALL
THINGS ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL,
THAT WE WHO FIRST TRUSTED IN CHRIST
SHOULD BE TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.*



GOD THE SON

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK:

*IN HIM YOU ALSO TRUSTED,
AFTER YOU HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH,
THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION;
IN WHOM ALSO, HAVING BELIEVED,
YOU WERE SEALED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE,
WHO IS THE GUARANTEE
OF OUR INHERITANCE
UNTIL THE REDEMPTION
OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION,
TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY."*



GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

"FOR THIS REASON, I BOW MY KNEES TO THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, FROM WHOM THE WHOLE FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH IS NAMED..."
Eph. 3:14

Supreme over all that comprises "the Family of God" is its hierarchal head, "God the Father." Paul the apostle confirms this authoritative statement in declaring, "There is one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph.4:6) and, "...then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power...then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15:24-28).

In the Ephesians chapter one dialog on the previous page we saw three spiritual blessings bestowed on the Children of God initially by God the Father:



- 1. HE CHOSE US** before the foundation of the world... (vs.4)
- 2. HE ADOPTED US** as sons unto Himself... (vs.5)
- 3. HE ACCEPTED US** into the beloved (Family)... (vs.6)

GOD THE FATHER

Not only were we "chosen before the foundation of the world" to become God's children, but the apostle Peter states that Jesus, the Son of God, was also predestined to become the Lamb of God even before the foundation of the world were laid! (see 1 Pet.1:19-20). No rescue "plan B" was formulated by God to save fallen mankind after the fall. This was God's plan for man even before He created the foundation of the world itself! God the Father pre-planned, by means of His foreknowledge (2 Pet.1:2), even before the foundation of the world was created, to sacrifice His beloved Son in order to save sinners like you and me:

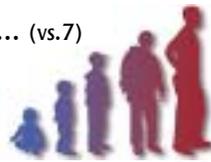
"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED."
John. 3:16-17

What the Father set out to do above in "choosing us, adopting us and accepting us", was enabled by the willingness of His Son to embrace the painful cost it would take to provide these two additional spiritual blessings:



- 4. HE REDEEMED US** through His Blood (vs.7)
- 5. HE FORGAVE US** according to the riches of His grace... (vs.7)

"WE IMPORE YOU ON CHRIST'S BEHALF, BE RECONCILED TO GOD. FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM."
2 Cor 5:20-21



GOD THE SON

Jesus finished the work He came to do as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (Jn. 1:29). That finished work of redemption and forgiveness was why He uttered the words on the cross, "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30).

So far the work of God the Father united with that of His Son spell for us the essence of "grace." Five is the biblical number of grace and these first five "spiritual blessings" provide salvation to the believer by means of the imparted grace of God. But there still remain two more spiritual blessings in our list from Ephesians Chapter One to be imparted now by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. HE CHOSE US**
- 2. HE ADOPTED US**
- 3. HE ACCEPTED US**
- 4. HE REDEEMED US**
- 5. HE FORGAVE US**

} **G
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E**

The number "5" is the biblical expression of foundational things that come to the believer by God's grace. However, the number "7" represents things that express the concept of developing perfection (or maturity) in the life of a believer such as the 7 pieces to the armor of God (Gal. 6), 7 things to add to your faith (2 Pet. 1), and 7 manifestations of the Holy Spirit (Isa.11).

In the "spiritual blessings" of Ephesians chapter one the first five constitute a foundation of saving grace:

1. **HE CHOSE US...** (vs. 4)
2. **HE ADOPTED US...** (vs.5)
3. **HE ACCEPTED US...** (vs.6)
4. **HE REDEEMED US...** (vs.7)
5. **HE FORGAVE US...**(vs.7)

} G
R
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Added to that foundation of saving grace (the elementary principles of Christ) we are given two additional blessings leading to perfection:

6. **HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL...** (vs.9)
7. **HE SEALED US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE, THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE...** (vs. 11-14)

"THEREFORE, LEAVING THE DISCUSSION OF THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF CHRIST, LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION NOT LAYING AGAIN THE FOUNDATION..."

Heb. 6:1

Paul in the Book of Hebrews stresses the necessity of laying a proper foundation which enables the believer to "go on to perfection" (maturity). It is not God's will to be continually laying again the foundation, but to also embrace the call of going on to perfection.

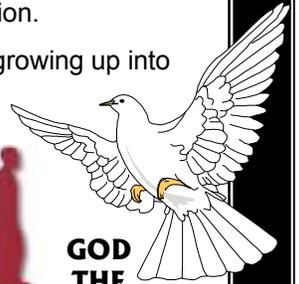
This additional mandate ("going on to perfection-maturity") is the essence of "growing up into the Head-Christ" (Eph. 4:15). This spiritual task has been commissioned to the third person of the Triune Godhead, the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself speaks of this role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer:



"I STILL HAVE MANY THINGS TO SAY TO YOU, BUT YOU CANNOT BEAR THEM NOW. HOWEVER, WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH HAS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH; FOR HE WILL NOT SPEAK ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY, BUT WHATEVER HE HEARS HE WILL SPEAK; AND HE WILL TELL YOU THINGS TO COME.

HE WILL GLORIFY ME, FOR HE WILL TAKE OF WHAT IS MINE AND DECLARE IT TO YOU. ALL THINGS THAT THE FATHER HAS ARE MINE. THEREFORE I SAID THAT HE WILL TAKE OF MINE AND DECLARE IT TO YOU."

John 16:12-15



**GOD
THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

God the Father does not intend to keep His children in the dark. Darkness is what Satan develops within his "children." God our Father is going to make sure His children knows what He has done, is doing, and will do in the future. Let us consider now this sixth spiritual blessing God the Father has bestowed upon His children:

6. HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL...

"HAVING MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL...THAT IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES HE MIGHT GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN AND WHICH ARE ON EARTH – IN HIM."
Eph. 1:9-11

It is imperative that we keep ever before our spiritual eyes of understanding what is the revealed "mystery" (hidden truth) of God's will as stated above by the apostle Paul. God the Father has sent the Holy Spirit on an ongoing mission: "... that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him." This "gathering together" began when the Holy Spirit raised Christ as "firstfruits" from the dead along with many of the Old Testament saints and they ascended into heaven (see 1 Cor.15:20-23, Matt.28:52-53, Eph. 4:8-9).

Later, in chapter Five of this same epistle to the Ephesians, Paul stresses the need of the hour is for the believer to "understand what the will of the Lord is" less they be found walking in an unwise and foolish manner in the midst of evil days:

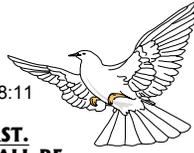
"SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE, REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL.THEREFORE DO NOT BE UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS."

Eph. 5:15-17

**"HAVING MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL...
THAT IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES HE MIGHT GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE ALL THINGS
IN CHRIST, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN AND WHICH ARE ON EARTH – IN HIM." Eph. 1:9-11**

The "gathering together in one all things in Christ" stated above by Paul is the present commission of the Holy Spirit through His supernatural ability to resurrect the dead. It was true of Christ Himself and it will be true for us a followers of Christ:

**"...HE WHO RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD
WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES
THROUGH HIS SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN YOU."** Rom. 8:11



**AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST.
THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE
CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM
IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR..."** 1 Thess. 4:17

Far too much emphasis is given in our theology today to the isolated promise of "the rapture" of the Christian suddenly being taken off the earth. Hear this: the rapture is part of the event known as the resurrection of the dead. Which comes first? The resurrection of the dead (see 1 Thess. 4:15) The most important message is the resurrection of the dead, and the agent performing this phenomena is the Holy Spirit.

The whole triune Godhead is at work here. It took God the Father to allow His Son to be sacrificed. It took Jesus Christ to lay down His life for all sinners. Let us not forget that it required the Holy Spirit to raise Christ from the dead as it will for all those who have died in Christ. Let us keep in perspective that only a small portion of all believers in Christ will eventually be raptured. The bulk of those in Christianity will be raised from the dead. The Holy Spirit will perform this great event for us as He did for Christ!

In the resurrection of the dead in Christ the Holy Spirit is following an Old Testament principle that governed the harvesting of crops. The "FIRSTFRUITS" of the harvest were offered to God as a wave offering. It was followed by the "MAIN HARVEST" of the crop but the corners, the "GLEANINGS" of the field, were left for the poor to harvest (see Leviticus 19 and Lev. 23). Paul singles out this harvest principle at work in his dissertation of the resurrection of the dead:

**"BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND HAS BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE
FALLEN ASLEEP. FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH, BY MAN ALSO CAME THE RESURRECTION OF THE
DEAD. FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST ALL SHALL BE MADE ALIVE.
BUT EACH ONE IN HIS OWN ORDER:**

CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS, AFTERWARD THOSE WHO ARE CHRIST'S AT HIS COMING." 1 Cor 15:20-24

The "mystery of God's will" is to understand that the Holy Spirit will continue to follow the harvest principle in "gathering together all things that are in Christ." FIRSTFRUITS is already complete. The next great event is THE MAIN HARVEST. At the end of the tribulation the Holy Spirit will complete His work with the resurrection of the martyred "GLEANINGS."

In light of the above scenario let us now consider the 7th spiritual blessing from the Holy Spirit:

**7. HE SEALED US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE,
THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE
UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION**

**"IN HIM ALSO WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE, BEING PREDESTINED
ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF HIM WHO WORKS ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL, THAT WE WHO
FIRST TRUSTED IN CHRIST SHOULD BE TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY IN HIM YOU ALSO TRUSTED, AFTER YOU HEARD THE WORD
OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION; IN WHOM ALSO, HAVING BELIEVED,
YOU WERE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE, WHO IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE
UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION..."** Eph. 1:13-15

Much has been penned pertaining to the aspect of the believer being "sealed with the Holy Spirit" and thus becoming "the guarantee of our inheritance." Indeed, it is a great promise to the believer spoken by Paul. However it is usually divorced from the other half of the truth spoken by Paul in this very same epistle: _____▶

"IT IS WRITTEN..."

Matt. 4:7

**"...HAVING BELIEVED,
YOU WERE SEALED
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE,
WHO IS THE GUARANTEE
OF OUR INHERITANCE
UNTIL THE REDEMPTION
OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION..."**

Eph. 1:13-15

"WORDS THAT COMFORT"**"IT IS WRITTEN AGAIN..."**

Matt. 4:8

**"...AND DO NOT GRIEVE
THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD,
BY WHOM YOU WERE SEALED
FOR THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.
LET ALL BITTERNESS, WRATH, ANGER,
CLAMOR, AND EVIL SPEAKING
BE PUT AWAY FROM YOU..."**

Eph. 4:30

"WORDS THAT CONFRONT"

**"...FOR I HAVE NOT SHUNNED
TO DECLARE TO YOU THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD."**

Acts 20:27

The above illustration is not meant to rob you of the promise of having been "sealed with the Holy Spirit" or that He is "the guarantee of our inheritance until the day of redemption." The intended purpose of my some-what painful illustration is simply that today's watered-down theology is often filled with "half-truths" being presented as the whole truth. Paul spoke the whole counsel of God in his epistle to the Ephesians, but only half of what he spoke pertaining to the "sealing of the believer" is being emphasized today. The "words that comfort" God's people are given, but "the words that confront" are not.

I ask you, can we truly inherit the promise of Eph. 1:13-15 under the banner of being an "unconditional promise" in light of the stated conditions attached in Eph.4:30? Can we live a life filled with flesh-controlled "bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking" and still claim to be "sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance"? If as a believer I live my life in such an unrepentant manner that I "grieve the Holy Spirit", can I still cling to being "sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee" apart from changing how I live?

For what purpose was the Holy Spirit sent other than to change how God's people live their lives in the midst of a world dominated by Satan," the god of this world"?

Was not the Holy Spirit sent forth by God the Father to "convict men of sin, of the need of righteousness and of the judgment which is to come?" (John 16:8). Is that a verse only intended for unbelievers or is it equally meant to govern professing believers as well? Are we not exhorted to "hear what the Spirit says to the churches"? Are we not called to "walk after the Spirit" that we might not fulfill the lusts of our sinful flesh nature? Are we not called to "be filled with the Spirit" in a practical manner as revealed in the various nine fruits and nine gifts of the Holy Spirit? Is not the stated goal of the Holy Spirit these kind of objectives? :

**"BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS,
GOD HAS SENT FORTH
THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON
INTO YOUR HEARTS,
CRYING OUT, "ABBA, FATHER!"
THEREFORE YOU ARE NO LONGER
A SLAVE BUT A SON, AND IF A SON,
THEN AN HEIR OF GOD
THROUGH CHRIST...
"NOW I SAY THAT THE HEIR,
AS LONG AS HE IS A CHILD,
DOES NOT DIFFER AT ALL FROM A
SLAVE,
THOUGH HE IS MASTER OF ALL,
BUT IS UNDER GUARDIANS AND
STEWARDS
UNTIL THE TIME APPOINTED
BY THE FATHER..."**

Gal. 4:1-7

**"...THAT WE SHOULD
NO LONGER
BE CHILDREN,
TOSSED TO AND FRO
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DOCTRINE, BY THE
TRICKERY OF MEN,
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BUT, SPEAKING THE
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Eph. 4:14-15

**"NOW
THE LORD
IS THE SPIRIT...
BUT WE ALL...
BEHOLDING
AS IN A MIRROR
THE GLORY OF THE LORD,
ARE BEING
TRANSFORMED
INTO
THE SAME IMAGE
FROM GLORY TO GLORY,
JUST AS
BY
THE SPIRIT
OF
THE LORD."**

2 Cor. 4:17-18

In Paul's epistle to the Ephesians we also find these two great prayers that he uttered on behalf of all the saints belonging to this church under his authority. I believe these prayers are equally applicable to each of us as well as an expression of God our Father's will for us:



PAUL'S PRAYERS FOR THE SAINTS IN EPHESUS:

**"...THAT...THE FATHER OF GLORY,
MAY GIVE TO YOU
THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION
IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM,
THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING
BEING ENLIGHTENED;
THAT YOU MAY KNOW
WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING,
WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF
HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS,
AND WHAT IS
THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF
HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE,
ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF
HIS MIGHTY POWER
WHICH HE WORKED IN CHRIST
WHEN HE RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD
AND SEATED HIM
AT HIS RIGHT HAND
IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES..."**

Eph 1:17-21

**"... THAT HE WOULD GRANT YOU,
ACCORDING TO
THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY,
TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT
THROUGH HIS SPIRIT
IN THE INNER MAN,
THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL
IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH;
THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND
GROUNDED IN LOVE,
MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND
WITH ALL THE SAINTS
WHAT IS THE WIDTH AND LENGTH
AND DEPTH AND HEIGHT --
TO KNOW
THE LOVE OF CHRIST
WHICH
PASSES KNOWLEDGE;
THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED
WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD..."**

Eph 3:16-19

Once again, here is the dual purpose for God sending us His Holy Spirit:

THE PRESENT DUAL MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BELIEVERS IN CHRIST:

**TO TUTOR
THE CHILDREN OF GOD
IN HOW TO GROW UP
INTO THE IMAGE
OF CHRIST**



**TO PREPARE
MATURING SONS
OF GOD TO BECOME
THE BRIDE
OF CHRIST**

**"THEREFORE, BRETHREN, WE ARE DEBTORS -- NOT TO THE FLESH, TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.
FOR IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH YOU WILL DIE;
BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YOU WILL LIVE.
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,
AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS -- HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST,
IF INDEED WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY ALSO BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER.
FOR I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED
WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US.
FOR THE EARNEST EXPECTATION OF THE CREATION
EAGERLY WAITS FOR THE REVEALING OF THE SONS OF GOD."**

Rom 8:12-20

Passage like the above from Romans pertaining to the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer contain "hard sayings." May I say that I believe they are "hard sayings for hard times" that may lie in front of us. The phrase "the Spirit" appears 167 times in the Gospels and the epistles. The great phrase "the Holy Spirit" appears an additional 100 times in the gospels and in the epistles. That emphasis should make this subject matter to be of great importance to every New Testament believer. This present dispensation is the final and last appearance on earth of the third person of the Triune Godhead, the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established" (2 Cor. 13:1). Reconsider carefully page 2 of this newsletter for it contains the testimony of three witnesses, God the Father, God His Son, and finally, the message of the Holy Spirit. If we have heard the first two we must also embrace:

"HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES"

Rev. 3:22

"...THAT YOU MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, AND WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF HIS MIGHTY POWER..."

Eph. 1:19-20

"THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER TOWARD THOSE WHO BELIEVE"

"...THAT HE WOULD GRANT YOU... TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN, THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH..."

Eph. 3:16



NINE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. LOVE
2. JOY
3. PEACE
4. LONG-SUFFERING
5. KINDNESS
6. GOODNESS
7. FAITHFULNESS
8. MEEKNESS
9. SELF-CONTROL

(Gal. 5:22)

SEVEN MANIFESTATIONS

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. SPIRIT OF THE LORD
2. SPIRIT OF WISDOM
3. SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING
4. SPIRIT OF COUNSEL
5. SPIRIT OF MIGHT
6. SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE
7. SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD

(Isa. 11:1-5)

NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. WISDOM
2. KNOWLEDGE
3. FAITH
4. HEALINGS
5. MIRACLES
6. PROPHECY
7. DISCERN SPIRITS
8. TONGUES
9. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

(1 Cor. 4:9-12)

In John 3:34 we are reminded that "God does not give the Spirit by measure." That means that the same measure of the Holy Spirit given to Jesus is available to every follower of Christ. Looking at the magnitude above of what constitutes "the power of the Holy Spirit toward those who believe" simply drives home the convicting point that we lack nothing in supernatural provisional capabilities available to every believer in Christ. The apostle James laments:

"... DO YOU THINK THAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS IN VAIN, "THE SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN US YEARNS JEALOUSLY"?"

James 4:5

James goes on to say, "the Spirit gives more grace." Do you need more Grace? It comes by means of the One called "the Spirit of grace" (Heb.10:29). There are twenty-five measures of that "grace" listed above as the enabling power flowing from the Holy Spirit. "Grace" sufficient to complete the tutoring work of the Holy Spirit to prepare God's people for all that eternity holds.

Pastor Randy Shupe

APOSTOLIC MISSIONS
promoting



**JESUS
CHRIST**

and **HIS
CHURCH**

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