

**The
Holy
Spirit
Of
God**

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This is a book based on a sermon on the Holy Spirit. No doubt many books have been written about the Holy Spirit. This may just be one of those books. The preacher hopes this will be another exhortation and another appeal to Christians everywhere to learn a little bit more about the Holy Spirit. In fact, Christians are supposed to recognize the dealing of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They are supposed to be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. As Christians, nothing is more important than to be led by the Holy Spirit of God. As such, Scriptural revelation about the Holy Spirit is one of the most important lessons a child of God has to learn.

This subject on the Holy Spirit is not concerning head knowledge but a practical and applicable knowledge that has a direct impact on how he lives his Christian life. Hence, a child of God has to consider carefully what the Holy Spirit is trying to teach him and help him in his walk for the Lord Jesus Christ. This will no doubt lead him to walk in the paths of righteousness for the Lord's sake as the Holy Spirit of God is leading him. May the Lord bless the study of His words! May the Holy Spirit teach the child of God in this spiritual exercise in studying God's Holy words and learn more about this person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit!

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 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. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:7-15)

According to Scriptural revelation, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. He is the unseen person of the Godhead who works tirelessly in the world especially for the salvation of lost souls. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, no one can come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, He is also one of the most mistaken persons of the Godhead. He is often ignored by Christians and abused by professing Christians, especially the Charismatic. Born again Christians are often insensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Professing Christians often attribute nonsensical and even outrages occurrences to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is no doubt a very important member of the Godhead. Bible believing Christians must not underestimate the presence of the Holy Spirit and His work in mankind as revealed from Scriptures. We shall consider some of the revelations concerning this person of the Godhead.

Firstly, the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in the very beginning and right at the ending of the Scriptures in our Holy Bible. **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1&2)** This is the first mention of the Spirit of God in the very beginning of the revelation God gives to the Bible reader.

The Holy Spirit was right there on creation's morning bringing the elements of the world into existence. He was there actively moving in the world to set the world in its place according to the wisdom of the God and His sovereign will. Without the Holy Spirit, the work of the creation of the

world is impossible. He is the active member of the Godhead in the work of creation and sustaining all things, upholding all things by the power of God.

The Holy Spirit works from creation's morning till the end of the ages urging fallen men to come to Christ. He can be seen right at the end inviting sinners to come to Christ and to drink of the water of life in the closing of the Scriptures. **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Revelation 22:17)**

Hence, the work of the Holy Spirit spans the entire Holy Bible from the beginning to the end. The Lord Jesus Christ is the outward Alpha and the Omega while the Holy Spirit works behind the scene in the redemptive work of fallen men right to the end.

The Holy Spirit continues to reveal His presence throughout Scriptures working through the history of mankind bringing many sinners to the saving knowledge of the true and living God. The Holy Spirit of God works through the preaching of Noah before the flood and actively involves in the dealing of the nations after the flood. Right now the Holy Spirit continues to deal with sinners in this world by manifesting Christ to those who seek after God and revealing and teaching spiritual truths to believers in Christ to equip them to serve this God of Creation.

Our Holy Bible defines God as a Spirit. **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)** God is indeed a Spirit according to our Holy Bible. Those perverted bibles claimed that God is spirit is nonsense as usual. God is not spirit as though God is all kinds of spirits including unclean spirits and evil spirits. But God is a Spirit and in particular, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is Holy in contrast with all other spirits in this world. No other spirits can equal the Holy Spirit in any aspect whether in influence or in actual work seen and unseen. The Holy Spirit of God is both a person as well as a force or an influence.

As a person the Holy Spirit speaks to churches and individuals and prays on behalf of Christians. As an influence, the Spirit of God saves a sinner and among other work, leads, guides, directs, sanctifies, justifies, comforts and helps Christians in their walk with God. The Holy Spirit is working behind the scene working in the lives of the saved and unsaved in this spiritual warfare ultimately defeating evil with good. Hence, the work of the Holy Spirit is often gone unnoticed by the undiscerning eyes and ears even of many Christians who are supposed to be led by the Spirit of God.

No man living has seen God the Holy Spirit with the exception of one man, John the Baptist. John testified about his calling and his work in connection with the Holy Spirit. **And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. (John 1:32-34)** So John claimed that he saw the Holy Spirit descending from heaven and rested on Christ during the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have to take what John the Baptist claimed at face value and not spiritualize away what he saw to make it mean something else. He indeed saw the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is like a dove which shows the peaceful attributes of God.

The reason why John the Baptist was given a water baptism ministry was to meet the Messiah of Israel. There is no way he could know which man is the Messiah. The way for him to recognize the Messiah is to see the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven and rest upon Christ. This will enable him to show Christ to Israel. **And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.**

(John 1:31) Therefore, John the Baptist was the point man to introduce the Messiah to Israel. So only one man on earth saw the Holy Spirit and he was John the Baptist. He was the only privileged saint given the opportunity to see the Holy Spirit on earth.

Now Let us consider the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is involved in the salvation of the souls of sinners. He is right there in the very beginning in the conception of the lost soul the moment the sinner responds to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact long before the salvation of a lost soul, the Holy Spirit of God has long been working in the life of that sinner leading him, directing him, guiding him and prompting him to confront the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course such preparatory work is carried out unnoticed to the eyes of sinful men as well as Christians praying for that sinner. Without the Spirit of God working stealthily to prepare the sinner for salvation, the sinner will continue to walk in darkness and remain dead in trespasses and sin. Hence, the Holy Spirit is directly involved in the salvation of lost souls

In addition, the Lord Jesus Christ clearly expounded the work of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of lost souls to a Jewish religious teacher who had to clue about what the Lord was talking about. **Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:3,5&6)** No sinner can be saved apart from the Holy Spirit. Without the working of the Holy Spirit of God, the sinner will never be able to come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is that Agent from above that creates a new birth in a sinner the moment when this sinner accepts God's saving grace through the Son of God's death, burial and resurrection, which is the gospel of salvation to the lost world.

How a sinner is born again cannot be seen with the naked eyes of the flesh. This holy work of the Spirit of God is kept away from the prying eyes of sinners and even angels desire to inquire into this work of salvation of Adam's lost and helpless race. Though the outward act of the spiritual birth of a sinner cannot be seen, the influence of the work of the Holy Spirit can be observed. **The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)** So the effect of the work of the Holy Spirit can be felt and it is observable to the naked eyes of men. When a man is born again, the effect wrought by the Holy Spirit in his life is clearly manifested to all those around him and those who know him.

A sinner having been born again is a changed man. A born again child of God is not a reformed man but a transformed man. A reformed man thinking he is saved by turning over to a new leaf is still a lost man dead in trespasses and sin. A drunkard having been born again will not remain a drunkard. A fornicator having been born again will not continue to fornicate as a lifestyle. If a sinner continues to enjoy and indulge in his sins, there is no repentance and the new birth is absent. To claim that a sinner having been saved who continues to sin without any restraint, his salvation is strange fire indeed.

While the work of salvation wrought by the Holy Spirit cannot be seen with the eyes of flesh, we are told of how a sinner is saved. **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. (1 Corinthians 12:13)** So when a sinner responds to the gospel of Christ, the Holy Spirit carries out a spiritual baptism on the sinner. This is not the water baptism whereby the sinner goes through an outward ceremony of going under the water to testify of his faith in Christ. This is a spiritual baptism whereby the Holy Spirit puts this saved sinner into the Body of Christ.

All Christians are baptized into one Body by the Holy Spirit irregardless whether they are Jews or Gentiles. Social status has no bearing in this Holy Spirit administered baptism. All born again Christians are baptized by the Holy Spirit into this one Body and there are no separate bodies for different nationalities of believers to be baptized into separately. It is not a baptism conducted by men upon the candidates' profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a spiritual baptism where only the Holy Spirit is capable of administering. The Body where the believers are baptized into is not defined by geographical boundaries and national or political affiliation. There are no denominational differences within this Body where believers in Christ are all baptized into by the Holy Spirit. This Body is also a growing Body. It is a Body where all saved believers are continuously added into from all countries all over the world since the time of the Church Age till the fullness of the Gentiles when Israel is dealt with together with the Gentile nations during the time of Jacob's trouble.

The medium of the two baptisms is different. One is the water where the body of a sinner enters into during water baptism. The other is the Body of Christ where the soul of the sinner enters into during this Holy Spirit administered spiritual baptism. The administrators are different as well. The administrator of the outward water baptism is a man on earth while the other administrator of this spiritual baptism is the Holy Spirit from above. We must not confuse the two different baptisms of the born again child of God. One is outward that can be seen while the other is spiritual that cannot be seen. One is immediate when a sinner gets saved while the other is dependent on the saved sinner and the human administrator fixing a date and a time for the ceremony on earth witnessed by the saved and the lost. So the Holy Spirit of God does carry out baptism as well but this baptism is not visible to the eyes of any men.

In addition to baptizing the sinner into the Body of Christ by this spiritual baptism, the Holy Spirit also personally comes into the sinner. For the Holy Spirit not only involves Himself in the salvation of a lost soul, He also comes to indwell the sinner the moment this sinner responds to the gospel of Christ when he gets saved. For the Lord promised: **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. (John 14:17)**

Hence, the moment a sinner is born again, he is no longer his own. His body belongs to God and in fact, his body is taken over by the Holy Spirit to become the temple of God. Though the believer is still in control of the same old body of flesh born of Adam, the Holy Spirit has entered the believer and takes up residency inside his body. An invitation to receive Christ through the gospel is an invitation to the Holy Spirit to take up residency in the body of the child of God. Thus the Holy Spirit becomes a permanent resident within the body of a born again child of God when he gets saved. Does every child of God know this truth? Unfortunately, not. The Christians in Corinth did not know this truth. **Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)** So the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the body of a child of God. That is why the body of a child of God becomes the temple of God. Unlike unclean spirits willing to possess bodies of swine, the Holy Spirit of God only indwells the body of a saved sinner turning the body into a temple fit for His holy presence.

Not only the Holy Spirit indwells the child of God, He also seals him and owns him. **In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13&14)** The sealing by the Holy Spirit completes the transaction of salvation of the sinner in Christ. The full complete redemption meanwhile awaits the final restoration of all things during the resurrection whereby this saved sinner gets a glorious body like unto Christ.

The Holy Spirit is not only involved in the salvation of lost souls, He is actively working in the lives of born again believers in Christ. In particular, He is our Comforter in the absence of our Saviour who is right

now in heaven interceding for us. The Lord Jesus Christ promised His disciples: **But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26)** The Holy Spirit is the best Person and He is in the best position to comfort a believer in Christ as He indwells in him and He knows everything this child of God is going through in this life. Nothing can be hid from the Holy Spirit and as such, the Holy Spirit is the best Comforter to comfort a child of God in times of dire need.

Besides comforting us Christians, He also testifies Christ to us and shows us spiritual truths. In essence, the Holy Spirit is our divine Teacher. Without the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance, no man can know spiritual truth. **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:10-14)**

Paul claimed that it was the Holy Spirit who revealed truth to him and other prophets and apostles in Ephesians 3:5: **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;** So the Holy Spirit is truly the divine Teacher and Revelator of spiritual truths to God's people. Without the Holy Spirit's illumination, no Christian can understand the Scriptures in the Holy Bible. Without the Holy Spirit's guidance, no child of God can hope to ever receive understanding from the words of the living God. For spiritual thing is the domain of the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can impart such spiritual truths to the seeking child of God through the Holy Scriptures given by inspiration of God. It is the Holy Spirit who personally teaches the child of God and shows him the difference between the wisdom in this world and the wisdom from above. The Holy Spirit will guide the child of God with His skillful hands and open up biblical truths to the child of God. In this way, the Holy Spirit is teaching the child of God how to compare spiritual things with spiritual.

No other person can take the place of the Holy Spirit. He is the unseen Teacher moving in the hearts and enlightening the minds of the children of God to teach them spiritual truths. Work of such nature obviously demands someone not from the sons of Adam in this world. No professors from the most prestigious Ivy League Universities can teach the child of God spiritual truths. For it is through the Holy Spirit leading, guiding and teaching the child of God to compare spiritual things with spiritual that he may increase his learning of the revelation of God. As such, only the Holy Spirit of God is

fit to teach and guide believers in Christ into all truths as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ. All unsaved human teachers on earth are only specialists in wisdom of this world and they are unfit to teach Christians spiritual truths from the Holy Bible. The wisdom of this world is defined by Scriptures to be earthly, sensual and devilish (James 3:15). So only the Holy Spirit can open the Holy Bible to the child of God to learn spiritual truths.

Besides revealing spiritual truths to the child of God, the Holy Spirit also washes him, sanctifies him and justifies him. **And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)** Divine cleansing that reaches the innermost recess of the soul of a saved sinner of course requires a divine Specialist not from this world. For such washing goes beyond the outward form and external washing that concerns just the body of a sinner. This washing is not external and superficial. This washing concerns the soul of the saved sinner that is beyond the reach of any hands of sinful man. No one can be as skillful and meticulous as the Holy Spirit. Only divine hands can reach the souls of the sinner and ensure a perfect work of cleansing to cause the sinner to stand perfect before God. Therefore, only the Holy Spirit is capable of this task of washing the believer in Christ. How else can a soul be cleaned? Definitely not by men who are themselves defiled, filthy and undone. Only the Holy Spirit of God can thoroughly wash the child of God.

Besides just washing the child of God, the Holy Spirit also sanctifies him and sets him apart for the use of God. The child of God no longer belongs to this world though he still lives temporarily in this world. So the Holy Spirit sanctifies him and prepares him to live in righteousness in the Kingdom of God for all eternity. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit constantly separates the believer in Christ from the world and draws him nearer to the Lord Jesus Christ. This work prepares the child of God and equips him to serve the Lord acceptably in this perverse generation.

Moreover, the Holy Spirit also justifies this born again believer in Christ. This saved man is justified before God where in time past, he was an enemy of God. Now the Holy Spirit moves in to justify him and to cause him to be accepted in the Beloved. This justification causes the believer in Christ to be declared just before God as well as accepted by God as though this sinner never has sinned. This is a legal declaration and clearing the child of God of all wrong and sin in the past. This man is now accepted by God because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary now wrought by the Holy Spirit of God in this born again child of God.

As such, the Holy Spirit of God is undertaking all this work in a sinner the moment he is saved by the grace of God. For the Holy Spirit does not leave a saved sinner alone after he is saved. Without the work of the Holy Spirit of God in this saved sinner, he cannot be washed, sanctified and

justified on his own who is without any merits on his own. The work of the Holy Spirit is indeed very great and very important to the child of God though he may not understand what is going on in him and unable to feel any changes in him after salvation in Christ. It is the Holy Spirit of God through the process of time the child of God engages in learning that will slowly but surely reveals what He is doing in the life of this child of God.

In addition, the Holy Spirit is also involved in giving gifts to the child of God. **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. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 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 tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)**

The Holy Spirit has His own will in administering gifts to Christians to equip them to become ministers for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit does not consult anyone in this administration of the gifts to believers in Christ. It is the sole prerogative of the Holy Spirit of God to dispense gifts to individuals to serve a certain function and to accomplish certain objectives for the Kingdom of God as a whole. Hence according to the perfect will of the Holy Spirit of God, Christians received gifts to serve the Lord.

The role of the Holy Spirit is of great importance in equipping the saints in the service of the Lord. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what gifts to give to individual Christians so that they may be empowered to serve the living Saviour. No child of God is left behind and is not given gifts by the Holy Spirit. Every child of God has his own vocation to fulfill and the Holy Spirit will administer gifts to equip him so that his mission may be accomplished in this life to glory the Lord Jesus Christ.

All the differing gifts given by the Holy Spirit to different Christians throughout the Church Age will bring to fruition the ultimate plan of our Sovereign God in this spiritual conflict between the evil and the good. This warfare will finally culminate in the utter destruction of the enemies of the Most High. The Holy Spirit of God will exercise His exclusive rights in giving gifts to Christians in this spiritual war to contend with all those who stand against all righteousness. The Church, the Body of Christ will prevail as the Holy Spirit equips the saints with gifts from above to enable them to triumph over all evil and devilish works standing against the salvation of the lost world. God's plan for man will be accomplished by these gifted believers in Christ faithfully exercising these Holy Spirit given gifts to serve

the Lord Jesus Christ till their work on earth is done. Hence, the Holy Spirit is the only divine person capable of administrating heavenly gifts to believers and equipping them in this warfare throughout the Church Age.

Moreover, it is also the Holy Spirit who strengthens the inner man of the child of God to help him in his spiritual growth in the Lord. **That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; (Ephesians 3:16)** The work of the Holy Spirit is internal and as such no man can fulfill the role of the Holy Spirit of God. It is the inner man of the child of God that needs strengthening and hence only the Holy Spirit who resides within the child of God can get the job done. The strengthening of the inner man of a child of God is a task so delicate and so intricate that only the Holy Spirit can do a proper job on the child of God. It is indeed beyond the reach of human agencies to strengthen what is internal within a man. No human surgeons can locate the inner man within the body of the child of God.

Therefore the inner man of the child of God has to be left to the Holy Spirit to strengthen and to mould him for in this spiritual warfare, the inner man is indeed very vulnerable to the ups and downs in the heat of the battle. No man can truly meet the challenge of strengthening the inner man of a child of God to walk this walk of faith and to prepare him for the many dangers and troubles awaiting him.

Without the Holy Spirit strengthening the inner man of the child of God, this believer in Christ will live a defeated life instead of a victorious Christian life full of faith and fruitfulness in the Lord. In the spiritual warfare, the inner man is indeed very susceptible to discouragement and defeat with the fiery darts of the devil thrown against him. The spiritual warfare is indeed very real and the dangers are coming from all fronts and hence, only the Holy Spirit can uphold and strengthen the inner man of the believer in Christ. It is against the inner man of the child of God that is truly at war with the flesh, the world and the Devil. Without the help of the Holy Spirit strengthening this inner man of the believer, he will never be able to withstand all those fiery darts from the evil one.

As the inner man cannot be seen, no man in the flesh is able to help him and strengthen him in any manner. As such, the Holy Spirit has to be the Agent to effect the strengthening of the inner man and to grant strength to the child of God to carry on with this good fight of faith. Only the Holy Spirit of God can help and enable this child of God to endure hardness as a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ through the strengthening of his inner man that grants him the courage and fortitude to war a good warfare for Christ.

So in the process of aiding the growth of the believer in Christ and strengthening him to fight a spiritual war, the Holy Spirit leads him to walk in the liberty of Christ where he is already set free from sin to serve the true and living God. **Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17)** This is true liberty where the child of God can truly rejoice in. It is this Holy Spirit led liberty that grants him joy and fruitful service for the Lord. He finds his boundary so wide and so deep in the liberty of Christ where his sins are forever forgiven having been nailed to the cross of Christ. He is now saved and forever delivered from hell fire and he has been accepted in the Beloved and become a member of the family of God. So of course, his liberty in the Lord Jesus Christ is boundless. In contrast, some Christians having been deceived by the devil also claimed to have liberty. The true liberty of Christ brings joy to the child of God. The false liberty of the devil brings the child of God into bondage. True liberty in Christ will allow the child of God to serve the Lord Jesus Christ freely. There is nothing that stands in the way to restrict him in serving the Lord.

It is not the devil's false liberty that allows the Christian to sin and try to justify his sins claiming false liberty in Christ that allows him to do what he likes with no consequences whatsoever. The apostle Peter describes such false liberty. **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. (2 Peter 2:19)** Because the enemy is trying to counterfeit the work of the Holy Spirit by promising false liberty to Christians, the Holy Spirit does speak to warn Christians of the danger they face. **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (1 Timothy 4:1)** Christians will do well take heed to this warning given by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit never leads the child of God to sin. The Holy Spirit never leads the child of God into false doctrines. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to reveal truth to the child of God. So it is not possible for the child of God to be misled by the Holy Spirit when he embraces false doctrines. The Holy Spirit never leads the child of God to pray prayers to justify sinning blaming God for lack of repentance. The Holy Spirit warns the child of God about seducing spirits. God is a Spirit in contrast with lying spirits, unclean spirits and here we have seducing spirits. So if a child of God is not sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, he can fall prey to

seducing spirits. He will be taught false doctrines of the devil and live unscriptural life to his own hurt and detriment of others around him.

There are many dangers a child of God has to face in his earthly pilgrimage. One main enemy is his flesh. The flesh will cause the child of God a lot of trouble. That is why the child of God is admonished to walk in the Spirit. **This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (Galatians 5:16&17)** Failing to walk in the Spirit is a great danger for the child of God. It is the Holy Spirit who protects the child of God and leads him to walk in the paths of righteousness for the Lord's name sake. Failing to walk in the Spirit is tantamount to treading where angels dare not tread. If the child of God is walking in the Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit, he will be spared a lot of trouble in this life.

The born again Christian has two natures. He has a new divine nature that is born of the Holy Spirit and the old fleshly nature that is born of Adam. The old nature will resist and fight in the child of God to see who gets to possess his body. The warfare is from within and the prize is the body of the believer in Christ. The moment a sinner gets saved, the Holy Spirit baptizes him into the Body of Christ and comes to dwell in his body turning the body into the temple of God. The old nature now has to contend with the new nature that is born of the Spirit. Obviously the old nature will resist and hence, there is this conflict and warfare from within the child of God.

You can see the manifestation of the fleshly old nature of a Christian very easily. You can see his attitude towards the things of Jesus Christ. You can see the way he acts, the clothes he chooses to wear, the people he mixes with and the kind of speech from his month. This fleshly manifestation is described in Galatians 5:19-21: **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** The list given here is to warn the child of God so that he might recognize the nature of the flesh and he knows how to neutralize this threat

from within. This will equip him and alert him before the out-breaking of sin of the flesh.

Paul also told the Christians in Corinth the same thing. **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9&10)** Here Paul not only repeated the list given to the Christians in Galatia, the description mentioned concerns the practitioners of the flesh. The warning is repeated and when a child of God fails to take heed to the fleshly manifestation and he allows the flesh to take over his body instead of the Holy Spirit, he has to bear very serious consequences. Paul warned again: **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:50)** It is indeed no small matter to ignore the fleshly old nature and become complacent in the walk with the Lord. That is why the Holy Spirit avails Himself to help the child of God to overcome the flesh and help him become a victorious Christian for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is only the Holy Spirit who dwells within the child of God who can truly help him. No man from without can help him tame his old fleshly nature.

When the child of God is walking consistently with the Holy Spirit, he will be full of the fruit of the Spirit. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25)** This is in contrast to the work of the flesh. The work of the Spirit will produce fruit in the child of God. In contrast, the fleshly old nature will produce lust in the child of God. The child of God will be fruitful in his walk with the Lord and in the service for Christ when led by the Holy Spirit. When he yields to the flesh, he will be fruitless and in the future, he will lose his rewards in the inheritance of the Kingdom of God.

So the two natures in a child of God are as far as night from day. The result of yielding to either party is very different as well. **For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Galatians 6:8)** The old fleshly nature and the new divine nature will always be in conflict and will draw the child of God in different directions. These two natures are sworn enemies and never will they come to a compromise on who will get to control the body of the child of God. There will not be any power sharing arrangement between the old fleshly nature born of Adam and the new divine nature born of the Spirit. The child of God will cease to grow in the Lord if he yields to his fleshly inclination. If he walks in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will assist him in his spiritual growth so that he will grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. So there are many Christians in this world having stunted growth because of their failure to walk in the Spirit. The apostle Paul described his experience concerning this conflict of the two natures within him.

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God

after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (Romans 7:14-25)

If the apostle Paul is having trouble with the flesh and this constant conflict within him is wearing him out, who do we think we are who do not have to wrestle with our own flesh? So you see, this conflict of the two natures is here to stay. It will not go away until the day we leave this body of death. There is no point trying to cover up for the flesh or excuse the work of the flesh. There is no point pretending that we can become sinless and perfect residing in the body of this death. It is totally ridiculous to pray for God to grant true repentance trying to achieve sinless perfection. Am I suggesting that since we have this old nature in us, we might just as well yield to the flesh? God forbid. We have been warned. **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Romans 8:13&14)**

So if you want to die before your time is up, then pander after the flesh. Yield to the flesh and maximize the indulgence of the flesh and soon enough God will destroy his temple that is the body of the child of God. The Holy Spirit is not going to continuously put up with the filth the child of God allows entering into his body. The Holy Spirit will not tolerate the child of God ignoring Him and allowing his body to be defiled and prostituting his body to uncleanness and worldly defilement.

If you want to live a fruitful life for the Lord and for His glory, then mortify the deeds of the flesh with the help of the Holy Spirit. The flesh is not going to go away anytime soon. Do we always succeed in overcoming the flesh? No. But we must still try. We may be defeated from time to time due to our own carelessness or disobedience, we must get up to fight this fleshly battle another day. We must never give up and give in to the flesh. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we sure can be victorious. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)**

Moreover, we have the power to either yield to the Holy Spirit or let our flesh dictates us and leads us into sinning. When we deliberately yield to temptation and sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit residing in us. We are commanded not to grieve the Holy Spirit. **And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)** When we believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell in us and He seals us unto the day of redemption. We must never return evil for good by grieving the Holy Spirit.

The martyr Stephen also charged the rebellious Jews for resisting the Holy Ghost. **Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. (Acts 7:51)** So the Holy Spirit is a person and He can be resisted and grieved. Christians are further commanded not to quench the Holy Spirit. **Quench not the Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:19)** It is indeed a great sin to sin against the Holy Spirit by grieving Him, resisting Him and quenching Him. The Holy Spirit is here to help us and He is our Friend. We must never do anything that will cause Him to feel unwelcome in our body. We have to ensure that our body resembles the temple of God that befits the residence of the Holy Spirit.

Instead of offending the Holy Spirit by resisting Him, grieving Him and quenching Him, we are told to be filled with the Holy Spirit. **And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (Ephesians 5:18)** Christians are not supposed to get drunk by being filled with the wrong spirits. Instead he ought to be filled with the Holy Spirit and let the Holy Spirit take control of his life. When a Christian is filled with the spirit from a bottle, he is being controlled by the wrong spirit. Do not you think the Holy Spirit is grieved when a Christian becomes drunk? You think the Holy Spirit likes to share space with those spirits from the bottle in your body that is supposed to be the temple of the God? Who would you rather control your life? There are so many things we do that can cause injury to the person of the Holy Spirit. It is so easy to offend this Divine Being residing within us. So we must be careful and circumspect in our conduct and not be presumptuous to walk in any way that cause the Holy Spirit to feel ignored or unwelcome. The fullness of the Holy Spirit within us is dependent on our obedience to the words of God.

Do you know how important the Holy Spirit is to us Christians? Do you know there may be time of testing that is so severe and you are so troubled that you cannot even pray and all you could do is to cry uncontrollably? It is then that the Holy Spirit takes over and makes intercession on your behalf. **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26&27)** So when you reach the end of the road, and come to the end of yourself, and when you come to a dead end and there is no way out, it is the Holy Spirit taking over in the driver's seat. His prayer on your behalf will never be prayed amiss. The Holy Spirit will pray in the perfect will of God on your behalf.

In addition to being a Comforter to the believer in Christ, the Holy Spirit will stand in for the child of God when he is down and out. The Holy Spirit in some way acts as a shield to the child of God in times of great trouble. The Holy Spirit will not leave the child of God and allow him to become overwhelmed and overcome with much sorrows. The Holy Spirit will immediately take steps to remedy the situation by interceding on the behalf of this believer in Christ. As the Holy Spirit resides within this child of God, He is most sensitive to the needs of this sorrowing Christian plagued with infirmities beyond his control. When a Christian is so troubled and he is so stressed out due to his infirmities, the Holy Spirit will take control and pray on his behalf as he can no longer pray on his own. The Holy Spirit hence takes the initiative to pray on his behalf and help him overcome his temporal difficulty. So how are you going to treat the Holy Spirit from now on?

The Holy Spirit does speak to individuals and churches. **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Revelation 2:29)** The Holy Spirit was speaking to the church in Thyatira. This exact same verse was given to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:6), Philadelphia (Revelation 3:13) and Laodicea (Revelation 3:22) The Holy Spirit is still speaking to churches in our day. The Holy Spirit is also speaking to individual Christians. In fact, the Holy Spirit has been working nonstop speaking to individuals to come to Christ.

What do you reckon the Holy Spirit is telling us as a church? Are you happy with the state of affair in your church? What about your own personal life? Are you walking in the Spirit and being led by the Holy Spirit? Or are you hearkening to the flesh more than the Spirit of God? Are you sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit? What has the Holy Spirit been telling you lately? How are you faring on a personal level? How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit of God? What about the Holy Spirit dealing with you on your commitment to your church? Only you can answer these questions. It is always good to do some soul searching from time to time to take stock of our position whether our walk with the Lord is pleasing and acceptable to Him.

The Holy Spirit is indeed our Comforter and Friend. He is here to help us and see us through in all our trials and tribulation. He is here to teach us and reveal spiritual truths to us. He has come to dwell in us making our body into the temple of God. He has sealed us unto the day of redemption. Let us never return evil for good by resisting Him, grieving Him and quenching Him. Let us never do anything that causes the Holy Spirit to feel unwelcome. Let us never ignore this person of the Godhead. Let us commune more with the Holy Spirit this day and be sensitive to His dealings and His leadership in our life. Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit of God and be joyful victorious Christians waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 5:5) (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) (Ephesians 5:9) Let us all walk in the Spirit and be sensitive to His leadership in our lives. May the Lord bless you all this day! May the comfort of the Holy Ghost be with you! Amen!

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kiv-asia.com.