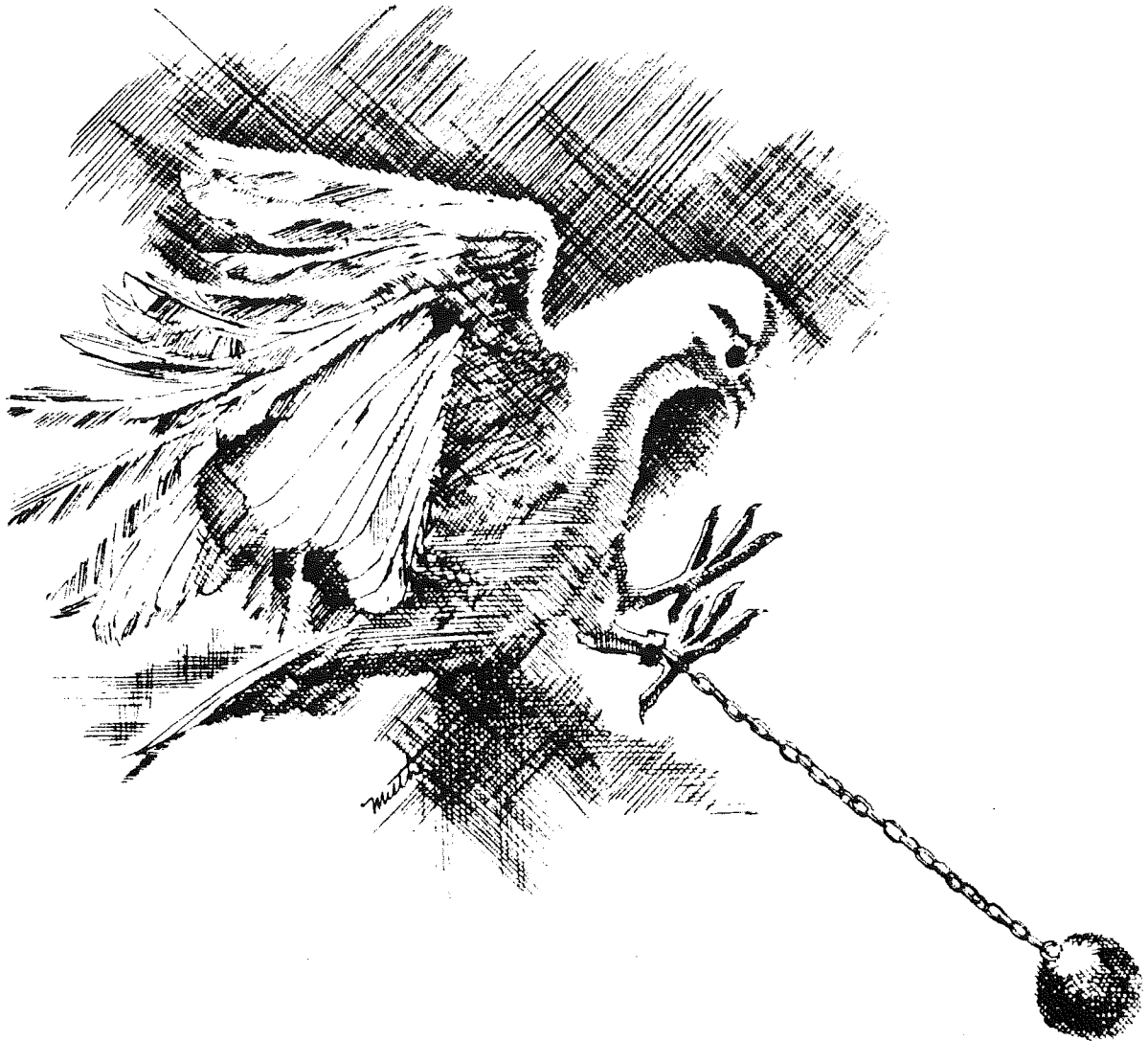


Chapter Ten



*The Spirit In
The Believer's Heart*

The Greatest Benefit

The Two Great Benefits of Christ's Life, Death and Resurrection are the forgiveness of sins and the Gift of the **Holy Spirit**. **Forgiveness** empties us of the deadly poison of sins committed which if not removed would "kill" us forever. But **the Gift of the Holy Spirit** which accompanies our forgiveness restores God's Life to us, and this Life contains and bestows God's character, power, and eternal life. **Love** is the supreme characteristic of God, and the first and primary gift of the Spirit is to pour God's love into our hearts. Another great characteristic of God's Life is that it is **eternal**, and indestructible. Thus, the Holy Spirit also gives us eternal life—or better said, **the Spirit's Presence in our hearts is the presence of eternal life**.

– H. Fingerlin

A Parable on Sanctification

There was once a very kind and wealthy man. He left his beautiful mansion out in the country, and went into the big city looking for dirty, hungry, and homeless little waifs. One by one, he found them, offered to adopt them into his family, and take them to his mansion in the country. Those who were willing, he gathered up and took home with him. Once in the beautiful mansion, the children received many gifts including expensive new clothes, more beautiful than any they had ever seen or worn before. But they were also required to take a bath every day, and they were taught to get along with their new brothers and sisters, and were not allowed to continue the sinful and destructive ways of their former life in the slums.

The meaning of the parable is this: The kindly rich man is God the Father, who in the person of Jesus came into this world "to seek and to save that which was lost." His gracious offer to adopt homeless waifs into his family corresponds to the **offer and invitation** which God makes to us in the Gospel. The children who accepted the gracious offer are those who repent and believe the Gospel, and are therefore accepted into God's family—that is, they are forgiven, **justified**, and made members of the Church. The children living in the beautiful mansion under the loving care of their Father, and learning a better way to live—this corresponds to the Holy Spirit's work of **Sanctification in the hearts of Christians**. For the Holy Spirit is constantly at work within us to transform us into the Image of God and of His Son, Jesus.

– H. Fingerlin

1. Be Filled With the Spirit

"Dr. George S. Gunn tells of a text on which Adam Welch loved to preach, and on which he constantly urged his students to preach. The text was: 'Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit' (*Ephesians 5:18*). Welch had a gift for the startling and arresting phrase, and he always began his sermon on the text with the blunt announcement: 'You've got to fill a man with something.' It may well be said that the story of the Bible is the story of Spirit-filled men."

– Wm. Barclay, *The Promise of the Spirit*, p. 11, The Epworth Press: London, 1960.

1. Our Designated Driver

"The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." Galatians 6:6

"An array of flowers at the base of the streetlight marked the spot where the teenager was killed by the car. He stepped out on the road confident that the motorist would see him. But the drunk driver did not. The tragedy could have been avoided if the driver had previously designated a trusted friend who could have taken the wheel for him.

"The driver God has designated for our lives is the Holy Spirit. He guides us by faith in Christ. Although we may not be aware of His unseen hand on the wheel, He safely steers us around Satan's dangerous temptations.

"We sow to please the Spirit as we seek God's counsel in His Word and strive to be faithful, confident that Jesus' pardon covers all our sins. To live otherwise is to invite trouble. If we designate our sinful nature as the driver of our life and constantly give in to its impulses, the result will be destruction. But as by God's grace we surrender to His Spirit, that divine Driver directs our lives and yields abundant fruit. With Him in control we move forward in faith, believing God's promise that we will reap the harvest of eternal life."

– *Portals of Prayer*, Thursday, October 8, 1992, Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.

X. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER'S HEART

Introduction: Martin Luther once said that the reason the Spirit of God is called the “**Holy**” Spirit is because His main job is to make people **holy**. The word “Holy” is an adjective and literally means, “set apart for God’s use.” In Baptism we are cleansed of our old sins and **separated** from our former sinful way of life. But at the same time we are “**sanctified**” (which means set apart for God), and the Holy Spirit begins a **lifelong process** within us called “**Sanctification**.” The words “consecration” and “dedication” mean almost the same thing as “sanctification.” Also the verbs “sanctify,” “consecrate” and “dedicate” all describe a similar activity.

Sanctification is a process whereby we grow in the knowledge of God and His will and in the ability to do His will. Or, to put it another way, there is less and less in us that is contrary to God, and more and more in us that truly loves, trusts and obeys God.

As we learned in the last chapter, we are saved by God’s grace, through faith, and thus we are **justified**. But our righteousness comes **from God, as a gift**. Then, once we belong to God, the Spirit begins a process of growth and refinement in us that gradually restores the character and likeness of God to our lives. Or, to put it another way, by **Justification** we are again made children of God; by **Sanctification** we more and more regain God’s Image and act **like His children**.

- 1. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – GOD GIVES HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER IS GOD’S WAY OF INDICATING HIS FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THAT PERSON.** THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN OUR HEARTS IS WHAT MAKES US GOD’S CHILDREN (WE HAVE OUR FATHER’S LIFE IN US), AND **the truth and reality of the Christian faith is experienced in the gift of the Holy Spirit.** FURTHERMORE, THE SPIRIT IS GOD’S “DOWN PAYMENT” ON ETERNAL LIFE (HIS LIFE IS ETERNAL LIFE).

John 7:37-38 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (NIV)

Acts 15:8-9 God, who knows the heart, **showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them**, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. (Peter, regarding Gentile converts who received the Holy Spirit—*Acts 10:44-48*) (NIV)

I Cor 12:3 ...I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and **no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.** (That is, publicly acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of your life.) (NRSV)

1. (Cont'd)

Rom. 8:9 "But you (Christians) are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**" (NRSV)

Rom. 8:14-16 For all who **are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is **the Spirit Himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.** (RSV)

Eph. 1:13-14 In Him (Jesus) you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have **believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit** which is the guarantee* of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it... (RSV)
*(literally: "the down payment")

See also: *1 John 4:2 & 15.*

2. THE CONFLICT BETWEEN FLESH AND SPIRIT. A CHRISTIAN IS BOTH "FLESH" (OUR INHERITED SINFUL NATURE) AND "SPIRIT" (SINCE THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN THE CHRISTIAN), AND THESE TWO ARE IN CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER, EACH SEEKING TO GAIN CONTROL. THE CHRISTIAN MUST "SOW TO THE SPIRIT," THAT IS, PERMIT THE SPIRIT TO TEACH AND LEAD US, AND ALLOW THE SPIRIT TO GAIN AND MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER OUR FLESH. FOR IF OUR FLESH IS INDULGED, AND ALLOWED TO REGAIN CONTROL, SPIRITUAL DEATH WILL RETURN, ESPECIALLY IF WE PERSIST IN DELIBERATE SINFUL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR. **This is a spiritual battle from which no Christian is exempt.**

Gal. 5:13, 16 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another... Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other... (NRSV)
(see illustration on next page)

Gal. 6:8 ...he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (RSV)

2. Luther on Romans 8:12-13

"Therefore, whoever is now a Christian, let him not engage in such foolishness as to say, 'I am free from the Law, therefore I can do whatever I feel like.' Rather, let him say and do the opposite. Let him, because he is now a Christian, fear and avoid sin so that he doesn't fall from his freedom back into his former slavery to sin under the Law and God's anger; or, lest the new life, begun in God, again slip back into death. For here the Christian hears the serious declaration: 'If you live according to the flesh, you will die;' as if the Apostle wished to say, 'It won't help that you have heard the Gospel, that you boast of your faith in Christ, that you receive the Sacrament, as long as you do not, through your faith and the Holy Spirit, subdue your sinful desires, your godless ways, your contempt of God, your greed, malice, pride, hate, envy and so on.'"

– Martin Luther, "Sermon on the 8th Sunday after Trinity," *Sermons of Martin Luther*, Vol. 8, p. 170, Baker Book House Co., 1983.

3. The Works of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)

1. sexual immorality
2. impurity
3. debauchery
4. idolatry
5. witchcraft
6. hatred
7. discord
8. jealousy
9. fits of rage
10. selfish ambition
11. dissensions
12. factions
13. envy
14. drunkenness
15. orgies, etc.

3.B. The Fruit of The Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23)

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-control



'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh.' (Galatians 5:16-17)

The Truly Spiritual Person

True spirituality manifests itself in certain dominant desires.

1. First is the desire to be holy rather than happy.
2. A man may be considered spiritual when he wants to see the honor of God advanced through his life even if it means that he himself must suffer temporary dishonor or loss.
3. The spiritual man wants to carry his cross.
4. Again, a Christian is spiritual when he sees everything from God's viewpoint.
5. Another desire of the spiritual man is to die right rather than live wrong.
6. The desire to see others advance at his expense.
7. The spiritual man habitually makes eternity-judgments instead of time-judgments.

– A. W. Tozer, *That Incredible Christian*.

2. THE CONFLICT BETWEEN FLESH AND SPIRIT (CONT'D)

Rom. 6:12-13 Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. (NRSV)

Rom. 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.** (NRSV)

Rom. 8:12-13 So then, brothers and sisters, 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.** (NRSV)

Note: It is clear from this passage and many others that “once in grace, always in grace” is not true. See also John 15:6-7; 1 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4.

3. A STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN SINFUL FLESH AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. A) THE EVIL ATTITUDES AND DEEDS OF THE SINFUL NATURE (FLESH) AND, B) THE GOOD AND WHOLESOME RESULTS (FRUIT) OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN.

Gal. 5:19-21 & 22-23 **The acts of the sinful nature** are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (NIV)

But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (NIV)
(see the illustration on opposite page)

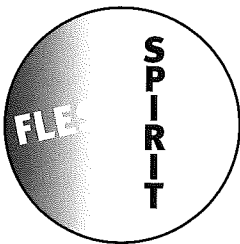
4. STAGES OF A PERSON'S SPIRITUAL LIFE. THE BIBLE **distinguishes five various stages** OR CONDITIONS IN WHICH A PERSON MAY BE IN REGARD TO HIS CHARACTER AND PROGRESS IN SPIRITUAL LIFE.



1. Represents the non-Christian who is "in the flesh," i.e., dominated by it and lacking the Holy Spirit altogether. (*Romans 8:7-9*)



2. "Babes in Christ" or "men of the flesh" - those in whom the flesh still predominates, and little progress has been made in the life of the Spirit. (*I Corinthians 3:1*)



3. Is a typical Christian in whom the desires of both "the flesh" and "the Spirit" are in constant conflict. (*Rom. 6:12-13; Col. 3:5-14; Gal. 5:13-25*)



4. Is "the spiritual man" in whom the Holy Spirit prevails, the fruit of the Spirit is maturing, and the "flesh" is held in considerable subjection. (*Gal. 6:1*)



5. Represents the Christian in heaven, "the saints in light" (*Col. 1:12*) "spirits of just men made perfect." (*Heb. 12:23*)

5. THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION. THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE FLESH IS OVERCOME AND THE SPIRIT IS MORE IN CONTROL, IS CALLED **sanctification**. **As we grow spiritually, the image of God (or of Jesus) becomes clearer and clearer in us.**

I Cor. 3:1-3 But I, brethren, could not address you **as spiritual men, but as men of the flesh, as babes in Christ**. I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready, for you are still **of the flesh**. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **of the flesh**, and behaving like ordinary men? (RSV)

(Notice, spiritual life can be weak and imperfect but they are Christians, though "babes in Christ" – see previous illustration.)

II Cor. 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another**; for this comes from the Lord* who is the Spirit. (RSV)

*(Lord = Jesus)

Eph. 3:18-19 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (NRSV)

I Th. 2:13 We have reason to thank God continually because, when we handed on God's message, **you accepted it, not as the word of men, but as what it truly is, the very word of God at work in you who are believers**. (REB)

I Th. 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification:... (NRSV)

I Pet. 1:1-2 ...To the exiles...who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit **to be obedient to Jesus Christ** and to be sprinkled with his blood... (NRSV)

6. True Faith Always Produces Good Works

“Faith is full of life and power. It is not an idle thought. It does not float on the surface of the heart, as a goose does on water; but it is as water that has been warmed by fire. Although such water remains water, it is no longer cold but warm and, therefore, an entirely different sort of water. So faith, which is the work of the Holy Spirit, makes the mind and the thinking of a person different and thereby makes an entirely new man of him. Faith, then, is an active, independent, and powerful thing; and if we want truly to evaluate it, we should call it an influence on us rather than an act performed by us. For it changes our souls and our views.”

– Martin Luther, *What Luther Says*, Vol. I, p. 417.

6. Grace and Good Works

“Man receives grace at once and fully. Thus he is saved. Good works do not need to come to his assistance but are to follow. It is precisely as if God were to produce a fresh, green tree out of a dry log, which tree would then bear its natural fruit.

“A very great, strong, mighty, and active matter is the grace of God. It does not lie asleep in the soul, as visionary preachers fable; nor does it let itself be carried about, as a painted board carries its color. No, none of that! Grace hears, it leads, it drives, it draws, it changes, it works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident. Words and works show where it dwells, just as the fruit and the leaves of a tree indicate the kind and the character of the tree....

“In giving us the gifts, He gives only what is His, but in His grace and in His regard of us He gives His very Self. In the gifts we touch His hand; but in His gracious regard we receive His heart, spirit, mind, and will.”

– Ibid., Vol. II, #’s 1877 & 1868, pp. 613, 611.

6. Good Works

“Whatever is done or carried out by men is either righteousness or sin before God; righteousness, if done in faith; sin, if faith is lacking. With men indeed it is true, there are matters that occupy a middle ground and are neutral, matters in which men neither owe one another anything or render any kind of service to one another. But in his relation to God the impious person sins whether he eats or drinks or whatever he does, for he abuses the creatures of God by his impiety and constant ingratitude and does not for one moment give glory to God from his heart.”

– Ibid., Vol. 3, p. 1512.

6. Good Works and Their Value

“I would not exchange one of my sermons, one of my lectures, one of my writings, nay, even the smallest work I have ever done or shall still do, for the treasures of all the world. In fact, I consider these of greater value than the life of my own body, which, after all, is and should be dearer to a person than the whole world. **For if it is a good work, God has done it through me and in me.** But if God has done it and it is God’s work, what is the whole world in comparison with God and His work? Now although I do indeed not become pious through such works (for this must have taken place previously through Christ’s blood and grace, without works), yet I do them for the praise of God and for the benefit and welfare of my fellow man.”

– Ibid., Vol. 3, p. 1509.

6. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN ENABLES HIM TO DO GOOD WORKS.

A GOOD WORK IN THE SIGHT OF GOD IS DEFINED AS: **“Whatever a child of God does, speaks, or thinks, in faith, in keeping with God’s Word and will, and for the good of others.”** GOOD WORKS ARE THE RESULT OF OUR SALVATION, NOT THE CAUSE OF IT!

Acts 20:32 “And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a **message that is able to build you up** and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.” (NRSV)

Rom. 14:23b ...for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (NRSV)

I Cor. 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (NIV)

II Cor. 5:14-15 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.** (NIV)

II Cor. 5:17a ...if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation. (NIV)

Eph. 2:10 For we are God’s workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works,** which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

I Tim. 6:17-18 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous...** (NIV)

See also: *Matthew 5:16; Colossians 2:17; Titus 3:8; I Peter 4:10-11.*

7.A.B. Fruits and Skill-gifts

“What are the marks of a person filled with the Spirit of God today? There can be no doubt that the chief evidence is moral not miraculous, and lies in the Spirit’s fruit not the Spirit’s gifts.” (1975b:54)

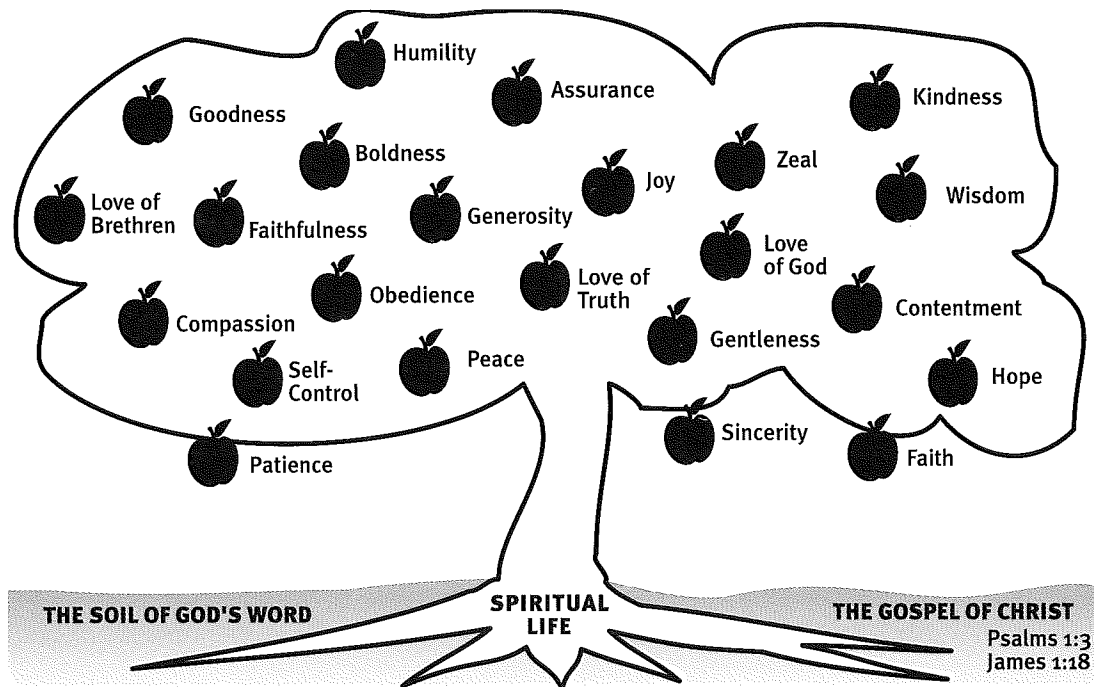
– John R. W. Stott quoted by Timothy Dudley-Smith in *Authentic Christianity*
From the *Writings of John Stott*, #150, p. 78, InterVarsity Press, 1995.
(Taken from *Baptism and Fullness*, Downers Grove IVP, 1976.)

7. We Can’t Love Without the Spirit’s Enabling

“A great many people make the mistake of struggling to get the fruit of the Spirit without ever opening themselves up to the Spirit Himself. This kind of effort is in vain. The secret of the fullness of love is the fullness of the Spirit of God. Paul the apostle tells us plainly: ‘the love of God is poured abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given us’ (*Romans 5:5*). We cannot just decide to start loving. That is why the problem of love cannot be solved by slogans, placards, and songs alone. We all vote for love, but without the Holy Spirit within and giving ourselves to the Spirit’s control, we cannot achieve love.”

– George Swete, quoted on p. 45 of *Spirit Fruit*, by John M. Drescher,
Herald Press, Scottsdale, PA 15683, 1974.

7.



7. NOT ONLY DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPART SPIRITUAL LIFE, BUT HE ALSO GIVES TWO TYPES OF GIFTS TO THE BELIEVER:

A. Character gifts. *(THE "FRUIT" OF THE SPIRIT'S INDWELLING), WHICH IMPART THE CHARACTER-LIKENESS OF JESUS IN ALL CHRISTIANS. THESE GIFTS, SUCH AS JOY, LOVE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GRADUALLY REBUILD IN EACH CHRISTIAN THE IMAGE OF GOD. THE SPIRIT IMPARTS THESE character-gifts in all Christians.*

Is. 11:1-3 (Jesus) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, and the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. (RSV)

Rom. 5:5 ...**God's love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (NRSV)

Rom. 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.** (NRSV)

Gal. 5:22-23a But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** (NIV)

I Th. 1:6b ...in spite of persecution you received the word **with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit.** (NRSV)

B. Body-Of-Christ skills. *THAT IS, SPECIAL ABILITIES WHICH ENABLE US TO SERVE OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. JUST AS IN THE HUMAN BODY EACH MEMBER HAS A CERTAIN ABILITY WHICH DETERMINES ITS FUNCTION IN THE BODY (FOR INSTANCE, AN EYE FOR SEEING, AND A HAND FOR DOING WORK), SO ALSO the Spirit gives each Christian at least one gift or skill that is intended to be used to help other Christians in the Body of Christ (the Church). SUCH SKILL-GIFTS ARE TEACHING, EXHORTATION, LEADERSHIP, KNOWLEDGE, DOING ACTS OF KINDNESS, GENEROUS GIVING. NO CHRISTIAN IS TO ENVY OR DESPISE ANOTHER CHRISTIAN BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SAME "BODY-OF-CHRIST SKILLS," FOR "THE SPIRIT DISTRIBUTES" THESE GIFTS "AS HE WILLS." (I CORINTHIANS 12:11B)*

7.B. (Cont'd)

Each **"Body-Of-Christ skill gift"** is needed by the other members of the Body of Christ, and our gift determines our function in the Church (just as a bird's wings and light weight show it was designed to fly!). As each Christian faithfully uses his skill gift, the entire church is built up, especially in its love.

Rom. 12:4-8 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. **We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; **ministry**, in ministering; **the teacher**, in teaching; **the exhorter**, in exhortation; **the giver**, in generosity; **the leader**, in diligence; **the compassionate**, in cheerfulness. (NRSV)

I Cor. 12:4, 8-11 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...To one is given through the Spirit **the utterance of wisdom**, and to another **the utterance of knowledge**...to another **faith**...to another **gifts of healing**...to another **prophecy**... All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (see entire Chapter) (NRSV)

Eph. 4:15-16 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is the Head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together...**as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.** (NRSV)

I Pet. 4:10-11 **Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others**, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone **speaks**, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone **serves**, he should do it with the strength God provides... (NIV)

8. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT PEOPLE IN THEIR SINFUL STATE DO NOT HAVE A FREE WILL. THEY DO NOT LOVE GOD AND CANNOT CHANGE THEIR HEART. THEY DO NOT “CHOOSE” GOD OR CHRIST; GOD MUST CHOOSE THEM AND CHANGE THEIR WILL. AFTER WE HAVE BECOME CHRISTIANS OUR WILL IS IN ACCORD WITH GOD’S WILL. WE WANT TO DO HIS WILL ABOVE OUR OWN. (SEE CH 11-22/23)

John 4:34 Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” (NIV)

John 15:16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last... (NRSV)

Acts 16:14 A certain woman named Lydia...was listening to us... **The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.** (NRSV)

I Cor. 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (NIV)

Gal. 4:9 ...now that you have come to know God, **or rather to be known by God**, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits, whose slaves you want to be once more? (RSV)

Phil. 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, **enabling you both to will and to work** for his good pleasure. (NRSV)

9. THE QUESTION OF PREDESTINATION: THOUGH GOD DESIRES ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED, NOT ALL PEOPLE ARE. THOUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAN'S CONVERSION AND CHANGE OF HEART, WHEN MEN ARE NOT CONVERTED, THE RESPONSIBILITY IS THEIRS FOR **resisting the Holy Spirit. When a person is saved, God deserves the credit. When a person is lost, it is through his/her own stubborn, unbelieving heart.** WHY SOME PEOPLE PERSIST IN THEIR UNBELIEF AND OTHERS DO NOT, THE BIBLE DOES NOT ANSWER. WE SIMPLY HAVE TO TRUST GOD "TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT," EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIS WAYS. THE BIBLE DOES TEACH THAT THERE IS A PREDESTINATION TO SALVATION AS A COMFORT FOR BELIEVERS, BUT DOES NOT TEACH A PREDESTINATION TO DAMNATION.

Gen. 18:25b "...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" (The assumed answer is, "Of course He will!") (NRSV)

Matt. 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! **How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!**" (Note the conflict of wills.) (RSV)

Acts 7:51 (Stephen to the Jewish leaders) "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, **you always resist the Holy Spirit.** As your fathers did, so do you." (RSV)

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.** (NRSV)

Rom. 8:28-30 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to his purpose. For **those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, in order that He might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified. (RSV)

Eph. 1:4-5 Just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. (NRSV)

Eph. 1:12 We who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory. (RSV)

I Tim. 2:3-4 ...**God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.** (NIV)

II Pet. 3:9 The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.** (RSV)

Note: On Predestination: *II Thessalonians 2:13-14; II Peter 1:10; Acts 16:14.*

10. WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, REALIZING THAT THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT IS THE BEST GIFT OF GOD AND THAT THROUGH THE SPIRIT, OUR LIVES ARE CHANGED INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST, AND HIS PRESENCE WITHIN OUR HEARTS IS THE PRESENCE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

Luke 11:11-13 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your Father in heaven give **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!” (NIV)

II Cor. 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (RSV)

Eph. 3:14-16 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man. (RSV)

I John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (NRSV)

See also: *Ephesians 4:22-24, 30-32; Colossians 3:5-17; I Thessalonians 5:23.*

11. DEFINITION OF TERMS. THE FOLLOWING TERMS ARE USED IN THE BIBLE OR BY CHRISTIANS. THESE DEFINITIONS ARE NOT PRECISE, DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS, BUT THEY ARE A HELP IN UNDERSTANDING AND REMEMBERING THEIR MEANING.

Repentance:	A change of Direction: An about face and a return to God.
Regeneration:	A change of Nature: God's life becomes ours.
Conversion:	A change of Attitude: A new obedience toward God.
Justification:	A change of State: A new standing before God.
Adoption:	A change of Family: A new relationship toward God.
Sanctification:	A change of Service: consecration to God.
Glorification:	A change of Condition: At home with God.

Descend Into My Heart

*Descend into my heart, O Holy Spirit, and lighten
the dark corners of this wretched dwelling. Pierce the
gloom, with your joyful beams, dwell in that soul that
longs to be your temple; water the barren soil, overrun
with weeds and thistles, making it fruitful with dew
from heaven. O come, refresh my faint and languid
spirit. O come, guide this lost soul tossed about on the
stormy seas of this world, and bring me safely to the
haven of your love.*

Summary of the Spirit's Work in the Lives of Christians

1. *The Holy Spirit grants a rebirth of God's life in us through hearing the Gospel and baptism. John 3:5-6; Acts 2:38; I Pet. 1:23-25; Gal. 3:1-5.*
2. *The Spirit imparts "the spirit of Sonship." Rom. 8:15.*
3. *He imparts understanding, insight and wisdom to the believer. I Cor. 2:10-13.*
4. *He will testify to us about Jesus and direct our attention to Him. John 15:26; 16:14.*
5. *The Spirit in us is the presence of Jesus Himself. Acts 16:7b.*
6. *He will recall the words of Jesus to our memory and will teach us 'all things.' John 4:26.*
7. *He will guide us into all truth. John 16:13.*
8. *He bears witness with our spirit that we are God's children. Rom. 8:16.*
9. *The presence of the Spirit is a proof that God has accepted us. Acts 15:8.*
10. *He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will. Rom. 8:26-27.*
11. *He will strengthen our "inner man" with God's power. Eph. 3:16.*
12. *He will give us the ability to confess Jesus with wisdom.
Matt. 10:20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12.*
13. *He will pour God's love into our hearts. Rom. 5:5.*
14. *He will equip us with various gifts so we can serve the Church. I Cor. 12:4-11.*
15. *He will impart the characteristics of Jesus' personality to us. II Cor. 3:18.*
16. *He will enable us to resist and overcome our sinful lusts and desires.
Rom. 8:13-14; Gal. 5:16-17.*
17. *He will refashion and glorify our bodies in the resurrection. Rom. 8:11;
Philippians 3:21.*

12. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS

THE THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

What Does This Mean? (Luther's Explanation)

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

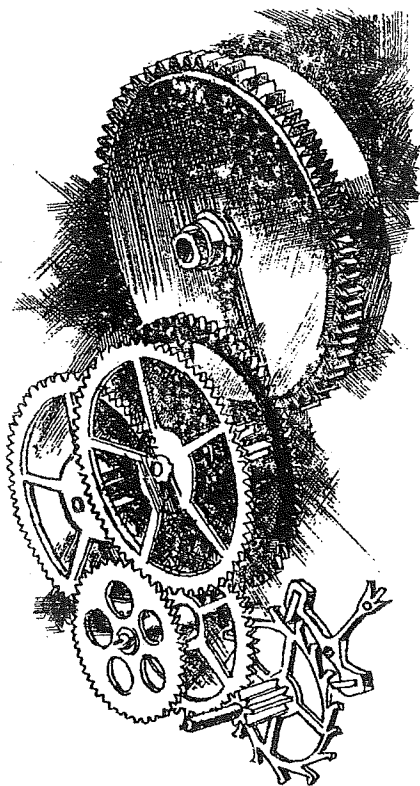
"In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

"In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

"On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

"This is most certainly true."

— *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, p. 144.
Copyright © 1986 by Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.



*"The
Love
of
Christ
Controls
Us..."*
— 2 Cor. 5:14



WORKSHEET FOR CHAPTERS IX AND X

On the basis of these lessons can you answer the following:

1. Why is the Holy Spirit the Greatest Gift of God to believing Christians?

2. On what Jewish Festival Day was the Gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on the 12 Apostles?

3. How did the Apostle Peter answer the accusation that the Apostles were drunk on new wine? _____

4. How can the Holy Spirit come into the life of someone who is spiritually dead?

5. List three different things which the Holy Spirit does for people: _____

6. What does it mean when the Bible says “we are justified by faith”?

7. How can a person tell if he has the Holy Spirit or not? _____

8. What is the meaning of the word “**Sanctification**,” and how does it take place?

9. What would you say to someone who claims that he was instantly “sanctified,” and now never sins? _____

10. Can a person who is an unbeliever **do good works** (in God’s sight)?

11. Name three of the “Body-of-Christ-skills” that God gives to Christians so they can serve in the Church. _____

12. Name three or more “Character-gifts” which the Spirit works in the hearts of all believers. _

13. What proof do we have that God desires the salvation of all people?

14. Why is hearing and learning God’s Word important if we want the Holy Spirit in our lives?

15. What connection does the Holy Spirit have with eternal life? _____
