

The Holy Spirit

A written transcription of a lesson preached by Richard Fox (2009)

I. The Holy Spirit Is A Distinct Being

- A. There Is One God
- B. God Speaks
- C. God Teaches
- D. God Searches
- E. God Bares Witness
- F. God Grieves

II. Work of the Holy Spirit In Man's Redemption

- A. Reproves or Convicts the World of Sin
- B. Reproves or Convicts the World of Righteousness
- C. Reproves or Convicts the World of Judgment
- D. Revealing and Confirmation of the Word
- E. The Who and The How (not included in audio lesson)

III. How The Holy Spirit Operates Today

- A. What Is The Gift Of The Holy Spirit In Acts 2:38?
- B. Great Parallel In Acts 3:19
- C. Led By the Holy Spirit of God
- D. The Holy Spirit Bares Witness With Our Spirit
- E. What About The Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

IV. The World Cannot Receive the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit

Let's notice **first** of all, that the Holy Spirit is one of the distinct beings that make up what the Bible calls the Godhead. The Apostles, speaking to idolaters in the city of Athens, in the first century said,

- "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the **GODHEAD** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." ([Acts 17:29](#)).

The Godhead is spoken of in the Bible in [Romans 1:20](#). The Bible says,

- "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even his eternal power and **GODHEAD***; so that they are without excuse:" That's [Romans 1:20](#).

and when we come to [Colossians 2](#), the Bible says that

- "For **IN** Him (that's In Christ Jesus) dwelleth **ALL** the fulness of the **GODHEAD** bodily" ([Col.2:9](#)), or as one version says, Jesus Christ was "God in bodily form".

Secondly, we'd like to study and notice the work of the Holy Spirit in man's redemption.

Thirdly, we'd like to notice how the Holy Spirit operates today and what He does for us today in the Kingdom of God and **lastly**, we should notice that the world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit. He's the one that the world cannot receive.

Notice now with me, this first point.

I. The Holy Spirit Is A Distinct Being

There's a lot of people, religious theorists, who teach that the Holy Spirit is only God's active force and truly the word Trinity is not found in the Bible. It is not a Bible word, but the idea that the word Trinity teaches is clearly found in the word of God.

The Bible teaches us that there are at least three distinct beings that make up what we noticed a moment ago, as the Godhead or the Godhood, hence the idea of the Trinity.

The Bible teaches us,

A. There Is One God ([1Cor.8:4](#))

In speaking to the Corinthians concerning idolatry, the Apostle said,

- "We know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* none other God but **ONE**." ([1Cor.8:4](#)),

Only **ONE** God. The Bible teaches us of **THREE** beings that are the **ONE** God.

When talking about the three distinct beings that make up what is called God, we realize there's the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God, but the Son is not the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost is not the Son. The Son is not the Father and the Father is not the Son, and the Father is not the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost is not the Father. They're all three distinct beings that are Deity, that are God. They're distinct beings that are omniscient, or all-knowing. They are distinct beings that have the attributes of Almighty God, being omniscience, all-knowing, omnipotent, or all-powerful and omnipresent. All of these three are said to be God in the Bible.

First of all, we would notice that the Bible teaches us that

a) The Father IS GOD

- “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:” ([Eph.1:3](#)).

What does that verse say?

- “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,”.

The Bible teaches us that the Father is God, but not only does the Bible teach us that the Father is God, but the Bible teaches us that

b) The Son IS GOD

Listen to this passage,

- “...Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” ([1Tim.3:16](#))

What was that, which God manifested in the flesh? It was the Son of God. We noticed a moment ago that Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead, bodily ([Colossians 2:9](#)), or as the ASV reads, “Jesus Christ is God in bodily form”.

Also notice with me that the Bible teaches that,

c) The Holy Spirit IS GOD, also

In [Acts 5](#), a man named Ananias, had a wife named Sapphira. they sold some land and they lied about it, and they played the part of the hypocrite. When Peter confronted them about their sins, the Bible says that,

- “Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the **Holy Ghost**”, that’s [Acts 5:3](#).

The very next Verse, Peter says,

- “thou hast not lied unto men, but unto **God**.” ([Acts 5:4](#))
- When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, Ananias lied unto Almighty God.
- The Holy Spirit then, is a distinct being of Deity.

Jesus told His Apostles, when He promised them the coming and the gift and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

He says,

- “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” ([Jn.16:13-15](#)).

Did you notice the personal pronouns in that passage? He, “H” “E”, that’s a personal pronoun, that refers to a person, a being, listen to it again. Jesus said,

- “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”
- The “HE” or “Himself” refers to the Holy Spirit,
- The “Me”, “Mine” and “I” refers to God the Son,
- And of course the “Father, refers to God the Father,
- **Three distinct beings of the Godhead in that one passage!**

Jesus said, “The Father will send,” Jesus said, “The Son, the Father will send the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, and He, the Holy Spirit, shall guide you into all truth.” He is a person, He is a being and we notice over and over again in the Bible, that the Holy Spirit is a person, a divine being, just as God the Father is and just as God the Son is.

We would notice over and over again, that the Bible teaches us that

B. God SPEAKS

a) The Father SPEAKS

In [Matthew 17](#), the Father said,

- “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye **HIM**” ([Matt.17:5](#)).

The Father clearly speaks, but

b) The Son SPEAKS, also

Jesus said,

- “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” ([Jn.8:12](#)),

But,

c) The Holy Spirit also SPEAKS

In [1 Timothy 4:1](#), Paul said,

- “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly”.

The Father **SPEAKS**, the Son **SPEAKS**, the Holy Spirit **SPEAKS**, all attributes of a distinct being. The Holy Spirit is a distinct being of Deity, or the Godhead.

But also notice that,

C. God TEACHES

a) The Father TEACHES

Jesus said,

- “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath **LEARNED** of the **FATHER**, cometh unto me.” ([Jn.6:45](#)),

But,

b) The Son TEACHES, also

In that famous place on a mountain, the Bible says Jesus went out and sat down on the mountain, then we have the Sermon in the Mount, but in [Matthew 5](#) it says Jesus sat down and taught them. ([Matt.5:2](#))

The Father teaches, the Son of God teaches, but

c) The Holy Spirit also TEACHES

The Bible says,

- It’s “...not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost **TEACHETH**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” ([1Cor.2:13](#)).

as the American Standard Version (ASV) says,

- “Comparing spiritual **THINGS** with spiritual **WORDS**”.

In [John 14:26](#), Jesus told His apostles,

- “These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. But the Comforter, *which is* the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He** shall **TEACH** you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”.

So, The Father **SPEAKS**, the Son **SPEAKS**, the Holy Spirit **SPEAKS**.

The Father **TEACHES**, the Son **TEACHES** and the Holy Spirit **TEACHES**;

But notice something else,

D. God SEARCHES

a) The Father SEARCHES

The Bible says in [Romans 8:27](#),

- the Father “**SEARCHETH** the hearts (of men)...”.

b) The Son SEARCHES

In Revelation 2:23, Jesus said,

- “I am He which **SEARCHETH** the reins and hearts:”.

The Father **SEARCHES**, the Son **SEARCHES**, but

c) The Holy Spirit SEARCHES, also

Paul said,

- “As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* unto us, by His Spirit: for the Spirit **SEARCHETH** all things, yea, the **DEEP** things of God.”([1Cor.2:9-10](#)).

The Father **SEARCHES**, the Son **SEARCHES**, the Holy Spirit **SEARCHES**.

The Father **SPEAKS**, the Son **SPEAKS**, the Holy Spirit **SPEAKS**.

The Father **TEACHES**, the Son **TEACHES**, the Holy Ghost **TEACHES**.

Also notice that,

E. God BEARS WITNESS

a) The Father BEARS WITNESS

Jesus said,

- “the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath **BORNE WITNESS** of Me” ([Jn.5:37](#)).

but

b) The Son also BEARS WITNESS

He says in [John 8:18](#),

- “I am one that **BEAR WITNESS** of myself,”.

c) The Holy Spirit BEARS WITNESS

In [Hebrews 10:15](#), we are told,

- “*Whereof* the **Holy Ghost** also is a **WITNESS** to us:”.

The Father bears **WITNESS**, the Son bears **WITNESS**, the Holy Ghost bears **WITNESS**.

Notice another attribute of the Godhead,

F. God Grieves

a) The Father can be GREIVED,

In [Genesis 6:6](#), the Bible says,

- “it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it **GRIEVED** Him at His heart.”

And,

b) The Son Grieves

The Bible says in [Mark 3:5](#), that Jesus,

- “looked round about on them with anger, being **GRIEVED** for the hardness of their hearts,”

c) The Holy Spirit also can be Grieved ([Eph.4:13](#)).

- “**GRIEVE** not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

The Father **GRIEVES**, the Son **GRIEVES**, and the Holy Spirit **GRIEVES**. All of those things, over and over and over again in the Bible. We notice that the idea of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. We see that the Holy Spirit is a Divine being, a distinct personality that **IS** God and not as some teach, just God’s active force.

Let’s look at,

II. The Work Of The Holy Spirit

Especially the work of the Holy Spirit, when it comes to the redemption of men.

Jesus said,

- “Howbeit when He, the **Spirit of Truth**, is come, He will **GUIDE** you into all **Truth**.” ([Jn.16:13](#)).

but just five verses previous to that, He said that **WHEN**, the Spirit of Truth,

- “is come, He will **REPROVE** (that is, **CONVICT**) the world of **SIN**, and of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and of **JUDGMENT**.” ([Jn.16:8](#))

- He’ll convict or He’ll reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
- That’s really the work of the Holy Spirit in the redemption of man. He reproves, he rebukes those in the world, of sin and of righteousness and of judgment.

How does the Holy Spirit do that? **THROUGH** the **Word of God**.

We realize that those who are guilty of sin are condemned unless those sins are forgiven, unless they obey the Gospel of Christ and have their sins washed away ([Acts 22:16](#)), and after they’ve done that, if they sin again, the Bible teaches that they’re to

- “**REPENT** therefore of this thy wickedness, and **PRAY** God, if perhaps the thought of thine **HEART** may be **FORGIVEN** thee.” ([Acts 8:22](#)).

A. The Holy Spirit Reproves or Convicts The World Of Sin

In this book, He tells you and I,

- “for **ALL** have sinned, and come **SHORT** of the glory of God;” ([Rom.3:23](#)).

He tells you and I,

- “The **WAGES** of sin is **DEATH**,” ([Rom.6:23](#)).

The Holy Spirit, through that which He has revealed and confirmed, convicts the world of sin, and is concerned.

But also, revelation in [John 16:8](#), says

B. The Holy Spirit will “Reprove (or Convict) The World ...Of Righteousness.”

Now we understand that righteousness, has to do with the commandments of God and we understand that, with the help of an Old Testament passage.

- “**ALL** Thy commandments are **RIGHTEOUSNESS**” That’s [Psalms 119:172](#).

Jesus said in [John 14:15](#),

- “**IF** ye **LOVE** Me, **KEEP** My commandments.”

and then He says,

- “I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another **COMFORTER**,” ([Jn.14:16](#))

and [John 14:17](#),

- “whom the world cannot receive,”

The Holy Ghost convicts man in regard to righteousness.

What is righteous? – Commandments of God ([Psalm 119:172](#)).

Jesus said,

- “**IF** ye **LOVE** Me, **KEEP** my commandments.” ([Jn.14:15](#))

and then He talks about sending the Spirit of Truth,

- “whom the world cannot receive” ([Jn.14:17](#)).

John said,

- “Hereby we do **KNOW** that we know Him, **IF** we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth **NOT** His commandments, is a **LIAR**, and the truth is **NOT** in him. But whoso **KEEPETH** His Word, in him verily is the love of God **PERFECTED**: hereby **KNOW** we that we are **IN** Him.” ([1Jn.2:3-5](#)).

That’s what the Holy Spirit revealed about righteousness, which is obeying the commandments of God. Here’s something the Holy Spirit revealed in regard to condemning the world in Righteousness.

He says,

- “...he that **DOETH** righteousness **IS** righteous, even as He is **RIGHTEOUS**. He that committeth sin is **OF** the devil; for the devil sinneth **FROM** the beginning” ([1Jn.3:7-8](#)).
- In other words, righteousness is something that you **DO** – by keeping the commandments of God.

When you obey the gospel of Christ, you do righteousness and what does it make you? It makes you righteous. **RighteousNESS** is something that you **DO**, **rightEOUS** is something that you **ARE**, when you **DO** righteousness.

How do you **KNOW** that? How do you **UNDERSTAND** that? The Holy Spirit reveals that to you and me. He reproveth or convicts the world, in regard to sin and in regard to righteousness.

C. The Holy Spirit Also Reproves Or Convicts the World, In Regards To Judgment

The Holy Spirit reveals to you and I, in [Acts 17:31](#) that,

- “He hath appointed a day, in the which he will **JUDGE** the world IN righteousness by *that* man whom He hath ordained; *whereof* He hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.”

His work, is that of revealing God’s word and it reproveth or convicts people in regard to sin, in regard to righteousness and in regard to judgment. The best passage in the new testament, that teaches us about the work of the Holy Ghost, in revealing God’s Word to man and confirming it, I suppose is [1 Corinthians 2](#).

There the Bible says,

- “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” ([1Cor.2:9](#)).
- By the way, He’s not talking about Heaven there necessarily, He’s talking about the gospel of Christ, the revelation of God’s word.

You might go to a funeral, and hear some sectarian preacher say, “Eye hath not seen, ear hadn’t heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things God has prepared for them that love Him, and this one that’s died, is enjoying all those things right now.” **No, that’s not it!**

Listen to the passage,

- “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath **REVEALED** *them* unto us **BY** His **Spirit**: for the **Spirit** searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.” ([1Cor.2:9-13](#)).

The work of the Holy Spirit in man’s redemption, is revealing the word of God, the gospel of Christ and He confirmed that with miracles and wonders – in other words, how do we know what the apostles taught and what the apostles wrote down, is true and is from God? Because we read about the miracles that they performed, by the power of the Holy Ghost in the first century, to confirm that which was revealed.

D. The work of the Holy Spirit, by and large, in the redemption of men, has to do with the REVEALING of the inspired Word of God and the CONFIRMING of that revelation.

The apostles were promised the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In [Acts 1](#), just before Jesus ascended back into Heaven, He told His apostles,

- “ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” ([Acts 1:8](#)).

The beginning of the next chapter when,

- “...**THEY** were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where **THEY** were sitting. And there appeared unto **THEM** cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of **THEM**. And **THEY** were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the **Spirit** gave **THEM** utterance.” ([Acts 2:1-4](#))

The words “**THEM**” and “**THEY**”, in the first four Verses of [Acts 2](#), are pronouns.

Those pronouns refer to the nearest noun, and the nearest noun is **Mathias** and the other **11 apostles**.

Notice again, the last part of [Acts 2:4](#),

- “**THEY** (the apostles) were **ALL** filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the **Spirit** gave them utterance.” ([Acts 2:4](#)).
- We’ll talk about that in a moment, in regard to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and see that it’s not for you and I, but it was for the apostles.

They began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance.

Then 10 verses later, the Bible says,

- “Peter, standing up with the eleven, ...lifted up his voice, and said, ...hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, ...But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My **Spirit** upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My **Spirit**; and they shall prophesy:” ([Acts 2:14-18](#)).

“Peter, standing up with the eleven,”

- We know that it was only the 11 that were speaking with other tongues. Peter is the 12 apostle – Peter stood up with the 11, that makes 12.

Then He preached that great sermon recorded in [Acts 2](#), all by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and when He came down to the end of that sermon, the Bible says,

- “Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” ([Acts 2:37](#)).

They were pricked in their hearts. What pricked them in their hearts?

The word of God that the Holy Spirit had revealed, that Peter had just spoken unto them.

Peter said by inspiration,

- “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.” ([Acts 2:22-24](#))
- “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” ([Acts 2:36](#)).

The Bible says

- “when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart” ([Acts 2:37](#)).

Then as we move on in the New Testament, we find passages like this.

- “For the **WORD** of God *is quick*, and *powerful*, and *sharper* than any twoedged sword, **PIERCING** even to the dividing asunder of *soul* and *spirit*, **AND** of the *joints* and *marrow*, and *is a DISCERNER* of the *thoughts* and *intents* of the **HEART**.” ([Heb.4:12](#)).

That which the Holy Spirit revealed, the Word of God – it pricks people in their hearts.

No wonder Paul says,

- “TAKE, ...the Sword of the **Spirit**, which **IS** the **Word** of God” ([Eph.6:17](#)).

What’s the work of the Holy Spirit in the redemption of man?

A **REVEALING** of the Word of God and a **CONFIRMATION** of that Word.

The purpose of miracles that men did in the first century, by the Holy Spirit, is clearly taught in the word of God. Listen to this passage. Jesus told His apostles,

- “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” That’s ([Mk.16:15-16](#))

and [Verse 20](#) tells us,

- “they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and **CONFIRMING** the Word with **SIGNS** following (that is, miraculous signs following)” ([Mk.16:20](#)).

What’s the purpose of the miraculous time?

Why did the Holy Spirit allow men to perform supernatural things?

To **CONFIRM** the Word of God.

The miracle of those men, speaking in foreign languages, that they had not studied previously, speaking in tongues. That's what speaking in tongues is, it's speaking in a foreign language and the miracle about it is, they realized they were ignorant farmers, peasants, tax collectors and fishermen and they hadn't studied those foreign languages. They asked,

- "how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" and then 18 nationalities are listed there in [Acts 2:9-11](#).
- They said, "we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful **WORKS** of God." ([Acts 2:11](#)).

Supernatural works confirmed the Word, that Peter spoke. When He spoke those words to them, that the Holy Spirit revealed for Him to speak, they were pricked in their hearts – That's got to be the Truth!

They realized that, because that word was confirmed with the miracle that was done that day ([Mk.16:20](#)). Don't ever forget that,

- "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel" [Mk.16:15](#) and then five verses later,
- "they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working **WITH** them, and **CONFIRMING** the Word with **SIGNS** following" ([Mk.16:20](#)).

There's another passage in the New Testament that tells us the **PURPOSE** of the supernatural, miraculous age and it says the same thing. In [Hebrews 2:3-4](#), the inspired writer says,

- "how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **CONFIRMED** unto us, by them that heard Him; ⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with **SIGNS** and **WONDERS**, and with divers **MIRACLES**, and **GIFTS** of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will?" ([Heb.2:3-4](#)).

The **PURPOSE** of the miraculous time and the miraculous age and men having supernatural abilities given to them by the Holy Spirit, was because the Holy Spirit revealed the word of God through them and then He confirmed that word with miracles and wonders and signs, don't you see?

The supernatural age was going to cease, and when it was going to cease, is when the entire New Testament had been revealed and confirmed. Listen to this passage in [1Cor.13](#), The apostle says,

- "whether *there be prophecies*, they shall **FAIL**;
whether *there be tongues*, they shall **CEASE**;
whether *there be knowledge*, it shall **VANISH AWAY**.
For we know in **PART**, and we prophesy in **PART**.
But **WHEN** that which is **PERFECT** (or **COMPLETE**) is come,
then that which is in **PART** shall be **DONE AWAY**" ([1Cor.13:8-10](#)).

In the first century, people only knew PART of the will of God, as it was being revealed.

- "we know in **PART**, and we prophesy in **PART**" ([1Cor.13:9](#))
- BUT, when the revealing of the Word of God was completed, the supernatural and miraculous prophecies, tongues and knowledge would Fail, Cease, Vanish and be done away.

Since we now have the completed Word of God in its entirety, there is no longer a need for supernatural abilities.

Remember what James through inspiration, says about those things – he says to christians,

- “But be ye **DOERS** of the Word, and **NOT** hearers **ONLY**, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the **PERFECT** law of liberty...” ([James 1:22-25](#)).

When that which is **PERFECT** has come, the **PERFECT law of liberty** – that’s the completed gospel of Christ, that’s the new testament of Jesus Christ, that’s the mirror of the soul.

- “But whoso looketh into the **PERFECT** law of liberty, and **CONTINUETH** *therein*, he being **NOT** a forgetful hearer, but a **DOER** of the work, this man shall be **BLESSED** in his deed.” ([James 1:25](#)).

Jesus said,

- “**EXCEPT** a man be **BORN** of water and of the Spirit, he can**NOT** enter into the **KINGDOM** of God.” ([Jn.3:5](#))

What’s the Holy Spirit’s work in the redemption of man? – revealing and confirming the Word of God and We know to be born again of water and the spirit has to do with being buried with Christ in Baptism and it’s from the direction of the Holy Spirit, that revealed that to the apostles and other inspired men in the first century, to write down and to confirm with miracles and wonders and signs, that you and I have, that’s called the new testament.

How do we know that? [1 Peter 1:22-23](#) tells us exactly that. Listen to that passage, Peter said,

- “ye have **PURIFIED** your souls in **OBEYING** the truth **THROUGH** the Spirit” that’s [1 Peter 1:22](#).

The very next verse says.

- “being **BORN** again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **BY** the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” ([1Pet.1:23](#)).

When you and I, obey the word of God, which includes being baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins ([Acts 2:38](#)),

- then you’re born again of water and the **spirit**,” ([John 3:5](#)).
- You purify your souls by obeying the truth through the **spirit**,” ([1Pet.1:22](#)).
- “Being born again by the word,” ([1Pet.1:23](#)).

What’s the Holy Spirit’s work in the redemption of mankind?

- The revealing of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- and the confirmation of that revelation

E. The Who (Spirit) and The How (Word)

[Chart borrowed from article entitled "The Work of the Holy Spirit" <http://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVsermons/WorkOfTheHolySpirit.htm>]

As the author of the chart below stated,

- "These are not restrictions on God, but a recognition of what the Bible plainly teaches."
- "The Word is a tool used by the Spirit."

This is why we should

- "take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the **SPiRiT**, which is the **WORD** of God:" ([Eph.6:17](#))

The Who (Spirit)	The How (Word)
Eph.5:18 - Be filled with the Spirit . . . 1Cor.6:19 - Spirit ...in you	Col.3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you . . .
Gal.5:22 - Faith is a fruit of the Spirit	Rom.10:17 - Faith comes by hearing the gospel
Jn.3:5-8 - Born of the Spirit	1Cor.4:15 - Born through the gospel 1Pet.1:23 - Born by the word of God
2Cor.3:6 - The Spirit gives life	Jn.6:63 - The words Jesus spoke are spirit and life
Rom.8:11 - Made alive by the Spirit	Psalm 119:93 - Made alive by God's precepts
Rom.8:2 - The law of the Spirit has made me free	Jn.8:32 - Word makes free
Rom.8:14 - Led by the Spirit	Psalm 119:105 - The word is a lamp to my feet
Titus 3:5 - Saved by baptism and renewing of the Spirit	1Cor.15:1-2 - Saved by the gospel James 1:21 - The word is able to save your souls Rom.1:16 - Gospel is the power of God to save
Rom.15:16 - Sanctified by the Spirit 1Cor.6:11 - Sanctified by the Spirit	Jn.17:17 - Sanctified by the truth
Heb.10:15 - The Spirit witnesses 1Jn.5:6 - The Spirit bears witness	Jn.5:39 - The Scriptures testify
Gal.5:25 - Walk in the Spirit	Phil.3:16 - Walk by God's rules
Eph.3:16 - Strengthen by the Spirit	Col.2:7 - Established in the faith
Eph.2:22 - Built through the Spirit	Acts 20:32 - The word is able to build you up
Acts 9:31 - Comfort of the Spirit	1Thess.4:18 - Comfort with these words
1Cor.6:11 - Washed by the Spirit	Eph.5:26 - Washed by the word Jn.15:3 - Cleansed through the word
Jn.16:8 - Reproves or Convicts the world	Tit.1:9 - Able to exhort and convince with the word
Rev.22:17 - Invites or Calls	2Thess.2:13-14 - called by the gospel

Notice with me,

III. How the Holy Spirit Operates Today

...What He does for Christians today.

I'm talking about in (2020). Now when we discuss this, I suppose first we should dispel some myths and some false doctrines and some misunderstandings that are taught and believed by most people. They have to do with this very subject, the Holy Spirit.

One thing that is so greatly misunderstood is the **GIFT** of the Holy Ghost. In [Acts 2:38](#), there Peter said,

- “**REPENT, and be BAPTIZED every one of you IN the NAME of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins, and ye shall RECEIVE the GIFT of the Holy Ghost.**”

Clearly the gift of the Holy Ghost in [Acts 2:38](#), is promised to everyone who believes, repents and is baptized ([Acts 2:38](#)). But what is it?

A. What is this gift of the Holy Spirit in [Acts 2:38](#)?

When sectarian or folks from religions of men, consider things in regard to the Holy Spirit, when they **SEE, READ** or **HEAR** the words “**Holy Ghost**” or “**Holy Spirit**”, immediately, every time, all they can think of is something that is supernatural, something that's miraculous.

But when they **SEE, READ** or **HEAR** the words, “**God the Father**” or “**God the Son**”, they don't think the same way. Their eyes kinda glaze over, if you're talking to them and all they can think about is something that must be supernatural.

What is that GIFT of the Holy Spirit, there in [Acts 2:38](#)?

It is the GIFT of the Holy Spirit, not the Holy Spirit Himself.

People don't think in that way, in regard to God the Father or God the Son, But only in regard to God the Holy Spirit. Isn't that strange?

Jesus talked with a woman at a well in Samaria and said,

- “**If thou knewest the GIFT of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee LIVING WATER.**” ([Jn.4:10](#)).

The **GIFT** of God – is that God Himself or is it what God gives?

Certainly it's what God gives, don't you see.

Jesus said,

- “**The wages of sin is death, but the GIFT of God..**”

Is that God Himself or is it what God gives?

Notice that passage again,

- “**For the wages of sin is death; but the GIFT of God IS ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord.**” ([Rom.6:23](#)).

What's the gift of God? God Himself or that which God gives?

Certainly it's what God gives, **Eternal life**.

In [Ephesians 4](#) the Bible says,

- “every one of us is **GIVEN** grace according to the measure of the **GIFT** of Christ.” ([Eph.4:7](#)).

Is that Christ Himself or is that which Christ gives?

It is the “**given grace**” which Christ gives, not Christ Himself.

We see that in regard to the Father and in regard to the Son, but when the Bible mentions the gift of the Holy Spirit, then all of a sudden it’s not that which the Holy Spirit gives, it’s supernatural abilities and we all of a sudden have the Holy Spirit Himself.

That’s what some think and that’s what some teach. Why do they teach that?

Is Acts 2:38 to give to the Holy Spirit Himself?

There’s a

B. Great Parallel in Acts 3:19

and I believe there’s a reason for that.

Peter peached in the **SAME** city, to the **SAME** people, in the **SAME** place, on the **SAME** subject, almost at the **SAME** time. When He came down to his sermon in Acts 2, he said,

- “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

When He came down to the end of that sermon in the very next chapter He said,

- “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

They have to mean the same.

In [Acts 2:38](#) Peter says, “Repent,”

in [Acts 3:19](#) Peter says, “Repent,”

In [Acts 2:38](#) Peter says, “And be baptized,”

In [Acts 3:19](#) Peter says, “And be converted,”

In [Acts 2:38](#) Peter says, “For the remission of sins,”

In [Acts 3:19](#) Peter says, “That your sins may be blotted out,”

In [Acts 2:38](#), “You’ll receive the **GIFT** of the Holy Ghost,”

In [Acts 3:19](#), “The **TIMES OF REFRESHING** shall come from the presence of the Lord.”

The Ethiopian Eunuch demonstrated that “times of refreshing”, after Phillip baptized him in water.

The Bible says that the Eunuch,

- “went on his way rejoicing.” ([Acts 8:39](#))

What is this “gift of the Holy Ghost”, in Acts 2:38?

- It’s the remission of sins, when you “repent and be baptized”,
- it’s eternal salvation,
- it’s the “times of refreshing”, that “come from the presence of the Lord”,
- it’s a great reason of “rejoicing”!

In other words, you're now in a right relationship with almighty God, because you've repented of your sins, and you've been baptized, and you've received the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of God is not God himself, but that which God gives.

The gift of the Son is not Christ Himself, but that which Christ gives.

The gift of the Holy Ghost, is not the Holy Ghost Himself, but that which the Holy Ghost gives.

When we obey the gospel, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

and we do that today, just as they did in the first century, we have the times of refreshing.

We realize that we've obeyed the commands of almighty God and our sins have been forgiven

and we are in right relationship with Him, the times of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord.,

But notice with me also today, that we are,

C. Led by the Spirit of God

In [Romans 8:14](#), the Bible says,

- "For as many as are **LED** by the **SPIRIT** of God, they are the sons of God."

That just is true today as it was 2000 years ago, when those words were penned.

The idea of being led by the Holy Spirit, is the idea of obeying and living as the word that the Holy Spirit has revealed, conducts you and I to live, or instructs us to conduct our lives.

If you and I live according to the teaching that the Holy Spirit has given in the New Testament, then we'll be led by the Holy Spirit and if we reject that, then we're not led by the Holy Spirit, it's just that simple.

Jesus said,

- "Let the **Word** of Christ **DWELL** in you richly in all wisdom," ([Col.3:16](#))

You see, the Holy Spirit dwells in us, as the word of God dwells in us and the Holy Spirit leads us by the word of God.

It's not supernatural. The only thing supernatural about it, was in the first century, it was revealed to inspired men, who wrote it down supernaturally, and confirmed with those miraculous wonders and signs. ...that's the only supernatural part about it.

In (2020) we're still led by the spirit of God; not supernaturally, but rather by the Word.

The psalmist had the right idea, he didn't live under the gospel of Christ.

He lived in a different system, under the Law of Moses, but He said,

- "Thy **WORD** is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." ([Psalm 119:105](#))
- "Thy **WORD** have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." ([Psalm 119:11](#))

Bible students think about Galatians chapter five, when they think about being led of the Spirit.

Paul said by inspiration of the Holy Spirit,

- "**WALK** in the **SPIRIT**" ([Gal.5:16](#))

How do you walk in the spirit? Live according to the instructions He gives, that's how.

- **“WALK in the SPIRIT, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.** ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ But if ye be **LED** of the **SPIRIT**, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the **WORKS OF THE FLESH** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ 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. ²² But the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we **LIVE** in the **SPIRIT**, let us also **WALK** in the **SPIRIT**. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” (that's [Gal.5:16-26](#))
- **“For as many as are LED by the SPIRIT of God, they are the sons of God.”** ([Rom.8:14](#))

The Holy Spirit still accomplishes that today, to everyone who would conduct their lives according to the teaching of the new testament of Jesus Christ.

But here's something else the Holy Ghost does today in the year (2020),

D. The Holy Spirit Bears Witness With Our Spirit

Paul says,

- **“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”** (That's [Rom.8:16](#))
- **“and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”** ([Rom.8:17](#))

How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are the child of God?

Let's say that this is the Holy Spirit over here, this little chart right here, and this is your spirit right here or mine. Let this side represent your spirit and this side represents the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit whether or not you are in Christ, whether you're a child of God or not. How does He do that?

Notice the Bible does not say here, that the Holy Spirit bears witness **TO** our spirit, but the Holy Spirit bears witness **WITH** our spirit. In other words, both your spirit and the Holy Spirit, give the same testimony.

It's what a witness does, he goes to court or wherever and he gives his testimony.

If the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God, then His testimony must agree with yours or yours must agree with His, don't you see it?

- a) Well, the Holy Spirit says through His revelation, to “Believe”.

Jesus said,

- **“IF ye believe NOT that I AM, ye shall DIE in your sins.”** ([Jn.8:24](#))

Do you believe that? Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

If you do, then the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit, that you are in agreement with God, as far as belief is concerned.

- b) Then the Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit taught us, that we must repent of past sins.
- God “**commandeth all men every where to repent:**” ([Acts 17:30](#))

Have you done that? Have you repented of your sins?

If you have, then your spirit and the Holy Spirit, bears witness together, that you’re in agreement; That you have the same testimony, so far as repentance goes.

- c) The Holy Spirit reveals that you must confess Christ before man.

Jesus said,

- “**Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.**” ([Matt.10:32](#))

The Holy Ghost revealed that, to an inspired man named Mathew.

He wrote it down, so you and I have it.

Have you confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, like the man from Ethiopia did in [Acts 8:37](#), when He said,

- “**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God**”

If you have, the Holy Spirit, bears witness with your spirit, that you are in agreement and have the same testimony, as far as confession is concerned.

- d) Then the Holy Spirit revealed that the Son of God said,

- “**He that believeth AND is baptized shall be **SAVED**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**” ([Mk.16:16](#)). That is, “**he that believeth not is condemned already..**” ([Jn.3:18](#))

That’s what the Holy Spirit witnesses, that’s His testimony. You make sure, that your not just getting wet. You make sure, you are being baptized correctly according to the Holy Spirit revealed Word, so that your testimony will be in agreement with the Holy Spirit.

What’s your testimony? Have you been baptized into Jesus Christ for remission of sins ([Acts 2:38](#))? If you have, then the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit, that you’ve been baptized into Jesus Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Rom.6:3-4](#)) and that you’re a child of God.

The apostle says in [Ephesians 1:3](#), that “**IN Christ**” is where “**all spiritual blessings**” reside.

Don’t you see friends, the Holy Spirit today, just like He’s done for 2000 years or longer, witnesses with our spirit, that either we are, or are not, the children of God.

Will you be led by the Spirit revealed Word, or by the religious traditions of men?

Someone said,

- “Preacher, what about the baptism of the Holy Ghost? I read in the Bible about the baptism of the Holy Ghost.”

Well what about it?

E. What about the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

If you read and study that closely, you’ll see that it was promised to the apostles, not to you and I.

There’s not a person living on the face of this earth today, that can speak in a foreign language, that they have not studied. If someone can speak in tongues, then they can come to me and they can be working down here in the service station say and never studied any foreign language in their life, but they can come to you and they can speak Russian, and they can speak German, and they can speak Italian, supernaturally - if they’ve got the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is immersion, complete submersion in the things of the Holy Ghost.

The apostles had all of the supernatural gifts. There’s not a person on this globe today that can go out here to any cemetery around here and raise anybody up from the dead. That was given to the apostles in the first century and it was for the confirmation of the word of God, promised only to the apostles not to you and I.

Jesus told his apostles,

- “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. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.” ([Jn.16:13-15](#)).

Jesus told his apostles just before He ascended back into heaven,

- “tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” ([Lk.24:49](#))

He told them in [Acts 1:8](#), which is a parallel, written by the same inspired writer, the inspired Luke.

He says,

- “ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. “

Who was? The apostles.

We noticed a while ago in Acts 2,

- “when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them...” ([Acts 2:1-4](#))

Who’s they? “They” is that pronoun; it refers to the nearest noun. That’s not you, that’s not me, that’s the apostles of Jesus Christ. They received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In about 64AD the apostle wrote and he said there's one baptism, [Ephesian 4](#). Which one is it ...? Is it the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Is that for you and I today?

There are those who pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. They don't know what they're praying for, they don't understand at all what the baptism of the Holy Ghost is.

There's one baptism; that's 64AD when that was written.

Holy Ghost baptism came in 33AD.

There's one baptism, [Ephesians 4:5](#) that's written in about 64 AD, about what ... 29 years or 31 years later. Thirty one. My math is not too good.

What is the one baptism? Holy Ghost baptism? No, water baptism.

Holy Ghost baptism was for the apostles; water baptism is for everyone.

- "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." ([Mk.16:15-16](#))

Peter talked about. He said,

- "once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. ²¹The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us" ([1Pet.3:20-21](#))

A man named Philip joined the chariot of a eunuch from Ethiopia and

- "preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶And as they went on *their way*, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" ([Acts 8:35-36](#))

There's one baptism; which baptism is it?

- "born of water and of the spirit." ([Jn.3:5](#))
- "being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" ([1Pet.1:23](#))

Lastly

IV. The World Can't Receive the Holy Spirit

that's what Jesus said in ... well in [John 14:15](#), He says,

- "If you love me keep my commandments,"

and then in [verse 16](#) and in [verse 17](#), He says,

- "¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive," ([Jn.14:16-17](#))

Jesus tells His disciples, then and now,

- "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." ([Jn.15:19](#))

Jesus said,

- "If you love me keep my commandments," ([Jn.14:15](#)).

If we keep His commandments we're not of the world and if we're not of the world, we receive the things of the Holy Spirit, but the world cannot receive Him.

We receive Him because we read, and study, and obey what He has revealed. The world cannot do that.

Remember the Spirit dwells in Christians as the word of God dwells in them.

- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;" ([Col.3:16](#))
- "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." ([Col.3:17](#))

No wonder Jesus said,

- "The world cannot receive..." the Holy Spirit ([Jn.14:17-17](#))

He said,

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." ([2Jn.9](#)).

In conclusion, for all of us, the most important thing for you and in regard to the Holy Spirit and what the Bible teaches about Him and His work and His person ... the most important thing for all of us is,

- have you **LISTENED** to the revelation of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God?

Have you listened to that?

It produces faith. Paul said,

- "Faith comes by hearing, hearing about the word of God," ([Rom.10:17](#)).

The Hebrew writer says,

- "without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." ([Heb.11:6](#)).

So faith comes by hearing the word of God, the word of God revealed about the Holy Spirit.

The most important thing for you and I is to hear the word of God, as it will produce faith and when it produces faith in your heart, then you'll think about what the Holy Spirit revealed.

Those things are out there, the Holy Spirit revealed, Jesus said,

- “if ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins.” ([Jn.8:24](#))

Have you've done that or did that? Do you understand that?

The Holy Spirit revealed that Jesus said,

- “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.” ([Matt.10:32](#))

Have you done that?

Back to the man from Ethiopia who confessed,

- “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ([Acts 8:37](#)).

The Holy Spirit revealed that you've got to repent of your sins, if you're determined that you're going to live your life according to the revelation of the Holy Spirit, the teaching of the gospel of Christ, the New Testament, the Word of God.

If you have, then you've repented of your sins.

- “God... commandeth all men every where to repent:” ([Acts 17:30](#)).

The Holy Spirit revealed that. The Holy Spirit revealed that the savior said,

- “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” ([Mk.16:16](#))

Have you done that?

You see the most important thing for you and I in regard to the Holy Spirit, is to believe the things and obey the things, that He's revealed and confirmed in the 1st century, called the gospel of Christ, the New Testament.

Sources:

- Written transcription of a Richard Fox sermon entitled “The Holy Spirit” [Greenville church of Christ 2009 http://www.gospelnotes.info/The-Holy-Spirit_RFox.mp3]
- Chart borrowed from an article entitled “The Work of the Holy Spirit” [LaVista church of Christ <http://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVsermons/WorkOfTheHolySpirit.htm>]
- Edited and Formated by Michael Wright