

Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

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God, the Holy Spirit, enabled an eighty-year-old man, Moses, to deliver a nation of slaves from the greatest military power on earth. He enabled David, a shepherd boy, to become the greatest king of Israel. In spite of his human shortcomings, David would later be called a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). The Spirit of the Lord anointed David with astounding writing abilities and he became the great psalmist of Israel (2 Sam 23:1-3).

The Holy Spirit revealed the wisdom of God to Solomon and people came from every part of the inhabited world to receive it (Luke 11:31). He inspired Solomon to write the Proverbs, which have led people to natural and spiritual success through the centuries.

Holy Spirit anointing enabled ordinary people such as Bezalel and Aholiab to make exquisite ornate works of gold, silver, brass, wood, stone and fabric (Ex 31:1-11).

The Holy Spirit revealed the future of God's people, even the future of the world, to ordinary men such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Joel, Daniel, and John.

He gave Zerubbabel, a discouraged former captive, the ability to complete the rebuilding of God's temple.

The Holy Spirit called and empowered Gideon, a fearful young man with a horrible self-image to deliver the Israelites from Midianite captivity. Gideon said, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." But the Lord said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel, for surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites." This "might of Gideon" was the Holy Spirit, the mighty power of God (Judges 6:11-16).

God, the Holy Spirit, is the One who enables ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. He is the One who desires to empower you to fulfill the unique special plan God has for your life (Acts 1:8, Eph.2:10).

The book of Acts is the book of Acts of the Holy Spirit: "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.'" "They saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men who had been with Jesus (*the Spirit of Jesus*)" (Acts 4:8-13).

The word translated Spirit in the Old Testament is "ruwach (roo'-akh)" meaning wind, air, breath (blast of, tempest, a sensible violent exhalation); figuratively, life of a rational being including its expression and functions... Similarly, the New

Testament word for Spirit is “pneuma” meaning breath, blast, life... Consequently, it’s most appropriate to refer to the Holy Spirit as having breathed upon (inspired) men to write the Holy Scriptures.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration (*divine breath*) of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21 ...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (*breathed upon*) by the Holy Spirit.

The unity of the bible is a miracle. It is a library of 66 books (39 OT, 27 NT) written by approximately 35 authors over a period of about 1600 years. Its authors include the educated, the uneducated, shepherds, tax collectors, kings, fishermen, public officials, farmers, teachers, and a physician. Its contents include religion, history, law, science, poetry, song, drama, biography, and prophecy. Yet its parts are as harmoniously united as the parts of a healthy human body.

For 35 authors to write 66 books, which harmonize and compliment each other completely and precisely could not happen except by the inspiration (breath) of God. Men scribed the words but God, the Holy Spirit, was the author of the holy scriptures.

Truths about the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God and is equal to the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is presented in scripture as distinct from the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit was present at the time of creation.

Gen 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then, God spoke the Word and the Holy Spirit created.

Gen 1:26 God (Elohiym) said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.

The Holy Spirit is seen throughout the Old Testament, especially as He comes upon God’s leaders to anoint and empower them for service.

"Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward (1 Sam 16:12-13). Later, after David sinned against

the Lord, he prayed, "Do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me" (Ps 51:11).

Joel 2:28-29 "It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Also, on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

Joel's prophecy was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. On that day, Peter said, "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16).

The New Testament records the Day of Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit. From that day onward, the Holy Spirit has come to permanently indwell, baptize/fill, and empower believers for Christian life and service.

The new birth is accomplished by the Holy Spirit and, thereafter, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer (Titus 3:5, 1 Cor. 6:19).

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (Rom 8:9). If you are His, you have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

Luke 24:49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

The Holy Spirit is the believer's source of life and power. Jesus said, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now and you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:5, 8).

Jesus also said, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (*inner being*) will flow rivers of living water." This He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive... (John 7:38-39)

Likewise, **the Holy Spirit is the power of the church.** After being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter, who had previously denied Christ three times, stood up and preached the gospel with Holy Spirit anointing. When the people heard his preaching, they were cut to the heart and said, "What shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That day three thousand people were added to the church. The church age was launched by the power of the Spirit (Acts 2:14-41).

It is vital that every believer have knowledge and understanding of the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

Acts 5:1-4 A certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Peter equated lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God thereby declaring that the Holy Spirit is God.

Ps 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me.

It is impossible to escape the presence of the Holy Spirit therefore He is omnipresent.

Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you.

The Holy Spirit is the power of God, the power of the Highest, therefore He is omnipotent.

1 Cor 2:10-12 The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

John 16:15 Jesus says, "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He (*the Holy Spirit*) will take of Mine and declare it to you."

The Holy Spirit knows the things of God, of Jesus, therefore He is omniscient.

Heb 9:14 Jesus, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself to God. The Holy Spirit is eternal.

The Holy Spirit is eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. Only God possesses such attributes therefore the Holy Spirit is God.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19)

The Holy Spirit is coupled with the Father and the Son in the baptism of the believer which signifies that He is God.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Cor. 13:14).

The Holy Spirit is joined with the Father and Son in apostolic benediction implying that He is God.

The Deity of the Holy Spirit in Relation to the Life of Jesus

Luke 1:35 ...the power of the Highest (*the Holy Spirit*) will overshadow you; therefore, that Holy one who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Jesus was born of the Spirit of God and man must be born of the Spirit of God to be saved from sin.

Luke 3:21-22 Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him.

Luke 4:18 After the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Here we have the entire Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil... Obviously, healing for all is the will of God.

Matt 12:28 If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Jesus cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mt 4:1-11 Jesus was led by the Spirit of God.

Heb 9:14 Jesus was crucified in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom 1:4, 8:11 Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:2 After His resurrection Jesus continued to be led by the Spirit. Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, gave commandments to the apostles.

If Jesus depended upon the Holy Spirit to control and empower His life and ministry, can the believer afford to do less?

The Symbols of the Holy Spirit

The writers of the bible used certain symbols when unfolding the nature of the Holy Spirit. They are:

Acts 2:3, Isaiah 6:1-7 Fire. Fire speaks of His consuming zeal and purifying power in the life of the believer. Our God is a consuming fire therefore the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of fire (Deut. 4:24, Heb. 12:29).

John 3:8 Wind. Wind speaks of the Holy Spirit's unseen influence and mighty regenerative power. The words translated Spirit literally mean breath or blast of wind. "The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath (*wind*) of life; and man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7). On the Day of Pentecost, "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind (*breath of God*), and it filled the whole house where the disciples were sitting (Acts 2:2).

John 7:37-39 Water. "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit... Water speaks of the Holy Spirit filling the believer to overflowing with spiritual life and vitality. It speaks of a life producing flow of God's Spirit out from the one in whom He dwells.

Eph 1:13-14 Seal. "Having believed, you were sealed (*stamped for security and preservation*) with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance..." The sealing power of the Holy Spirit is the believer's assurance that his salvation is a finished eternal transaction.

1 Sam 16:13, James 5:14 Oil. "Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward." "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." Oil speaks of Holy Spirit anointing for service and healing/deliverance.

Mark 1:10, John 1:32 Dove. 'John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove , and He remained upon Him (*Jesus*). The dove speaks of the gentle, tender, peaceful nature of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not a dictator. He leads, guides, reveals, convicts, empowers..., but He never forces. He comes and performs His ministry by invitation and submission.

Sins against the Holy Spirit

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit means to vilify, slander, or speak falsely of Him. "Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come" (Matt 12:31-32).

Resisting the Holy Spirit: "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears; you are just like your fathers: You always resist (*oppose*) the Holy Spirit" (Acts 7:51).

Grieving the Holy Spirit: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" (Eph 4:30-32).

Quenching the Holy Spirit: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thes 5:16-22)

Lying to the Holy Spirit: "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to men but to God" (Acts 5:3-4).

Sinning against the Holy Spirit disrupts our fellowship with the Father and may separate us from His hearing ear and delivering power. Let us confess, repent of, and forsake such sins quickly (Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 John 1:9).

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to/through Man

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father (*and, thereafter, will send the Helper, the Holy Spirit to perform these "greater works" through you*).

The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to do greater works than Jesus did.

John 14:16-17 The Father will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

1 Peter 1:11 ...the Spirit of Christ who was in them...

Phil 1:19 ...the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Since His resurrection, Jesus comes to and indwells the believer in the person of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

John 14:26-27 The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.

The Holy Spirit teaches the believer all things, enables him to remember what Jesus (God) has said to him, and produces the peace of Jesus within him.

John 14:26 (Amp) The Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

The Holy Spirit is the believer's Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby, Teacher, Reminder, and Memory Assistant.

John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**

The Holy Spirit will always bring glory (testify) to the Father and Son. He will never do or say anything that is not scriptural, not truth.

John 16:7-11 If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead who has been sent to help (intercede for, advocate for, console, comfort) the believer. The Holy Spirit also has been sent to convict the world (Christ rejecting humanity) of the sin of not believing in Jesus, the Son of God; to convict them that the only way to righteousness (right standing with God) is through faith in Jesus; to convict them that their ruler, the devil, has been judged and, in him, they will be judged.

John 16:12-15 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

What does this passage say the Holy Spirit will do in behalf of the believer?

The Holy Spirit guides him into all truth (the truths of God's word).

The Holy Spirit declares (communicates) to him what He hears from the Father, from Jesus.

The Holy Spirit tells him things to come.

1 Cor 2:9-16 The psalmist said, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **BUT GOD has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. "Who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Again, what does the Holy Spirit do in behalf of the believer?

He reveals the things of God, those things God has freely given him.

The Holy Spirit knows the things of God, of Christ, even the deep things, and reveals them to his mind. That's why the believer has the mind of Christ.

Rom 10:9-10 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 3:3-8 Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Cor 12:3 No man can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5-6 He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in the salvation process:

He convicts man of the sin of not believing in Jesus (John 16:9).

He convicts (*convinces*) that Jesus is the only means of "getting right" with God (John 16:9).

He empowers man to confess heartfelt faith that Jesus is Lord.

Upon man's confession of faith in Jesus, He regenerates and renews the person spiritually. This is the new birth, being born-again.

1 Cor 6:19 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

After the Holy Spirit regenerates and renews you, He indwells you. His indwelling presence enables you to lead a holy Christian life.

Other ministries of the Holy Spirit include:

Eph 1:13-14 (NIV) Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession...

The Holy Spirit marks the believer with a seal which is the guarantee that he will experience the totality of his salvation, his full inheritance as a child of God.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...

The Holy Spirit assures you in the inner man, your spirit man, that you are a child of God. You will have an inner knowing that you are born-again, a Christian.

As a believer, you have opportunity to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. This baptism is accomplished by Jesus.

Matt 3:11-12 I (*John the Baptist*) indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Each gospel makes this same declaration hence this Holy Spirit baptism must be quite important (Mk 1:7-8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33-34).

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Acts 1:5 Baptizing the believer

Eph 5:18 Filling the believer

Acts 1:8 Empowering the believer

Gal 5:16-18, Rom 8:14 Leading the believer

Rom 8:26 Praying the perfect will of God through the believer

Jude 20, 1 Cor 14:4 Edifying, building up the believer in his most Holy faith, as he

prays in the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 12:1-12 The Holy Spirit administers the spiritual gifts in and through the believer.

Here's a synopsis of essential ministries accomplished by the Holy Spirit in the Christian experience.

- No one can confess "Jesus is Lord" with heartfelt faith except by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).
- When one confesses faith in Jesus, he is spiritually regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)
- The believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19)
- The believer may be baptized and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- The Holy Spirit bears witness with the spirit of the believer that he is a child of God (Rom. 8:16).
- The Holy Spirit leads the believer (Rom. 8:14).

The Holy Spirit came mightily on the Day of Pentecost and the church was born. He will remain in and with the church until it is raised up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thes. 4:16-18, Rom 8:11).

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

The primary fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. Love is God and love is the great commandment of God. The believer is to become love-inspired, love-mastered, and love-driven. Without love, even our most sacrificial Christian activities are just religious noise (1 Cor 13:1-8, 2 Cor 5:14, Gal 5:14, Mt 22:36-39).

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

The fruit are the attributes of God that are in the believer due to the indwelling presence of the Spirit himself. It is the Lord's will that the fruit of the Spirit be increasingly experienced by and manifested through (out from) each believer.

My NASV Study Bible describes the fruit of the Spirit as follows:

Love

Joy is love's strength

Peace is love's security
Patience is love's endurance
Kindness is love's conduct
Goodness is love's character
Faithfulness is love's confidence
Gentleness is love's humility
Self-Control is love's victory

The first fruit of the Spirit is love.

Rom 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It is important to grasp the significance of the phrase "His own love." It is speaking of the actual love of God. Derek Prince says, "It is as high above any form of human love as Heaven is above the earth. This love is divine in its origin and nature.

It is the agape (ag-ah'-pay) love of God and its verb (action) form is agapao.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love (*agapao*) one another, for love (*agape*) is of God; and everyone who loves (*agapao*) is born of God and knows God. He who does not love (*agapao*) does not know God, for God is love (*agape*). In this the love (*agape*) of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love (*agape*), not that we loved (*agapao*) God, but that He loved (*agapao*) us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (*atoning sacrifice*) for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved (*agapao*) us, we also ought to love (*agapao*) one another.

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Agape is what God is and agape is His motive toward humanity, toward you. The ultimate expression of agape is Jesus. Jesus is agape of God manifest in the flesh. One cannot know or comprehend agape without being born of God and understanding the agape that motivated Jesus to endure the cross in your behalf.

Since agape is God, to be born of God is to be born of agape.

Rom 5:5 The agape of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Agape puts the welfare of others ahead of one's own welfare. Jesus performed the ultimate act of love (agape) by giving Himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sin. He gave His life that we might gain life eternal. That's agape!

Therefore, it is not surprising that the primary fruit of the Holy Spirit is love (agape).

1 Cor 13:4-8 (Amp) describes agape. Agape endures long and is patient and kind; agape never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Agape (God's agape in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Agape bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Agape never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

Agape on the inside working on the outside, oh what a change in my life!

Let's consider the remaining fruit of the Spirit.

Joy (cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness)

Rom 14:17 The kingdom of God is...joy in the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

As a believer you have a well of joy available amidst every circumstance of life.

Neh 8:10 Don't sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Peace (quietness, rest, at ease)

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of God rule (*govern*) in your hearts.

Longsuffering (patience, forbearance, fortitude) Heb 6:12,

Col 1:11 Be strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.

James 1:4 Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Kindness (usefulness, moral excellence, gentleness, goodness)

2 Peter 1:7 Giving all diligence, add to your godliness, brotherly kindness.

2 Cor 6:4-6 In all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: by much patience, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit,

Goodness (virtue, beneficence) Eph 5:8-9

Rom 15:14 I am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you are full of goodness.

Eph 5:8-9 Walk as children of light for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth...

Faithfulness (assurance, belief, faith, fidelity)

1 Cor 4:2 It is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

The word translated faithful in Galatians 5:22 is *pistis* which is the word translated faith in Hebrews 11:1. Consequently, we can conclude that the Hebrews 11:1 kind of faith: the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Gentleness (meekness, kindness in character and demeanor)

Phil 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men.

Eph 4:1-3 Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called with all lowliness and gentleness...

Self-Control (continence, temperance)

2 Peter 1:5-6 Giving all diligence, add to your knowledge, self-control...

2 Tim 3:1-3 Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be...without self-control.

How do we experience and demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit?

Gal 5:24-25 Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

The believer in Jesus has the fruit of the Spirit. He is not trying to acquire them. The Holy Spirit indwells him therefore the fruit of the Spirit is in him. He need not strive to keep the law to manifest the fruit. In fact, he cannot. He is to experience and demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit by:

1. Knowing that his old man was crucified with Christ that his body of sin might be done away with.
2. Knowing that he is no longer a slave of sin but a slave of righteousness.
3. Asking the Holy Spirit, in faith, to manifest (make real in his experience) the fruit of the Spirit in and through him

Rom 8:12 Brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. If you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live.

I believe grace demonstrates the character of God through the Fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the character and nature of Jesus being seen or demonstrated in and through the believer.

Now, we will turn our attention to the gifts of the Spirit which are facets of His power, knowledge, wisdom, and ability manifesting through the believer. I believe grace demonstrates the power of God through the gifts of the Spirit. The fruit and the gifts of the Spirit are facets of God's grace given to every believer (1 Peter 4:10 Amp).

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12-14 give the most complete teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and their operation. The key to the effective operation of these gifts is the love of God.

Paul delineates the gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and teaches regarding the operation of the vocal gifts in chapter 14. However, sandwiched between these chapters is his treatise on the love (agape) of God (chapter 13) which we studied in the previous section.

1 Cor. 13:1-3 (NLT) If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would I be? And if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, without love I would be no good to anybody. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;

but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever.

Paul emphatically states that the operation of the gifts without love as the primary motive is profitless noise. The love of God is that which places the needs of others above our personal needs. Each believer should esteem the needs of others as more important than his own and expect the Spirit of God to manifest (show forth) the gifts needed to minister to others. This is the love of God in action. For this reason, Paul said, "Pursue love and desire earnestly spiritual gifts..."

1 Cor 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.

3 No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 There are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all

7 The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

11 The same Holy Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Obviously, the gifts are called gifts of the Spirit because they are administered and operated through the believer by the Holy Spirit.

The word translated gift in these passages is charisma which means a portion of God's charis (grace). The gifts of the Spirit are portions of God's grace: His favor, blessing, gifting, power, influence, and ability being demonstrated through His people. A Gift of the Spirit is a portion of God's miraculous ability operating through His child. It is the Great Potter demonstrating Himself through the clay.

2 Cor 4:7 "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, the surpassing greatness of God's power operating through us."

1 Cor 14:1 (Amp) Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire this love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual gifts endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy.

God desires that every believer become a love motivated vessel through whom He may manifest (show forth) His gifts.

The nine gifts of the Spirit are generally categorized in three groups of three.

Inspiration or Vocal Gifts, those gifts which say something: Gift of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and the Gift of Prophecy

Power Gifts, those gifts which do something: Gifts of Healings, Working of Miracles, and the Gift of Faith

Revelation Gifts, those gifts which reveal/show something: Discerning of Spirits, Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom

Inspiration or Vocal Gifts (Gifts which say something)

1 Cor 12:10 Gift of Tongues: For a Christian to speak aloud a tongue inspired by the Holy Spirit during a gathering is the manifestation of the gift of tongues.

Glossa (Strong's #1100) is the word translated tongues and it means a language not naturally acquired or learned.

The operation of the gift of tongues which is a tongue spoken aloud in a gathering of believers is, I believe, distinct and different from the personal prayer language (tongue) that accompanies the baptism with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:46, 19:6; 1 Cor 14:18). Every believer can and should speak (pray, sing) in tongues as a part of his personal life but not every believer will speak out a message in tongues for the congregation to hear.

1 Cor 14:13 For the gift of tongues to edify the body (the congregation), it needs to be accompanied by an interpretation. Therefore, the person who speaks in tongues is instructed to pray for the gift of interpretation.

1 Cor 12:10, 14:13 Interpretation of Tongue is the Holy Spirit-given ability to explain in one's natural language what was said through the gift of tongues.

The interpretation of tongues is not a word-for-word translation of the utterance in other tongues but a Holy Spirit given explanation of the message given in tongues.

1 Cor 12:10, 14:1, 3-5 The Gift of Prophecy is a Holy Spirit-inspired utterance in the believer's known natural language which edifies, exhorts and comforts the hearers.

The gift of tongues plus the gift of interpretation is considered the equivalent of the gift of prophecy.

When the gift of prophecy includes the foretelling of the future, it is usually considered a combination of prophecy and the word of wisdom or knowledge.

Example: Acts 21:10-11 Agabus foretells some events that will happen to Paul.

The Holy Spirit doesn't withdraw His gifts and callings but the believer may neglect them. That would be quenching the Spirit.

Fear might cause a person to quench the Spirit. That may have been the case with Timothy therefore Paul said:

2 Tim 1:6-7 Stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

It is the will of the Father that every believer yield to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. However, it is important that each person knows and obeys the "rules of the game" especially regarding the vocal gifts.

1 Cor 14:26-33 Brethren, whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Power Gifts (Gifts which do something)

Gifts of Healings: Healing is to effect a cure or make whole without the aid of human or natural means. It is the power of the Holy Spirit showing forth through the believer to cure injuries, handicaps, diseases without any natural assistance. For example:

- 2 Kings 5:8-14 Naaman healed of leprosy
- Acts 3:2-8 Peter healing the lame beggar in the name of Jesus
- Acts 9:17-18 Ananias laying hands on Saul for healing
- Acts 8:6-7 The paralyzed and lame healed through Philip
- Acts 28:3-4 A viper fastened on Paul's hand but he suffered no harm.

Working of Miracles: Miracles are supernatural interventions of the power of God to over-ride or contradict the laws of nature.

- Josh 10:12-14 The sun and moon standing still for Joshua
- 1 Kings 17:8-16 The widow's cruse of oil and barrel of meal that didn't run out
- John 11:43-44 The raising of Lazarus
- Mark 6:45-52 Jesus' causing the storm to cease

- Acts 8:39-40 Philip's being translated bodily

Gift of Faith: Faith is a total complete assurance that something will happen or be done. It is a special Holy Spirit deposit of faith which enables the recipient to believe without a doubt that something has been accomplished or will be accomplished. It is a supernatural deposit of faith which is above and beyond the believer's normal level of faith.

- 1 Kings 17:1 Elijah said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."
- 1 Kings 18:17-39 Elijah's challenging of Ahab and the prophets of Baal
- Matt 8:5-10 Centurion's entreating of Jesus to heal his servant
- Acts 14:8-10 The lame man healed at Lystra

Revelation Gifts (Gifts which reveal something)

Discerning of Spirits: To discern is to judge, separate, to know the spirit of a situation, person, or to know the spirits in a situation or person. Discerning of spirits incorporates the Holy Spirit given ability to judge the spirit of a person or situation. The God-given ability to see or know the presence of spirit(s), good or bad. The gift can operate relative to the divine, the demonic, and the natural.

- John 1:47 Jesus' comments about Nathaniel: "Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile."
- Acts 8:20-23 Peter discerned the heart condition of Simon the Sorcerer
- Acts 16:16-18 Paul and the girl with spirit of divination
- 2 Kings 6:15-18 Elisha's attendant sees into the spirit realm

Word of Knowledge: The Holy Spirit revelation of factual information not naturally known or learned through the efforts of the mind, a knowing or understanding of the facts, an enlightenment.

- 2 Kings 5:20-27 Elisha receives knowledge of Gehazi's dishonest activities
- John 4:17-18 Jesus and the Samaritan woman
- Acts 10:3-6 Cornelius receives information about Peter
- Acts 10:19-20 Peter receives information about Cornelius's men
- Acts 27:22 Angel reveals to Paul that no life will be lost

Word of Wisdom: The supernatural revelation of the divine purpose of God, a revelation of a sound course of action. If the gift of prophecy includes a foretelling of future events, it incorporates the word of wisdom because God is revealing His course of action and/or purpose.

- Gen 41:25-37 Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and gives him a wise course of action

- Joel 2:28-29 God reveals His plan to pour out His Spirit on all men
- Acts 10:10-16 God reveals His plan for the salvation of the Gentiles
- Acts 27:20-25 The Angel of God reveals to Paul that those sailing with him will live and not die

Christians are exhorted to be knowledgeable concerning the gifts of the Spirit, walk in love, and desire to be vessels through whom the Holy Spirit can manifest. The responsibility for operation of the gifts is ours. Holy Spirit, convict and empower us to pursue love and desire spiritual gifts. Amen.