

# How to Use God's Holy Spirit



## Sermon Transcripts

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# **Contents**

## **Booklet**

<b>How to Use God's Holy Spirit #1 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How to Use God's Holy Spirit #2 .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>How to Use God's Holy Spirit #3 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>How the Holy Spirit Works .....</b>	<b>32</b>

## **Compact Disk**

- Track 1 How to Use God's Holy Spirit #1 A & B**
- Track 2 How to Use God's Holy Spirit #2 A & B**
- Track 3 How to Use God's Holy Spirit #3 A & B**
- Track 4 How the Holy Spirit Works A & B**

## **Forward**

This book contains the transcriptions of four sermons delivered by Fred R. Coulter on how to use God's Holy Spirit. These four sermons provide an understanding of God's Holy Spirit and how to use it in our personal lives.

A special thanks goes to Laila Patterson and Bonnie Orswell for transcribing the sermons.

# How to Use God's Holy Spirit I

Fred R. Coulter

Living in the world we're living in today we really need to understand how to use God's Holy Spirit. Let's just review some very basic things.

## How one receives the Holy Spirit:

That is basic and fundamental. The Holy Spirit is not given, as many people believe today, that you just take a zipper on your heart and open your heart and the Lord comes in.

It doesn't work that way. You have to repent and be baptized, then God will give the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Let's see there is also a *condition* for receiving the Holy Spirit.

1. God is not going to give the Holy Spirit to those who do not obey Him
2. God is not going to give the Holy Spirit to someone who is not going to make it into the Kingdom of God

When you receive the Holy Spirit, God is giving that commitment that you are going to be in the Kingdom of God. The only thing that can keep you from getting in there is not God, but *you—each individual!* And there are many times that people get so confused and go through so many problems and difficulties—not only in the world but also in the Church—that they just kind of give up. They think that maybe God has given up on them. No! God has not given up on them, because Jesus said, 'None of them are going to slip out of My hand or the Father's hand.'

This becomes a very important thing, one of the conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit. This was right after they had gone through what they went through in prison and the Sanhedrin telling them not to preach 'in that name' anymore.

Acts 5:29: "But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, 'We are obligated to obey God rather than men.... [That's the whole key in receiving the Holy Spirit: *obeying God rather than men!*] ...The God of our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed *by hanging Him* on a tree'" (vs 29-30).

By the way, concerning the recent accord between the Vatican and Israel—how many have read the book *Judaism and the Vatican*; the whole thing was to try and get the Catholic Church to say that the Jews did not kill Jesus (that was the main thing)—they have signed it. It explicitly stated that the Catholic Church will assist the Jews in doing away with anti-Semitism. I thought that was really a profound part of the agreement.

The Apostle Peter didn't sign that. He said,

"...Whom you killed *by hanging Him* on a tree. Him has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel" (vs 30-31). There we have:

- repentance
  - forgiveness of sin
- put that in with:*
- repent and be baptized (Acts 2)
- put that together with*
- receiving the laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit (Acts 8)

Verse 32: "And we are His witnesses of these things, as *is* also the Holy Spirit, which God has given to those who obey Him." That is saying to the Sanhedrin that 'you're not obeying God and you don't have the Spirit of God.'

Acts 7:51—Stephen gave this witness: "O stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You do always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so also *do* you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of Whom you have become the betrayers and murderers" (vs 51-52). And he accuses them of killing Jesus Christ. So, they got so angry that they got into a biting contest and went out there and [if they could have] gnashed on his flesh, then had him stoned while Saul (who became the Apostle Paul) was standing there agreeing and consenting with it. In order to receive the Holy Spirit:

- you have to *repent*
- you have to *be baptized*
- you have to have *hands laid on you*
- you have to be *willing to obey God*

That's the whole thing that is important there.

## What does this do for a person?

- Does it make them perfect? *No!*
- Is it going to run their lives? *No!*

We're going to see that *the Holy Spirit will lead you.*

- It's not going to drive you!
- It's not going to push you!
- It's not going to pull you!

*It will lead you as you choose to follow God!*

- What does it do?

*It brings what the New Testament calls 'the circumcision of the spirit!' Having the carnal mind circumcised as it were, which then is removing the hostility toward God!*

Too many times we get our feelings involved and other people get hostile toward us and we get feelings that aren't right, even though we have God's Holy Spirit. It's not a matter that God is doing it or causing the problem, or that we're not converted. It's just that it is a frustration and problem at that particular time.

Romans 2:28: "For he is not a Jew who *is* one outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision which is external in *the* flesh; rather, he *is* a Jew who *is* one inwardly, and circumcision *is* of *the* heart, in *the* spirit *and* not in *the* letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God" (vs 28-29). That's the circumcision in Christ that is called 'the circumcision made without hands' (Col. 2).

### **What is the Holy Spirit for us?**

*It's a guarantee and promise from God!* That's why it's important for us to realize that—in spite of our mistakes and problems—

- we have the grace of God for forgiveness
- we have the love of God for forgiveness
- we have the love of God to lead us
- we have the Spirit of God to lead us

—God has given an absolute commitment by the receipt of the Holy Spirit. There are times when it gets a little thin because we're not staying close to God like we ought to, so then we need to 'stir up' the Spirit of God, which is in us.

Here is the absolute commitment, 2-Corinthians 1:21 "But He Who establishes us with you in Christ, and Who has anointed us... [the receiving of the Holy Spirit is called *an anointing*] ...*is* God, Who has also sealed us and has given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts" (vs 21-22). God has made a commitment—the commitment from the God of Truth, absolute Truth; God of love; God of faith. He can help us at any time, though we do what is commonly called in the Bible *backsliding*.

### **Attributes of the Holy Spirit:**

Let's see some of the attributes that the Holy Spirit has. Let's see something very important concerning the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9: "However, you are not in *the* flesh..." Living your life as just a carnal, ordinary, everyday human being; all tied up in the world, all wrapped up in the world, caring nothing about God, caring nothing about anything but what you are doing. That is the carnal mind, minding the things of the flesh.

"...but in *the* Spirit, if *the* Spirit of God is indeed dwelling within you" (v 9). When the Spirit of God is given, through begetting it unites with the spirit of our mind and then we become God's own chosen, selected, called out, consecrated saint.

It's really something! And it's being pressed on my mind more and more as I'm studying and doing things in writing and so forth. It's really something when you stop and think about it: ***God the Father Himself has personally called you!*** 'None can come to Me except the Father draw him' (John 6:44). God the Father Himself has given you the begetting of His Holy Spirit so that you can be a very child of God. God the Father Himself hears and answers your prayers. That's something when you really begin to put all of it together!

I'm beginning to see and understand and realize it more and more that the reason the Church of God is in all the problems that it is in is because it's not focusing on loving God and using the Spirit of God. Rather, too many are focused in on a particular doctrine.

Or they get focused in on some other doctrine or way or whatever it is and they miss the love of God, miss the grace of God, miss the mercy of God. So, you have a lot of frustrated Christians out there that really want to do better, they really want to go ahead and do things, but they can't do it because they somehow feel limited and constrained by the circumstances they are in.

Nevertheless, I just have to say with the people I've seen and visited and talked to in traveling, all the people of God have gone through so many things and, yet, are trying as much as they can to be faithful to God. You've got to conclude that they have the Holy Spirit of God in them for them to go through so many different things. Some of the horror stories are really something! Some people have not had to go through as much as others.

"...If *the* Spirit of God is indeed dwelling within you.... [There's a distinct absolute division. God does not give just part of His Holy Spirit to some of the people to help them along and encourage them. No!] ...But if anyone does not have *the* Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (v 9). There is a distinct division that God makes.

I've run across those who have not been converted, though they have tried. Some of it is not their fault. Some of it is that they really need to make a full, total commitment to God in spite of all circumstances. I'm not the one to judge whether a person is converted or not—I'm not God. When people ask me if they have the Spirit of God. I say, 'If you don't think you do, maybe you ought to fast and pray and ask God to reveal to you whether the Spirit of God is *in* you or *with* you.' I think there are a lot of people who have the Spirit of God *with* them, but not *in* them. If that's the case then you need to go ahead and be baptized properly and really have the Spirit of God so it is *in* you. But if it is *in* you then you belong to Christ. You are His! That's why the Bible talks about a slave or bond-slave and

so forth.

Verse 10: "But if Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.... [the righteousness which comes from God.] ...Now, if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken... [make alive] ...your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you" (vs 10-11). There's the whole promise and commitment from God.

We need to claim those promises. We need to ask God to help us stir up the Spirit of God. We need to—because of our human weakness—go to God and ask Him to help us overcome those things. But I know this: I feel that if we focus in more on the love of God—which is the greatest thing—we'll be able to overcome a lot of the problems and difficulties that we tried to overcome just on our own.

You almost have to live that to experience it, to see it. There are certain things that I see that I've had to do, that I've had to change, and I many times have tried to change it: I'm going to do better; I'm going really resolve to do better. Well, if I don't really understand how much God has loved me and what He has done for me, then I have a hard time really overcoming myself. Then I wonder why can't I overcome? Why can't I change this? Why can't I do that? *The reason, I have found, is that I don't understand God's love for me and what He's done for me, and why He's done it for me.* I hope I can grow in that so I can let God's Spirit do some changing in me. I need changing as well as anybody else.

There are many, many things talking about the Holy Spirit in the book of Isaiah. If we really let the mind of Christ *in us*—let God's Spirit be in us—with the **spirit of love, faith** and all of that that comes from God's way. But it also gives us other things, too. Talking about God's way:

1. **Spirit of judgment**
2. **Spirit of burning**

Isaiah 4:4: "When the LORD shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from its midst by the **spirit of judgment**, and by the **spirit of burning**." Sometimes the Spirit of God has to be very sharp, powerful and sometimes kind of hot. God is the One Who can make it that way.

It is talking about Christ. With the Spirit of God Who do we have in us? *Christ!* We need to grow in these kind of attributes, too. This is all a part of using the Holy Spirit of God.

Isaiah 11:1: "And there shall come forth a shoot out from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the

LORD shall rest upon Him..." (vs 1-2). Didn't that happen in John 1? John baptized Him and was told, "The One you see the Holy Spirit come upon as a dove, that is the One"? *Yes!* Was not Jesus led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil for 40 days and 40 nights, and He was full of the Holy Spirit? *Yes!*

3. **Spirit of wisdom**
4. **Spirit of understanding**
5. **Spirit of counsel**
6. **Spirit of might**
7. **Spirit of knowledge**
8. **Spirit of the fear of God**

"...**the spirit of wisdom**... [read the Gospels and you will see *wisdom*] ...**and understanding**, the **spirit of counsel and might**, the **spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD**. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. And He shall not judge according to the sight of His eyes, nor after the hearing of His ears. But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. And He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth..." (vs 2-4)—which He's going to do when He returns. All of that is part of the Spirit of God and part of the things that God's Spirit will do for us.

9. **Spirit of grace**
10. **Spirit of supplication**

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour upon the house of David... [That's a very interesting statement—isn't it? (see sermon on *Tabernacle of David*)] ...and upon the people of Jerusalem, the **spirit of grace and of supplication**...." All of that is very, very important in relationship to Christ and the Truth of God.

Then it continues on with the prophecy of Christ: "...And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only *son*, and shall be in bitterness over Him, as the bitterness over the firstborn" (vs 10).

There's going to come a time when God begins to deal with the Jews in Jerusalem, and that day is going to come! When He pours out the **Spirit of repentance** upon them, it is going to be something! I don't know just exactly how that's going to fall. I don't know exactly how the events are going to work out leading up to that time, but we know that Zech. 3 talks about the high priest at Jerusalem who is led to repentance, and Zech. 4 talks about Zerubbabel and these two become the 'two olive trees that stand before the Lord of the whole earth'—which ties in with Rev. 11 and the two witnesses.

Maybe at that time is when God is going to pour out the Spirit upon those who are in Jerusalem. That's going to be quite an event! If you know anything about the Jews, once they're smitten they'll go full throttle. It's going to be quite a thing when that happens!

Let's come to the New Testament and perhaps the most important thing we will cover concerning the Spirit of God. In writing the first edition of *Lord, What Should I Do?* the thing that really struck me—and I'm coming to see this more and more—is that too many people to develop doctrine handle the Word of God deceitfully. That's how they come up with false doctrines and they use Scriptures that are true. You need to think on that, because that is really something!

You quote a Scripture and you quote another Scripture—which is true—and then you come to the wrong conclusion because you misapply it. That can happen. But here is the most important thing concerning the Spirit of God.

### **Spirit of the Truth:**

John 14:15: "If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments." And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: **Even the Spirit of the Truth...**" (vs 15-17). That becomes very, very important. If we let the Spirit of Truth really lead us and really guide us and we properly divide the Word of God—humbly seeking God's way—God will lead us into all the Truth that He wants us to have. It is called ***the Spirit of Truth***.

That's why we need to have the Spirit of God in our mind, so we can overcome our own deceitfulness—right? Doesn't the Apostle Paul say, 'Lie not to one another.' Have Christians lied to one another? **Yes!** Have you told lies? **Yes!** If I ask you if you told a lie this past week, we might all raise our hand, because we're not letting the God of absolute Truth lead us in everything we need to be led in.

However, we have one caveat with that that we need to understand: ***we are to be 'wise as serpents and harmless as doves.'*** For people who are out in the world, I don't carry my shotgun, pull it out, this is my anti-Christmas shotgun.

Example: I was invited to a Christmas party for last night. Being Friday night I didn't show up and I got the call. I didn't tell them that I wouldn't go to your 'stinkin' rotten Christmas party.' That would be truth, but it also says in Ephesians that we're to 'speak the truth in love.' I said, 'I'm sorry, I just couldn't be there.' That was an acceptable answer for him. I didn't lie. I was not misleading him. I was telling him the absolute truth of what he could bear. This man being a gung-ho Catholic

pretty well figures that if you're against Christmas, you're against God.

When the time comes and I need to witness to him, I will. But in the meantime I can tell him that I just 'couldn't be there'—which was a fact.

1. because I didn't necessarily want to be there
2. because it was Friday night, the Sabbath and I wasn't going to be there

That's the ***Spirit of wisdom and understanding***.

But for us is called "...the **Spirit of Truth**, which the world cannot receive... [Why can't the world receive it? *The world can't stand pure Truth!*] ...because it perceives it not, nor knows it..." (v 17). That's why they love their Christmas. What does Christmas re-enforce to the carnal mind? ***That they can do by telling lies!*** Everything that Christmas has is based on lies!

They can't stand the Truth of God! That's why the world cannot receive it. Why? What do you have to do to receive it? ***Repent, be baptized, keep the commandments of God, obey His voice!***

"...but you know it because it dwells with you... [I think there are a lot of people in that category, that the Spirit of God is dwelling with them.] ..and shall be **within** you" (v 17). That's what happens when you repent, are baptized and receive the laying on of hands and receive the Holy Spirit of God. It is now *in* you, and with that you become a child of God.

What you desire in your whole spiritual life is the Truth. Christ is the Truth, the Way and the Life—correct? ***Christ in you!*** Notice how all of these things refer back to ***Christ in you!***

### **Spirit of Holiness:**

Romans 1:3: "Concerning His Son; Who came from *the* seed of David according to *the* flesh, Who was declared *the* Son of God with power, according to *the* **Spirit of Holiness...**" (vs 3-4). That's what it is to do for us. That's why we are called ***Holy Brethren***. Not that we of ourselves are Holy, but because of the Holy Spirit.

"...by *the* resurrection from *the* dead—Jesus Christ our Lord" (v 4). That's going to be quite a thing when that happens; when the resurrection from the dead takes place that is going to be absolutely a marvelous thing! Every time we go past a graveyard that is full of tombstones we always joke back and forth—Delores and I—wondering if there's going to be a lot of unconscious people when the first thing they do when they're resurrected is hit the tombstone. No it won't because they'll be a spirit being.

Just an aside: Did the stone have to be rolled



away from the tomb of Christ in order for Him to be resurrected? *NO!* Most people believe that. It had to be rolled away for what purpose? *So that they could see that He wasn't there!* That's the only reason. The angel did that because of the women coming out there. They couldn't have done that.

Quite an interesting statement here, and this is very important for us to know and understand. In God's love, mercy and patience, He puts up with an awful lot—doesn't He? *Yes, He does!* An awful lot of things that we do, *God knows!* He *leads us* to repentance so we can understand it.

### Spirit of Life:

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..." That's a pretty powerful statement— isn't it? *Yes, it is!* No condemnation. Why? *Because if we are in Christ Jesus and loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and being,* then we stand before God as Christ stands before God. How does Christ stand? *Pure! Blameless! Sinless! Perfect!*

Therefore, for God to inspire us to want to be in the Family of God, it says "...*there is* now no condemnation." That's not to go out and sin; we all understand that. But that is to inspire us! I'm coming to see more and more and understand more and more that God is not going to get us into the Kingdom of God by beating us over the head with His commandments.

He's going to inspire us to want to be in the Kingdom of God, and we need to be inspired because God does not condemn us, but just has given His Spirit so that we can have free access to Him. Really think on that! Really spend some time meditating on that!

If you're driving around in a car and you're tired of listening to tapes, music, etc. You just get tired of it. I just turn the thing off and say, 'O God, spare me from this!' Let me just drive in silence and just think on some of the things that God has done. You look back and one of the ways that I find is very helpful, I look back and think about all the things that God has delivered me from, and all the of the stupidity that God has saved me from, then I look at all the stupidity that God has allowed me to do so that I can understand that only He can save me. Believe me, I've got a long list of stupidity! All of us do! That's why it's good to know that there is no condemnation. God is not going to get you into the Kingdom of God by condemning you into it, or beating you into it. *He wants to inspire you into it!* May we, as ministers, all learn that lesson!

"...who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit; because the law of the **Spirit of Life**... [having the Spirit of God is having the Spirit of life. That's why Christ said, 'He

who eats My flesh and drinks My blood *has eternal life!*'] ...in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death" (vs 1-2). In other words, we don't have to be governed by all the carnal appetites of the 'law of sin and death.'

God did a marvelous thing here, v 3: "For what *was* impossible for the Law to do... [I remember reading in this magazine *The W.A.* {put out by one of the Churches of God} that if everyone would follow the Ten Commandments we would have a near utopia on earth. No you wouldn't, because the world has had the Ten Commandments for how long? Why would you not have a utopia on earth? *Because of human nature and because of Satan the devil!*

Satan the devil has to be removed. It doesn't matter how many of the people know the Ten Commandments, unless Satan is removed you're not going to get rid of sin. Did David sin with Bathsheba and all that he did? *Yes!* Did Solomon do it? *Yes,* and he gave an open door to Satan—didn't he? *Yes!*

No! You're not going to have a utopia on this earth before the return of Christ. That's a mistake that a lot of the religionists like Pat Robertson make. They feel that they can make the politics good enough so that we can have a Christian nation. It won't happen!

But human beings are that way, and God has put us under subjection to Satan the devil—we didn't ask for it. We didn't go up to God and say, 'O God, I want to be born into a world that is run by Satan.' We had no say-so. We were born into it and here we are. I'm thankful we were born here instead of there—wherever there may be. So, here's what God did.

Verse 3: "For what *was* impossible for the Law to do in that it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

How many times have you heard someone say: Not only do you need to repent of your sins, but you have to repent of what you are. Have you heard that? that always bothered me from the point of view: How can I repent of what I am if God gave me the 'law of sin and death' in me? That's a pretty hard thing to do! Why must we do it? *Because God—Who is Holy and righteous and perfect—divested Himself to become a human being born of the virgin Mary who willing took upon Himself the 'law of sin and death!'* Yet, never sinned! That's what it means to be made in the likeness of sinful flesh. We really cannot repent of what we are—with the 'law of sin and death' in us—and understand the powerful thing that that is unless we understand what Christ has done.

That takes an awful lot of love, an awful lot of powerful concern. We had quite an experience

going into San Francisco recently and we saw all the middle-class bums. What are the middle-class bums? *Those who hold jobs and live in an apartment, but go out and beg for money at night!*

We could tell them because they had on good pants and good shoes and a good shirt, rattling their little cup out here. There were a couple who were really needy. I gave some money to one that I was convinced was really needy. Then you look at all of these others out there and you think: disgusting, miserable, rotten, terrible, horrible people! Some of them are.

Would *you* give up your life and your place and go live as one of them? *Have a hard time doing it*—wouldn't you? I would! I would have a real difficult time doing that! If that is kind of repulsive to your mind, just understand that it's only a small degree of what Jesus did, giving up [being] God to become a human being, to take within His own human flesh the 'law of sin and death.' I think if we can comprehend and understand that even more, then we will understand why God does not condemn us, but also at the same time, why in the final analysis, God will lead us to repent of what we are. ***What we are is not what God wants us to be!*** That will take some thinking on. It's taken me all these years to understand it a little bit.

Don't worry about if you don't understand it now. Ask God to help you understand it. I hope to understand it even more in the future. That's really something when you think about what Christ has given up to save us from the 'law of sin and death.'

So, it is the Spirit of Life from Christ, and that's what the Holy Spirit does for us: It gives us life—*eternal life!* Let's also understand that it is from God. This is something! This is tremendous! Absolutely tremendous!

### **Spirit of Sonship:**

Verse 15: "Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear..." Why have we, as ministers, not understood this and we have tried to run churches on fear? *You can't do that!* How can you develop the love of God if you put fear into the brethren all the time? How can you develop the love of God if you're going around fearful all the time? *You can't do it!*

So, Paul is saying, "...you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear... [that's the way the world is] ...but you have received **the Spirit of sonship**... [Being the very sons of God; that's what it's talking about—to be the sons and daughters of God. That is absolutely mind-boggling when you really sit down and think about it.] ...whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father'" (v 15).

The greatest being in the universe! Is God

humble? *Yes, God is humble!* What does He want to be called? *Father!* That's what He wants to be called. No great names like He had to reveal under the Old Testament, because they couldn't come into a Father/son relationship because they didn't have the Spirit of God to do that. This is what God wants to be called: *Father!* Isn't that something?

That tells you about God's humility, love and the relationship that God wants us to have with Him! It is the Spirit of the life of Christ; the Spirit of sonship.

### **Spirit of Meekness:**

This is something we need to grow in. I was talking a person and the woman asked why we had to have all of these false doctrines, and all of this stuff that we have to go through and everything. I said that I think the real reason is—I didn't get it for years—that we're dealing with the vanity of the minister and he wants to have something new, different and special. That's why you're having a problem with it.

1-Corinthians 4:21: "What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a **Spirit of meekness?**" Part of the fruits of the Holy Spirit—right?

Verse 7: "...And what do you have that you did not receive?...." ***Nothing!*** What do you have spiritually that you didn't receive from God? ***Nothing!*** All of it came from God:

- His love
- His Spirit
- His faith
- His calling

If we can all remember that, that will help us!

### **Spirit of Faith:**

Lot's of times the question will come out: Why aren't there more miracles in the Church? *Again, I think we need to focus in on the Spirit of God and the love of God!* I think I'm beginning to understand that the more that we really comprehend the love of God, the more that those things may come, because we're not going to be all 'hung up' on it.

2-Corinthians 4:13: "And having the same **Spirit of faith**, according as it is written, 'I believed, therefore I have spoken,' we also believe..."

(go to the next track)

As you can see we are progressing through the New Testament and I think that's the best way to do it, rather than go back and forth.

### **Spirit of Promise:**

Ephesians 1:12: "That we might be to *the*

praise of His glory, who first trusted in the Christ; in Whom you also trusted after hearing the **Word of the Truth**, the **Gospel of your salvation**; in Whom also, after believing, you were sealed with the Holy **Spirit of promise**" (vs 12-13).

- the Spirit of Truth
- the Word of Truth
- the Gospel of Truth
- the Gospel of your salvation
- the Spirit of Promise

If you have the Holy Spirit and you are sealed with the Spirit of Truth—which is the Spirit of Promise that comes from God the Father—is God going to see you into the Kingdom of God? *Yes!* What has He provided?

- The whole life and sacrifice of Christ!
- Direct access to Him!
- Calling Him Father!
- Grace, mercy, forgiveness!
- His Word inspired by His Holy Spirit!

God gives a promise! Can God lie? *NO! It's impossible for God to lie!*

*If you have the Spirit of God and it is the Spirit of Promise, you're going to make it into the Kingdom of God!* Really think on that! It is most difficult to commit the unpardonable sin! Most difficult! God made it that way. That's why when we sin inadvertently we need to go to God and ask Him to forgive us. He will! Instantly!

"...the **Holy Spirit of Promise**, which is *the* earnest of our inheritance... [2 Cor. 1] ...until the redemption..." (vs 13-14). It's not just a promise for part of the time; it's not like us. We can make what we think are promises and then we kind of weasel out of them sometimes and don't keep them or change it or whatever. God is not like that!

"...the Spirit of Promise...until the redemption... [the buying back] ...of the purchased possession... [Us! What paid for us? How was the Church paid for?] ...to the praise of His glory" (vs 13-14).

If you want something to think on sometime, or if you're kind of down and discouraged, think on this: **God has called us to be the praise of His glory!** Think on that! That's really mind-boggling! Isn't that something that the angels are going to praise God for, the glory that God is going to give us? That is something!

We'll see what purchased the Church. This is all relating to receiving the Holy Spirit through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. There's a great debate now: What is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God? If you aren't preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, you're not a Church of God. I found that most of

them that say that don't understand the most important part of the Gospel.

### **Gospel of the Grace of God:**

Acts 20:24: "But I myself do not take any of *these* things into account, nor do I hold my life dear to myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully testify the **Gospel of the Grace of God.**" You cannot preach the Gospel without grace. You cannot live a Christian life without grace. You have no comprehension of growing, overcoming or yielding to God the Father and Jesus Christ unless you understand about the grace of God.

That's why in every care package we put in the series on the *Grace of God*. Almost everyone writes back and tells me they have never understood it until they have gone through those sermons. When you understand the grace of God and what Christ has done for you, that is one of the most liberating—from the point of view of getting rid of guilt—things that can possibly happen to you. That's what Paul preached. He said that he's going preach, "...testify the Gospel of the Grace of God."

Verse 25: "And now behold, I know that you all, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the Kingdom of God..." So you have

- The Gospel of Grace
- The Gospel of the Kingdom

"...will see my face no more" (v 25). What happens when you preach the Kingdom of God and people repent? *You have people in the Church!* Most of the New Testament and all of the writings of the Apostle Paul have to do with feeding the flock. When there's turmoil and difficulties within the Church of God, then that becomes the most important part of preaching the Gospel, so they can understand the love and grace and forgiveness of God.

Most people are at loose ends within the Church of God because they don't know that. When they are able to be strengthened then we in turn can reach out and reach more new people—but not until then.

Verse 26: "Wherefore **I testify to you on this day**... [this must have been some meeting with those elders from Ephesus who came down to Miletus to see Paul as he was on his way up to Jerusalem.] ...that I am pure from the blood of all, for I have not held back from preaching to you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He purchased with His own blood" (vs 26-28).

Everyone needs to think on that concerning people in the Church of God.

- Who do they belong to? *They belong to God the Father!*
- Who gave them the Holy Spirit? *God the Father!*
- Who died for them? *Jesus Christ!*
- Through Whom do they have their sins forgiven? *The blood of Jesus Christ!*

***They are the purchased possession of God!*** Therefore, every minister is to be a steward. A steward means that *you handle someone's property and wealth for their benefit*; without any benefit to you. That's what it means; it's a purchased possession; purchased with His own blood.

Verse 29: "For I know this: that after my departure grievous wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." Same problems we're up against today—all the vanity of the ministers. May we all be spared from ministerial vanity; myself included. May I spare myself from my own vanity. Only through God's Spirit can it be done.

We did see the play *Phantom of the Opera*, which was pretty good. I viewed it like the heroine was the Church of God being assaulted by Satan. In the final analysis the Church is saved. I thought that it was interesting that what if you were one of the actors and they plan on running this thing for three years. Every night for three years and a matinee on Sunday as well as Sunday night—double duty on Sunday—what if you had to say the same words and sing the same songs and go through the same routine everyday for three years.

I asked Delores about that and she said that when Johnny Wiessmuller finally retired—the one who did Tarzan—he went to a rest home, the biggest problem they had was that he would give the Tarzan yell all the time.

What happens is that when people believe their own propaganda or believe all the compliments that people heap upon you, you're in trouble. As ministers you're all in trouble when that happens. That's why we need to give all the glory to God.

- It's the Church of God
- He's called them
- He's given His Spirit
- Christ purchased it with His own blood

Paul says right here that "...grievous wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will rise up speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves" (vs 29-30). Paul prophesied it would happen then and we're going through the same exact thing today.

What do we have right here? *We have the prescription on how to overcome it—right? Let it all*

*be in God's hands!* That's what it has to be. Let God send to you—whomever you are as a minister—whomever God will send! Don't go out and fight over the brethren of God as if they are possessions.

I remember one man said, 'I'm the rightful heir.' Another one of his competitors in the ministry said, 'I am the rightful heir.' My comment was: Since when did the people of God become the possessions of the ministry? ***You're the purchased possession of Christ!***

We're going to see part of what it is that we need to do in growing and using God's Spirit. We all ride high and low; I don't know anyone who doesn't have ups and downs. Anybody here have a perfectly stable life; always happy, always joyful, always loving God, never sinning, never having any problems? *None of us!* We all have our ups and downs, and I think that it is something that is misleading the brethren when the ministers are not honest with the brethren to let them know they have their own faults and mistakes, too.

Every minister needs the prayers of the brethren just like the brethren need the prayers of the ministry. When we get to these low points, especially this time of year because Satan is invading and just taking over the whole world whole hog and it gets a little discouraging. Here's what we need to do:

2-Timothy 1:5: "When I remember the unfeigned faith *that is* in you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice—and I am convinced that *it dwells* in you also. For this reason, I admonish you to **stir up the gift of God...**" (vs 5-6). We have *our* responsibility!

How do we *stir it up*? *Sometimes we just have to go to God and say, 'Help me, God, so I can!'* you stir up the gift of God:

- by God's Word
- by God's Truth
- by studying
- by drawing close to God in prayer
- by understanding how great and magnificent God the Father is and Jesus Christ

That's how we stir up the gift "...that is in you by the laying on of my hands" (v 6). I'm sure he's also talking about the gift of grace for the ministry at this particular point.

- **Spirit of love!**
- **Spirit of power!**
- **Spirit of a sound mind!**

Verse 7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear... [again, notice how against fear and the bondage of fear that the Apostle Paul always was] ...**but of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness.**"

That's what we need, all of these; every one of these, so that we can live our lives in the way that God wants us to.

We have to stir it up! If you feel so down and out about the whole thing, just go to God and say, 'God, look, I'm here, I'm feeling down and out, I feel totally carnal, I feel just like hanging on a thread. Help me and strengthen me and help me to stir up Your Spirit.' Go to the Psalms and read a Psalm everyday before you start praying. Really learn how to come to God in prayer, beseeching prayer.

He'll hear you! You don't have to shout loud and long. Doesn't have to be that. You can do it quietly. Remember the mother of Samuel. She was praying fervently to herself and it kind of spilled over a little bit and Eli said that she was drunk. She said, 'No, I'm disappointed and in bitterness of heart; I have no children.' Eli was embarrassed and said, 'God grant you your wish. God grant you your request' and she had Samuel and six other children after that.

Sometimes we have to go to God just like Hannah, the mother of Samuel and say, 'God, here it is! It's a terrible mess.' When you do there are going to be tears and you'd better have a hanky nearby. If it's really a bad scene, maybe you'd better have a box of Kleenex there, because you'll need more than a hanky. Sometimes that's necessary, too. Life is that way. But we can stir it up and ask God to bless us with these things.

Then Paul said after this, v 8: "Therefore, you should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner; but jointly suffer with me for the sake of the Gospel, according to the power of God." The Apostle Paul had every right to be bitter, disillusioned and against God. Why? *Because every church he raised up went against him!*

He was left alone and the only one that was with him was Luke, but he knew that God was true and he knew what was going to happen. I just imagine that the Apostle Paul really felt kind of down in many ways, even though he knew that he was going to be saved. He gave the prophesy that the 'grievous wolves would rise up among the ministers' and so forth.

He's writing to Timothy, encouraging him, telling him what to do and so forth. ***We need to stir up the Spirit of God that is within us!***

- Spirit of love!
- Spirit of power!
- Spirit of a sound mind!

Here is a warning against the unpardonable sin. Hebrews is really quite a book. Let me just give you

a little something to think on: Carl Franklin thinks—and I think he's quite right in this: Why didn't the book of Hebrews start out like Paul started all of his epistles? '*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ unto the brethren in Jerusalem...*'

If you understand the riot they had when he went to Jerusalem you would know that Paul couldn't get them to read one thing that he had written. What was actually happening here was that the Jews in Jerusalem were abandoning Christianity and going back to the temple worship and animal sacrifices. That's why he is so particularly emphasizing those things in the book of Hebrews.

But Carl thinks that the Epistle of James was put on as a cover letter or introduction to the book of Hebrews and that's why James has no 'Amen.' It went directly right into the book of Hebrews, which by all analysis and study are the teachings of Paul written by Luke. There is no authentic verified authorship of it. I think that's the best explanation of it that I have ever heard as to why the book of Hebrews is the way it is.

Hebrews 10:28<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: "*Consider this: anyone who rejects the law of Moses dies without mercy under the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded the blood of the covenant, with which he was sanctified, as an unholy thing, and has scorned the Spirit of grace?"* (vs 28-29).

After what we've gone through you can see how difficult it is to really commit the unpardonable sin. I mean,

- you have to reject Christ
- you have to reject the grace of God
- you have to reject the Spirit of God
- you have to reject everything that God the Father and Jesus Christ stand for

in order to commit the unpardonable sin. When you do, you're despising the Spirit of grace.

### **Spirit of Prophecy:**

Revelation 19:10—this is John when he saw the angel who brought him the knowledge of the book of Revelation: "And I fell at his feet to worship him. Then he said to me, 'See *that you do not do this!* I am a fellow servant of yours, and of your brethren, who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the **Spirit of Prophecy.**'"

We'll have to think on that one a little bit more. When you think of all the prophecies that we've gone through that have not been true. Maybe

we're missing something here. The *Spirit of Prophecy* could also be inspired speaking, not just prophesying events.

Here in this particular case the angel talking to John who had the whole vision of the book of Revelation through the *Spirit of Prophecy*. Wasn't it Christ Who gave it to him? *Yes, it was!*

So maybe there's a little more to this verse than maybe we have understood, but I would have to say that the track record, for most Churches of God that I know of, in prophecy hasn't been too good. So, maybe that was telling us something also. Maybe something is missing because of *the lack of*

- the love God
- the grace of God
- really trusting in God in faith

I don't know, I just put it out there and say 'what if.' We need to consider that those things are true. If they are, then we need to ask God to help us understand the things that are taking place in the Spirit of Prophecy, if we have the full testimony of Jesus Christ.

All Scriptures from The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version by Fred R. Coulter

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 5:29-32
- 2) Acts 7:51-52
- 3) Romans 2:28-29
- 4) 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
- 5) Romans 8:9-11
- 6) Isaiah 4:4
- 7) Isaiah 11:1-4
- 8) Zechariah 12:10
- 9) John 14:15-17
- 10) Romans 1:3-4
- 11) Romans 8:1-3, 15
- 12) 1 Corinthians 4:21, 7
- 13) 2 Corinthians 4:13
- 14) Ephesians 1:12-14
- 15) Acts 20:24-30
- 16) 2 Timothy 1:5-8
- 17) Hebrews 10:28-29
- 18) Revelation 19:10

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted

- Acts 2:38; 8
- Colossians 2
- John 6:44; 1
- Zechariah 3; 4
- Revelation 11

#### Also referenced:

##### Sermon Series:

- *Scripturalism vs Judaism*
- *Grace of God*

##### Sermon: *Tabernacle of David*

##### Books:

- *Judaism and the Vatican* by Vicomte Leon de Poncins
- *Lord, What Should I Do?* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo

Transcribed: 6-4-12

# How to Use God's Holy Spirit II

Fred R. Coulter

It's most important that we understand how to use God's Holy Spirit, and realize it, brethren, as we go forward, because today we are confronted with a great, great number of problems and difficulties. Life today is much more difficult and stressful to live than it was 20, 30, 40 years ago.

That's all marked by what we see in the educational system where years ago the main problems in school were chewing gum, talking in class and getting out of line when they were supposed to be in the lunch line. Today the greatest problems are murder, guns, drugs, fornication and illegitimacy. In the world there are a lot of pressing problems and difficulties that are coming in on everyone.

How many here, in what you are doing in your life, in your work or at home find an inordinate amount of the stress that you've never had before? I talked to a woman on the phone the other night and the problems for her were so overwhelming that she just needed to know where God was. It was really something! I tried to comfort her, the best I could and I read some out of an article trying to help her.

Let's go to Psalm 73<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup> and see what we are confronted with. This is a Psalm that we have gone to in the past. Nevertheless,

- the Word of God is living
- the Word of God is true
- the Word of God is Holy and righteous
- the Word of God applies to all people at all times

When we have all these problems and stress and trial and everything, we're not using the Spirit of God, we're not praying and studying, and we get transfixed by the problem. In getting transfixed by the problem we only look at the problem.

Example: Down through the years I wonder how many people said, 'I wonder why God let someone like Michael Jackson do what he does?' There he is making millions, if not hundreds of millions of dollars. Everyone had a sense in their mind that this guy's got to be perverted sexually somehow, because of what he's doing: the songs that he sings, his lifestyle and everything.

Well, wait long enough and Michael Jackson fits exactly Psal. 73—his day has just arrived, hasn't it? I never watch ET—Entertainment Tonight—because it is so phony. But I was watching this special report on Michael Jackson because it caught my attention that if you wait long enough God is going to take care of the situation. It's a good lesson for us when we get transfixed on the immediate

problem and we don't really take it to God in prayer, and we don't use the Holy Spirit and we don't use the mind of God.

I never will forget the rousing sermon that this one bombastic minister gave as a guest speaker down in Torrence, CA, when I was pastoring there. He came down and he gave us an attacking, scathing sermon on 14 reasons why your prayers are not answered. Every one of those 14 were true! The whole church, by the time he got done shouting, yelling, screaming and attacking everything and everyone, we were all just kind of quivering in our chairs.

As I was driving home after that I thought to myself, all of those are true, but why didn't you just tell us one way on how to get our prayer answered. That would have been nice. This is not going to be a diatribe about how you are not using the Holy Spirit, but *it's going to be how the Bible teaches us to use the Holy Spirit!*

Here's the trap and it happens to all of us, Psalm 73: "Truly God is good to Israel, even to those who are pure of heart.... [He's just making a general statement here to kind of get his bearings.] ...But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped, for I was envious at the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (vs 1-3).

When it applies to preachers and so forth, how many times have you seen these prosperous preachers—Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Baker, whomever you want to name—and you go along and all of those, the Trinity Broadcasting and you look at some of these ministers the way they're dressed up and the gall of asking for money. The things that they have, the houses that they have, everything that they have and you know they're preaching false doctrine.

Look at all these people in the world who have got millions and lie, cheat and steal, and you look at the prosperity of the wicked and then you look at your circumstances—which are not too good—and we think...

Verse 4: "For there are no pangs in their death, and their strength is firm.... [nothing is going to get them out] ...They are not in trouble like other men... [he's saying about himself; or the poor or whatever it may be] ...neither are they plagued like *other men*. Therefore, pride is as a chain about their neck. Violence covers them like a garment" (vs 4-6). They seem to get away with everything!

Verse 7: Their eyes stand out with fatness; they have more than the heart could wish for. They

scoff and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth. Therefore, his people return here: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, 'How does God know? And is there knowledge in the most High?' Behold, these are the wicked, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches" (vs 7-12). If that doesn't fit today and all the troubles and difficulties and circumstances that we go through!

Verse 13: "Surely I have made my heart pure in vain and washed my hands in innocence" I've been trying to follow God and do His way my whole life and all I have is trouble, pain, difficulty, anguish and problems that go along with it. My kids didn't turn out like I wanted. My job is not what I wanted. I get all these terrible things that come along. Maybe health is failing, facing death, whatever the case may be. It piles up and it really gets to be a lot—doesn't it? *Yes!* Well, this is when you need to use the Spirit of God.

Verse 14: "For all the day long I have been plagued and chastened every morning.... [Doesn't seem like anything I do is going to turn out right. Some people wonder, where is God in all of this?] ...If I say, 'I will speak thus'... [that really exists and is true] ...behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. *When I thought to understand this, it was too painful for me*" (vs 14-16). Sometimes it is!

I explained to this one person: My life got so low that the only thing I could do is just walk up on this hill on the back of Hollister and get on my knees and cry out to God: 'Heal my soul!' There is a psalm in which David said, 'Heal my soul, Lord, for I have sinned against You.' That gave her some encouragement. Here's what it is for this man. He said:

Verse 16: When I thought to understand this, it was too painful for me... [In other words, to find out all this thing and here you are struggling along, beating along, just anguishing along] ...**until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end**" (vs 16-17). A lot of these things come because we don't view it from God's perspective! We don't get close enough to God—like in this case into the sanctuary of God—to really understand it.

It's going to all work out in the long run! But because there are choices that other people have to make, they have to run their course as well. We cannot make the choices for other people, or live the lives of other people, but unfortunately, their choices scrunch in on our life. And in some cases, *they know* that they shouldn't be doing these things. In some cases—I've seen it—where these things happen to you because it is deliberate spite, however you want to call it, on the part of other people who want to put

you through the rigors of these problems. That makes even more difficult to take it to God—doesn't it? It tell you, yes, it does!

Then we're living in a time on top of it that those who are out there blinding themselves and knowing the Truth, just seem to be going along and nothing is bothering them.

Verse 18: Surely You set them in slippery places... [Is not Michael Jackson in slippery places? All of his millions from Pepsi are gone!] ...You cast them down into destruction. How have they been brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors" (vs 18-19). Plug in there any person, any name, any acquaintance, any difficulty.

One minister back east has been to six funerals in the last three weeks! In one case it was most tragic, because they went to the funeral home of the one man who died of cancer—which you know that if you have cancer and God doesn't heal you, you're going to die. With the change of daylight savings time to regular time it was dark and two widows in the Church who came to pay their last respects were driving home and there was a big, wide Big-Boy truck trying to make a U-turn and was stuck on the center piece in the highway, blocked off the highway, and they didn't see it—dead! So, he went to those funerals.

God is trying to get a message to those people. Sometimes God will take the innocent to preserve them from further damage. I'm sure those two widows are going to make into the Kingdom of God. They suffered no pain, but it makes all the rest—the living—*think* about what's going on.

Verse 20: "Like a dream when one awakens; so, O LORD, when You awake, You shall despise their image." A lot of people in the Church of God today are in a dream! If not a dream, a fog! If not a fog, semi-sleepwalking! We're going to see that they're semi-blinded.

Verse 21: "For thus my heart was grieved and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant; I was like a beast before You" (vs 21-22). Whatever your problems are, don't end up being like this man who did this Psalm—Asaph, the high priest.

Let's not make ourselves as beasts before God by accusing God, because God has not done what we think He ought to do. Therefore, that becomes an excuse for me not to do what I know I should do. That's what he's saying in this Psalm. He was going along with all this anger toward the ungodly who were prospering. It's tough when you don't know where your next meal is coming from. It's tough when you don't have the clothes you need, or the transportation you need, or whatever to look



out there and see all these people, that God has nothing to do with, prospering and blowing money away right and left. Don't then become foolish and ignorant or like a beast!

Verse 23: "Nevertheless, I am always with You..." Think about what God will do and can do and really put yourself to God the way that it should be. I know that it is bearing in on my mind more and more: ***there is nothing that you didn't receive! Nothing!*** Life, physical goods, whatever; God created everything!

Then, "...You have held me by my right hand. You shall guide me with Your counsel, and **afterward** receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You I desire none upon earth. My flesh and my heart fail..." (vs 23-26). There are a lot of us in this particular situation, we're all getting older; our flesh is failing. But emotionally our hearts fail us from time-to-time because we don't include God in on the difficulties that we're going through.

Sometimes the difficulties are so overwhelming that we don't see God in it at all. It's true! God is not in those difficulties! That's why you have to take it to God and get God's perspective from His Spirit and *use God's Spirit!*

"...but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever, for lo, those who are far from You shall perish..." (vs 26-27). Don't worry, God's Word is not being mocked! Don't worry because if you're having trouble it doesn't mean that God has left you. Maybe God is trying you to give you a greater blessing later. We don't know.

"...You have destroyed all who go a whoring from You" (v 27). Maybe those who are going whoring from God now, God is not destroying because *He wants to give them a space of repentance*. Think on that! Even God doesn't delight in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked would repent and turn.

Maybe some of these things we are viewing in our own impatience and our own problems and difficulties that we are having, God is actually trying to give them a space of repentance that they will repent. Let's not be like the second son of the father of the prodigal son: when there is repentance we get mad and he was all upset.

Verse 28: "And me, it is good for me to **draw near to God**..." That's what we need to do. If your problems and difficulties are so bad you just go to God and say, 'God, I'm here. I'm totally overwhelmed with all of this. God, the stress is too much, I can't bear it. God, I know it looks like it's the most miserable thing in the world, and I'm even sorry that I've wondered where on earth You

were. Help me and strengthen me!' That's how to do it, just like he did here—*draw near to God!*

"...I have made the LORD God my refuge, that I may declare all Your works" (v 28).

Let's go to Revelation 3 and let's see that this is one of the big difficulties that we're going to have in the end-time. What if we were all Laodiceans from the beginning? That may prove to be right!

Revelation 3:15: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot." Isn't that true of so many of us? How many times have we run from hot to cold? Think about that! Don't we also do that when we find problems so overwhelming us that we don't pray when we ought to, we don't study when we need to, we don't use God's Spirit, but we sort of kind of let these things get to us.

Verse 16: "So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. For you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (vs 16-17). Maybe in our wretchedness, poorness, blindness and nakedness we need to go to God and say, 'God, that's my life! Please help me!'

Verse 18: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire..." We have to go out and do a little buying—don't we? I remember someone asked: Where do you think we are in Church history? I said, 'I think we are at the spiritual bazaar. Go buy! You got to go try. You got to go shopping. You got to go looking.'

"...buy from Me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich... [and the thought which comes in the Greek]: ...and **white garments** so that you may be clothed... [the righteousness of the saints] ...and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed..." (v 18). Have we ever really understood what it means to be fully clothed in God? Since we've never really understood that, maybe we don't understand when nakedness is *nakedness*. I don't bring this up to condemn anybody, I'm also asking myself.

"...and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see." (v 18). And, of course, you're to go buy the eye salve—right? *Yes!* All of this has to do with *the use of God's Holy Spirit*, every bit of it! We're in a situation today *spiritually* where a great number of people in the Churches of God are in varying degrees of blindness—right? For various reasons—correct? *Yes!* Wasn't the psalmist in Ps. 73 blind to a certain degree? *He was looking at the wrong thing.*

- Maybe there's blindness from looking at the wrong thing.
- Maybe there's blindness because of lack of prayer.
- Maybe there's blindness because of lack of study.
- Maybe there's blindness because of lack of using God's Holy Spirit.

All of those are different forms of blindness for different reasons. But surely the psalmist there in Psa. 73 was blind—wasn't he? He couldn't understand until *he drew near to God and went to the sanctuary of God so he could understand!*

Likewise, we have direct access to God! We have not taken these problems to God. Then you have the blindness because of sin; you're guilty of sin and you don't want to repent. You figure that you're going to work it out and then you'll get back with God as soon as you work it out instead of repenting the way you know you need to repent. *All of these things are varying degrees of lack of clothing, lack of seeing—or blindness.*

Verse 19: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" (vs 19-20). We have two categories of people:

1. those already in the Body of Christ that become complacent and lukewarm; about ready to be vomited out
2. those whom the Spirit is with them, but not in them

In either case it's the same thing! The result is the same.

Let's see how we have nearly the same thing and the counsel is identical. *Go buy!* I tell you, if there's anytime you can go shopping in the history of the Church of God in our day, it is today! What do I mean by that? *You have that Church of God and that Church of God and the other Church of God!* I mean, you've got Worldwide, you've got Global/Living, you've got Philadelphia—just get the whole directory of Sabbath-Keeping Churches of God, and you're going to find there are over 400 Churches of God that have been organized. So, you can go shopping and you can find whatever niche you want. But, you're going to have to understand that if you really want the gold—the fine gold—you're going to have to make sure that it is right. You're going to have to make sure it's from God!

Matthew 25:1: "Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be compared to ten virgins..." Here again we have another 50% ratio—don't we? That's also interesting. We've also said that this is five tribes of Israel that repent and the five that don't. I don't

know about that, could be. We won't throw it out and leave it as a possibility.

This is a parable, but nevertheless, these are the ones that were betrothed to Christ—right? Are we not all betrothed to Christ as virgins? *Yes!* (2-Cor. 4). And these are virgins that follow Christ wherever He goes (Rev. 14).

"...ten virgins, who took their lamps *and* went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish" (vs 1-2). One of the big problems that we have in our spiritual relationship with God is that we end up being foolish. I've done that; I've done foolish things. Have you done foolish things? *Sure you have!* We don't have to remain doing foolish things. We can ask God for wisdom, because *God is instant to forgive!*

Remember Ahab, you can go back and study him—that's one of my favorites. People have said, 'Well, God can't possibly forgive me.' Have you done as bad as Ahab? *As soon as he repented, he sent Elijah back to say, 'Behold, my servant Ahab.'* Before he was one who sold his soul to do evil.

The whole purpose in all of this is not condemnation, the whole purpose in all of this is repentance. The whole purpose in all of this is to come back to God. The whole purpose in all of this is because God wants you and me and as many as will repent. That's the whole purpose of this.

Verse 3: "The ones who were foolish took their lamps... [God's Word is like a lamp: 'Your Law is like a lamp unto my feet' David said.] ...*but* they did not take oil with them." Oil is like God's Holy Spirit. We're going to see that this is the *use of the Holy Spirit of God!* or *the lack thereof!* They took no oil with them.

These were little lamps you could liken to an olive oil lamp with a wick hanging out the spout. The oil you carry in another container with you. In other words, your relationship with God is that God counts you as having spiritual reserve with His Holy Spirit being able to know how to use the Holy Spirit of God. Obviously, this is a crisis. Is this not a crisis here? *Yes!* Was it not a crisis that we read of in Rev. 3? *Yes!* So, here's the crisis: It's down toward the end of the age; it's talking about the return of Christ.

So, the foolish took no oil with them, v 4: "But the wise took oil in their vessels *along with* their lamps.... [They had the vessel of oil plus the lamps.] ...Now when the bridegroom [tarried] was gone a long time... [In other words, Christ is not going to return when expected. He didn't delay.] ...they all became drowsy and slept" (vs 4-5). Everyone has their problems. Everyone has their difficulties. Everyone sleeps at the switch.

And just like a man waking out of sleep, v 6: “But in *the middle of the night*...”—midnight; the darkest time. I don't think we're quite there yet at midnight, but we're getting close. We may be somewhere around 9:30-9:45 and rapidly getting darker. But *midnight pictures the darkest hour of the whole history of man*. When is that going to be? That darkness is going to blind them completely.

- Who is the master of darkness? *Satan the devil!*
- Who is building and formulating his whole system right now? *Satan!*

That's why when someone asked me sometime ago: Boy, I sure hope NAFTA doesn't pass. *I said that it's going to pass. You can be guaranteed it's going to pass, because it's going to lead to the ten economic regions of the world*. I think that helps us understand Rev. 17 even a little more—doesn't it? It's happening!

Now is the time for God to *let* wickedness and evil prosper! That's why it's going to happen. When the beast comes into power and the false prophet is there, that, brethren, is the midnight hour. How long is the Tribulation, and the midnight hour is halfway between the night? How long is the whole Tribulation altogether? *Seven years!* Three and half years of prosperity and plenty, and three and half years of tribulation and anguish leading to the return of Christ.

Could it be when it switches from peace and prosperity to the Tribulation that is the midnight hour, right then? *I don't know!* But I'm just saying that it's interesting. Think about it!

“...there was a cry: ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet him.’ (v 6). There are a lot of things here we can look to. This is also drawn on the parable of what was a custom in Israel and in Judah, which was that the bridegroom and the bride were betrothed, and they drank a cup of wine of the betrothal.

Generally the bridegroom came back within a year. The bride, who stayed at her father's house—you can connect this with Mary and Joseph. Mary was betrothed to Joseph and in the third month found that she was pregnant, and he was going to undo the betrothal to divorce her.

When the bridegroom came they again drank the wine, which sealed the covenant of marriage. Just think on this: What did Jesus say at the last Passover? *I shall no more drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink anew with you in the Kingdom of God!* What is one of the first things that's going to happen for us in the Kingdom of God? *The marriage of the bride and the Lamb!* We're to renew it every year because we're still waiting to show that we are

faithfully waiting.

So the cry goes out, the bridegroom is coming, v 7: “Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.... [they got all ready; they were doing everything they needed to do at that point] ...And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest *there* not be enough for us and *for* you. But instead, go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’” (vs 7-9). When I first read that, I thought: Aren't Christians supposed to be giving? Aren't they supposed to be sharing? That's not the point of this parable. The point of the parable is that

- no one can make choices for anyone else
- no one can draw close to God for you
- no one can give you God's Holy Spirit except God

I can't run to you and say, ‘give me of your Spirit’ so I can make it into the Kingdom of God. You can't come to me and say, ‘give me of your Spirit’ so I can be in the Kingdom of God. What does that do with the physical presence within a corporate structure for people who think their attendance will automatically get them there? *Surprise! Sale day is coming!*

Verse 9: “But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest *there* not be enough for us and *for* you....’” Can anyone—any of us here who have been together for years and years—possibly convey to people who are just coming in contact with us exactly what we have learned down through the years? *No!* But we can send them a ‘Care Package’ because they are ‘spiritually buying.’ We can say, ‘Here's a Care Package, there's still time, we'll be glad to help you. But you're going to have to get up on your own two feet.’

“ ‘...But instead, go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut” (vs 9-10). When I first read that I didn't think it was possible that there would be those who would have the door slammed in their face. But now I can see that the time is going to come when it is possible to have the door slammed in the face.

Verse 11. “And afterwards the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’ But He answered and said, Truly I say to you, ***I do not know you***” (vs 11-12). Why? *Because you didn't have enough of God's Spirit that He could identify you as one of His!* Isn't that something? That's something to ponder on!

I don't want to give a rousing, browbeating, knock-down kill the sinner sermon. Look, it's going

to be tough enough! Let's hope that those who are in this condition—anybody can get in that condition—that they can recover themselves before the time happens.

So, He gives a warning, v 13: "Watch, therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming." Quite a thing!

Now we come to the next part of Matt. 25 which is very interesting—isn't it? Verse 14: "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man leaving the country, who called his own servants and delivered to them his property." Remember: **You have nothing that you didn't receive!**

- God's Spirit
- God's calling
- The understanding of God's Word

The whole gift of God's Word is what it is and everything we have. This shows that we better be about *doing* things. God's Spirit will

- lead us
- help us
- guide us

but **it won't do for us!** We must be doing the *doing* as led by God's Spirit. We'll see this clearly.

Verse 15: "Now to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one; he gave to each one according to his own ability, and immediately left the country. Then the one who had received five talents went and traded with them, and made an additional five talents" (vs 15-16). How did he do it? *By buying and selling*—right?

What is the one thing about trading and buying and selling that we can relate to. Sometimes some of these parables we really don't get because we haven't really understood the motivation behind it.

What is one of the things with buying and selling that people have? That people go through? What about those who professionally buy and sell? *You can either get something of more value or less value!* What is it with someone who is obsessed with buying and selling? *They are never satisfied!* That's the whole point here, brethren. Whatever we have today, **we should never be satisfied that that's going to carry us tomorrow.**

Far different from one minister who was quoted as saying, 'I don't have to study my Bible anymore, I know it.' He's going to end up being like the one who had the one talent who thought God was going to do it all.

We have the *doing!* We need to *do* with God's Holy Spirit.

(go to the next track)

Sometimes people overdo it, yes, that's true from the point of view that they're trying to do things *their* way, instead of God's way, and they end up doing too many carnal things rather than doing the spiritual things. Or, they substitute carnal things for spiritual things. But nevertheless, this shows that we need to be *doing*.

Verse 17: "In the same way also, the one who had received two talents also gained two others. But the one who had received the single talent went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money" (vs 17-18). This is likened to the one who doesn't want to do, because God is going to magically do it for them.

If there's any one thing that we ought to learn, brethren, God is not going to magically do anything for us. He will do for us as we respond in

- loving Him
- serving Him
- coming hungering and thirsting
  - ✓ after God's Spirit
  - ✓ after God's way
  - ✓ after God's whole being

Then He will lead us and so forth.

Verse 19: "Now after a long time, the lord of those servants came to take account with them.... [There's going to be an accounting, Everyone's going to give an accounting to God of himself (Rom. 14).] ...Then the one who had received five talents came to *him* and brought an additional five talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered five talents to me; see, I have gained five other talents besides them.' And his lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' And the one who had received two talents also came to him *and* said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; see, I have gained two other talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord' " (vs 19-23).

Verse 24: "Then the one who had received the single talent also came to *him* and said, 'Lord, I knew that you are a hard man...' " In other words, in everything that he did he hid it away and said, 'Lord, where are You. Lord, why don't you straighten this out? Lord, why don't You do that? Lord, why don't You make me do this or that?' **God isn't going to make anybody do anything.** So, he hid it.

"...you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter. And *because* I was afraid, I went and hid your talent in the earth. *Now* look, you have your own.' His lord

answered *and* said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather what I did not scatter' " (vs 24-26).

Why? *Because God wants you to grow in grace and knowledge with His Spirit*, so that there are going to be things created in you that are not there.

When you get up in a plane you can look down and see all the countryside and that really makes you feel really little. I was thinking about this: Why do we have—only in the last parts of the writings of the apostles—anything to do with love. I mean, look at John. He wrote late. It dawned on me that even John and his brother James were called the 'sons of thunder' because the Samaritans didn't receive Jesus one time and they said, 'Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven, we'll straighten these folks up right now'? Jesus said, 'You don't know what manner of spirit you are of.'

I think I understand that love does not come unless you have suffered so that you understand the value of love. All the circumstances that we are going through now in our lives is to *teach us the value of love*. The only problem is—it's sort of an inverse thing—that somehow we don't want to go to God to get that love from Him. We kind of want God to work it out instead of us going to God so He can help us work it out. We ought to know that God is going to expect things that we cannot do of ourselves. It's going to be that way. God has called us to eternal life. We can't do that ourselves.

" '...I reap where I did not sow and gather what I did not scatter. Because *you knew* this, you were duty-bound to take my talent to the money exchangers, *so that* when I came, I could have received my own with interest' " (vs 26-27). He's saying, you didn't even do the bare minimum. You didn't even go out and do the slightest little thing so there would be something. But I'm not going to let you have any more.

Verse 28: " 'Therefore, take the talent from him, and give *it* to the one who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and *he* shall have abundance; on the other hand, *as for* the one who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken from him'" (vs 28-29). Isn't that what's going on with the buying and selling *doctrinally* today in the Churches of God? *Yes!*

Those who are going more and more into the blindness of accepting the doctrines of this world are having less and less—isn't that true? Those who are really striving to serve God; those who are really going to God in the attitude of prayer and understanding, God is granting more and more. Not that we go to the stupidity then of comparing ourselves among ourselves and become unwise and

stupid. It's up to God what He's going to do.

Verse 29: "For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and *he* shall have abundance; on the other hand, *as for* the one who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken from him. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (vs 29-30). Because they didn't use the Spirit of God correctly.

While there's time to buy, let's buy. There are a lot of people out there in this spiritual bazaar and they are buying. How are they buying? *They're checking this church out and what it teaches; and they're checking that church out and what it teaches!* They are learning to examine the doctrines and the teachings whether they be of God or not. They are exercising God's Spirit to discern good from evil. That's where we need to be! So, we need to go buy!

Isaiah 55:1: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who *has* no money, come, buy and eat. Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." ***Those are the true riches of God!*** The true spiritual meat! The true spiritual drink! That's coming to Christ, because He alone can provide.

Verse 2: "Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread?..." All the foolish false doctrines that are coming along. They're spending money on that which is not truly bread—*spiritual bread*. They're spending their resources, energy, money and everything that they have, and they're now being all wrapped up in that which is not from God.

"...And your labor for *what* never satisfies? Harken diligently to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.... [What is good? *The words of God! The words of Christ!*] ...Bow down your ear, and **come to Me...**" (vs 1-3). That's what Christ says. If there's anything we need to do, it's *return to God!*

Have you ever found yourself in this attitude? You're sort of perplexed as to what to do! You know you aren't doing what you ought to, and you know you ought to do what you need to, but you really haven't come to the point that you want to do what you need to and you know you ought to do what you ought to do, but you haven't quite made up your mind to do it.

We could all raise our hand to that one—couldn't we? *Yes, indeed!* What do you do? *First of all, you have to admit that you better quit procrastinating!* Go to God and tell God, 'I'm stuck in this mess! I am on this treadmill and my own mind is deceiving me because I'm not doing what I ought to do. I know what I ought to do, but I just don't have the gumption to do it.'

You have to start where you are and admit that to God. In admitting it to God you may even have to ask God, ‘God, help me to really overcome this, because I can’t. Grant me Your Spirit that I can get out of this mess. Grant me the understanding because I just don’t know what to do.’ God will do that! God will hear! But you got to come to Him!

Verse 3: “Bow down your ear, and **come to Me**... [What is it that Christ wants you to do? *Obey My voice!* all the way through—right? *Yes!*] ...hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.”

Verse 6: “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (vs 6-7). That’s where we need to be, brethren. That’s the whole thing!

Verse 8: “ ‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’ ” (vs 8-9). Let God’s Word work in you. Let it produce in you. You go buy, you develop, you trade, you work, and all these things will be.

Let’s see how this is to be. Here is the bread; here is what we need to do, coming to Christ, John 6:35: “Jesus said to them, ‘**I am the bread of life**... [which ties right in with Isa. 55] ...the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time.’” That’s what we need to do: *All be restored to Christ! All be restored to God the Father!*

Does God know all the problems and difficulties in our lives? *Yes, He does! Take them to God!* Are they heavy to bear? *Sometimes they are!* What if you’re in the middle of a problem? *You might not see the end of it yet!* Remember what Jesus said, ‘Take of Me, because My yoke is light.’ Take your burdens and put it on Christ, for He came to heal the brokenhearted. Sometimes you have to go to God and say, ‘Hey, I’m brokenhearted, God, terribly, heal my heart.’ **He will!**

This is profound! We have to keep coming! “...the one who **comes to Me** shall never hunger; and the one who **believes in Me** shall never thirst at any time. But *as* I said to you, you also have seen Me, yet you do not believe. All whom the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out” (vs 35-37). The ones who are cast out are the ones *not coming to Him*, because they are not going to Him to buy of what He freely gives—doesn’t cost anything.

Verse 38: “For I did not come down from heaven to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me.” I remember in *The Christian Passover* book I wrote there that Jesus was not taught of the Pharisees and didn’t go to any of their schools. He was taught of God the Father.

I saw this on television on PBS: What did Jesus do in the missing years, the mysterious years of Christ’s life? *He went to Tibet and Egypt and Babylon and Delhi and He learned all the wisdom of the masters.* That isn’t right, but why are those mysterious years? *Because wherever Jesus was He was where the Father was teaching Him directly!* Had to have been when Jesus was being taught of God the Father more directly.

Verse 39: “And this is the will of the Father, Who sent Me... [that needs to be our attitude] ...that of all whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up in the last day.” Then we go on and see that God the Father has to call us.

Here’s what we are to buy and to eat—the Bread of Life; and to drink—God’s Spirit; likened unto Christ’s body and blood:

Verse 53: “Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood...’” (vs 53-54)—in a continuous way because you have to put in Christ. Remember where we read in Rev. 3 that He’s standing at the door and knocking. If you open the door He will come in and sup with you; in other words you’re going to eat together. That’s what He’s talking about.

“...has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him” (vs 54-56). So, it shows a constant ongoing process. Not like the one with the one talent who went and hid it. He buried it in such a way that God’s Spirit couldn’t help him.

Verse 57: “As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me.” Some of the disciples didn’t like that saying that was a little bit too tough and turned around and followed Him no more.

Here’s the important thing why study is so absolutely vitally important. As I was talking to a man the other day, in relationship to a sermon that I did recently where I said ‘now is the time for all of those with God’s Spirit to be correcting themselves’ He said, ‘What did you mean by that?’ *I meant that you must take the Word of God and study it and apply it to you and let God correct you directly with the conviction of His Word and the power of His*

*Spirit and then the correction is the easiest to take.*

- Is that not a whole lot better than having to have outside circumstances that God has to send to correct you?
- Is that not a whole lot better than the stripes that Christ is going to have lay upon those who do not yield to God's correction?
- Is that not a whole lot better than giving up your head in martyrdom as correction?
- *Yes!*

That's why it's very important! Studying is not just a matter of information. Studying is a matter of *the use of God's Spirit* and the spiritual exercise that comes from studying.

Why? *The words that are in here are the same alphabet that prints pornography!* Is this not the same alphabet that has the books on the occult? *Yes!* But Jesus said:

Verse 63: **"It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing...."** So, all the trials and difficulties you are going through, unless it is wrought in the Spirit of God, it is going to profit nothing because it's just a fleshly exercise in futility.

All of the carnal means of doing things is going to profit nothing—these fleshly letters that are here, these carnal letters that are on pages. Not here in the Bible; Jesus said something profound: ***'The words that I am speaking are Spirit and they are Life!'*** Why? *Because the Spirit of God has inspired these words!* With the Spirit of God in us, God is going to bring us the understanding that is in there when it was written by those who wrote it by the Spirit of God! ***We have to let God's Spirit be exercised in us by letting it lead us!***

Therefore, one of the first keys of using the Spirit of God is *to use the Word of God*—it is Spirit and it is Life! You're not going to find life by avoiding the problem. You're not going find salvation by neglecting study and prayer and yielding to God. Won't happen! It just won't!

I remember when we were told to pray an hour a day. Well, I tell you what, brethren, you can pray an hour a day, but if you don't believe what you're saying and if you don't believe the One you are praying to, and if you don't exercise the Spirit of God in your prayers by studying God's Word and letting it correct you while you're praying, you can pray 18 hours a day like the nuns in the cloistered nunneries; they don't even speak to anyone in the outside world. They have taken a vow that the only thing they're going to do is have a few words with each other while they eat, but their days are spent in 18 hours of prayer.

So, it is not the length of prayer that is going

to do it. *It is the kind of prayer* as led by God's Spirit with the belief of Christ *in you* that you *know* that God is going to work it out.

A strange thing happens when you do that, and I've observed it: At first the circumstances even get worse! Have you ever experienced that? *Yes!* Why? *I guess, to see whether we're going keep at it!* I think because we are looking at it through *our* eyes, for *our* solution, and it's not yet God's time to do it with *His* solution. Therefore, God is still working it out, but *His way!*

Sometimes when there are other people involved and we're saying, 'Oh, God, help this person' and they go out and do worse. 'God, didn't I pray for You to help this person?' And they go out and do worse. 'I guess God isn't answering my prayer.' God will answer your prayer, but there's also the choice of the individual involved that you are praying for. Maybe God is going to let them exercise their choices until they box themselves into a canyon where they can't get out, and then God will answer that prayer.

**"...The words that I speak to you, *they are spirit and they are life*"** (v 63). That, brethren, is why it's so important that we eat of the Word of God, we drink of the Word of God, we put it in our mind and let the Spirit of God give us understanding. When you pray, then your prayers are going to be far more profound because they are led of the Holy Spirit. They're not just *your words* but from the greater depths of your heart the words that are motivated by God's Spirit.

As we know the Bible was canonized by Peter, Paul and John. The book of 2-Peter is a very interesting book. It is a last testimony, also a last warning, but he says something here that is profound:

2-Peter 1:10: "For this reason, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure... [again, we have to diligently be doing] ...because *if* you are doing these things... [the seven things over here which lead to profound Godly love] ...you will never fall at any time. For in this way, you will be richly granted an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore, I will not neglect to make you always mindful of these things..." (vs 10-12). How is it always going to put them in remembrance of these things? *Think about that!*

"...although you *already* know them and have been established in the present Truth. For I consider it my duty, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by causing *you* to remember *these things*; knowing that shortly the putting off of my tabernacle *will come*, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has signified to me. But I will

make every effort *that*, after my departure, you may always have a *written* remembrance of these things *in order* to practice *them* for yourselves” (vs 12-15).

How is he going to do that? *By writing them!* He is literally saying here that remembrance means a *memorial*—same word used for the memorial of the tombs—a *written remembrance*. So, these words are written for us, that we can understand, that we can know.

Verse 16: “For we did not follow cleverly concocted myths *as our authority*, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His magnificent glory.”

Isn’t it something that whenever they give up on the Truth of God, what do they go back to? *Cleverly devised fables!* Yes, they do! Showing how the Spirit of God is to work in us:

John 7:38: “The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” Tie that in with Matt. 5: ‘Blessed is he who hungers and thirsts after righteousness, for he shall be filled.’

- Jesus Christ is our Righteousness
- the Word of Truth is the Spirit of God

All of these things you bring all together, brethren.

**“The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”** (v 38). Brethren, may we come to that time; wouldn’t that be something? Was that not true there in Acts 3, 4 & 5 in getting things done? *Yes!*

One man asked me why it was that we don’t have too many healings in the Church. We’ve had healings here! But he means in the Church he was affiliated with. I said, ‘Stop and think for a minute. What was it that they tampered with?’ Good example of a little leaven. What was the first thing that led to the changing of the understanding of Passover and healing? Was very innocent, and very few people picked up on it. *The day does not really begin until dark.* Where it says of Atonement, ‘ba erev’ to ‘ba erev’ showing that it is from sunset to sunset. They said that the Jews say that the day doesn’t really begin until dark and you can see three stars. It just went over everybody’s head—didn’t it? But that was the little leaven of entrance that brought in all the rest.

Then it was when we are called and receive God’s Spirit we are healed spiritually, so therefore, the stripes of Christ are not for our physical healing. Next was that the Old Testament Passover was not on the 14<sup>th</sup> but on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

And the man got the point. The reason was because it was not the faith and belief because they took upon themselves to tamper with the Truth of God. Therefore, God is not under any constraint to heal them. Why should He be? Think on that!

I know this: I don’t have anything in me, brethren, that’s special to heal. When we anoint and we ask God to heal, we are asking God’s will because of the sacrifice of Christ. Whether that is a thing that we do—because there are some things that have to be done, which only doctors can do—we still put it in God’s hands for that. Or whether someone is on the verge of death and we ask God to intervene if He would heal them. Either way, it is that *we are trusting completely in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.*

May it come to the point that we have it flowing out of our belly—the innermost part of our being. In other words, if we have God’s Word in us, God’s Spirit in us, and are yielding to God, then these things are going to flow out from us just like *rivers of living water* because it’s motivated by the Spirit of God. Again, *we have nothing that we didn’t receive!*

Verse 39: “But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which those who believed in Him would soon receive; for *the* Holy Spirit was not yet *given* because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 73:1-28
- 2) Revelation 3:15-20
- 3) Matthew 25:1-30
- 4) Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-9
- 5) John 6:35-39, 53-57, 63
- 6) 2 Peter 1:10-16
- 7) John 7:38-39

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2 Corinthians 4
- Revelation 14; 17
- Romans 14
- Matthew 5
- Acts 3-5

Also referenced: Book:

*The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo

Transcribed: 6-4-12



# How to Use God's Holy Spirit III

Fred R. Coulter

I suppose that the time we're living in, it's very important that we understand how to use the Holy Spirit, because we're being assaulted on every side by false doctrines, by the world, by angels (demons), by almost anything in the society around us. So, the only way we're going to be able to survive all of this is to understand how to use the Holy Spirit of God and how to grow in grace and knowledge and understanding of God's way.

Everything physical is not going to stand. We just saw everything that took place at the earthquake here in Southern California, recently. I heard that Walter Mattheau lost \$7-million in property. His whole swimming pool slid off the side of the mountain. The reason that he lost it was because he got mad at the cost of earthquake insurance—they have a 10% deductible and they don't give you a penny unless you put up the deductible first. They have this so you won't collect on an earthquake. He got mad and canceled it ten days before the earthquake.

Canceling the insurance was really not the problem. Building where he built was the problem. Canceling became a secondary problem. People in circumstances like that—and there were numerous ones—said that nothing counted in the physical realm except that they escaped with their lives. Disasters almost have a miraculous way of changing how people think. Then they understand that the physical things around them really are not their life. They understand that there has to be something greater.

Contrary to what most people would think, crime went down 80%. People actually talked with their neighbors; yea, actually helped their neighbors and one another, rallied together and did things to help one another. It lasted all of three days, until the bureaucrats got out there and said 'form the line.' The lines were nearly miles long because there were 14,000 who were homeless.

These people have learned the lesson—at least for three days—that the physical things really don't count. There is something that we also need to learn with God's Holy Spirit: ***You cannot build spiritual character by physical means!*** There are certain things we have to do and think, but *you cannot build spiritual character by physical means!*

That's why so many ministers are missing the whole point. They are preaching from the point of view that you do your works and you save yourself! That is not true. ***By grace we are saved with God's Spirit!***

Let's see how God's Spirit works with us. This is something! We always read John 6:44, but I

also want to read v 45. Stop and think about it. When you go back and really analyze it and think about it, God the Father had to have been the One to plant the seed to *call* you. Doesn't matter if you have relatives in the Church, they can't get you in.

- How many have relatives who are not in the Church? *You know it's not by relatives!*
- How many have husbands or wives who are not in the Church? *You know it's not by marriage!*
- How many have lost husbands or wives, brother and sisters because of trying to follow God? *A lot of people!*

John 6:44 shows God's intervention in our lives by His Spirit: "No one... [*anthropos*—*no human being*] ...can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him... [to reach down and select him to; to reach down and call him] ...and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, '**And they shall all be taught by God.**' Therefore, **everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me**" (vs 44-45).

When you answer that call, when God reaches down—in whatever your circumstances are—and begins to call you and deal with your mind, He is sending a message to you to motivate you to do certain things. **"...everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me."** That is quite a thing!

We will see how Jesus Christ described this when He was talking to His disciples, John 14:16: "And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age." Until today's modern technology—recorders, radios, telephones and things like this—it would not be possible to fully understand how a power can do certain things, such as the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit *speaks*, but who does it say that the Spirit is? ***That Spirit is Christ*** (2-Cor. 3). You read in Rev. 2 & 3 'to the one who overcomes shall inherit...**he that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.' That is Christ speaking through the power of the Holy Spirit.

He describes here, v 17: "**Even the Spirit of the Truth...**" In the book *Lord, What Should I Do?* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) I point out very clearly that you cannot mix lies with truth and have half-truths and half-lies. It won't work!

"...the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells **with** you, and

shall be **within** you” (v 17). When God begins to call, He sends His Spirit to be with that person. They must hear and answer that call. We don’t know how many that God’s Spirit is with in that particular way. We just don’t know!

Let’s see a Scripture that is kind of an enigma to some people. John 20:19: “Afterwards, as evening was drawing near that day, the first *day* of the weeks, and the doors were shut where the disciples had assembled for fear of the Jews...”

By the way, it is true that one of the largest organizations of the Church of God is about ready to accept a Friday crucifixion. Should be just a matter of weeks, maybe months at the most. [note: this is the former

Worldwide Church of God]

“...Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace *be* to you.’ And after saying this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced *because* they had seen the Lord. Therefore, Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace *be* to you. As the Father sent Me, I am also sending you.’ And after saying this, He breathed on *them* and said, ‘Receive *the* Holy Spirit’” (vs 19-22).

Why did He do that? *That’s when the disciples, who were to become the apostles, received the Holy Spirit.* None of the rest received the Holy Spirit until the Day of Pentecost. Then the disciples received the Holy Spirit in power, for preaching, for conviction, just like it is in John 16—what the Holy Spirit would do.

You take John 16 and read that and compare Peter’s sermon and you will see how it lines up almost in an outline form exactly as Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would do when it would come:

- because of *judgment*—there was no sin in Jesus
- because of *sin*—to convict them of sin
- because of *Truth*—to show what the Truth is

You see all of that right there in Acts 2,

Then He said, v 23: “Those whose sins you shall remit, they are remitted to them...” That is true in the sense that when you baptize someone for the forgiveness of sins they’re forgiven. This does not mean that a minister has control to forgive sin separate from God.

As in the case of Simon Magus, “...and those whose sins you shall retain, they are retained” (v 23). Read that in Acts 8.

- What does the Holy Spirit do for you?
- How does it work?

Now that you have received it through baptism and laying on of hands. We’re going to see what the

Holy Spirit will do.

The Holy Spirit of God is that *direct begettal*, the earnest of the Holy Spirit, which is *the promise of eternal life*. Why is a promise from God important? *Because God does not lie!* Whatever God says that He is going to do, He’s going to do. God Spirit has been given *to those who obey Him*. All of those conditions must be met.

### The Spirit will Lead You:

Romans 8:14: “For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God.” So, the Spirit *will lead you*. How is the Spirit going to lead you?

- It will *convict* you of sin!
- It will *lead* you in the way to hunger and thirst after God’s Word!
- It will *teach* you!

And it’s a special gift that comes from God to do that. That’s why that the most important thing that a minister can do it to teach the people of God to yield to God the Father and the Holy Spirit of God so that God can *lead* them through His Spirit. In being led:

- You are not pulled!
- You are not pushed!
- You are not forced!
- *You have to choose!*

The whole purpose of God’s way is that you *choose His way* and follow God and the Holy Spirit will lead you.

### God’s Spirit is Dwelling Within You:

Let’s see what it has promised to do, v 9: “However, you are not in *the* flesh, but in *the* Spirit, if *the* Spirit of God is indeed **dwelling within you...**” God’s Spirit is the Spirit of Liberty, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Life. It’s going to be living *in* you! It’s going to be dwelling *in* you!

“...But if anyone does not have *the* Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him” (v 9)—because the Spirit of God is not in that individual. Therefore, between God’s calling and giving the Holy Spirit as a begettal, God knows everyone that is His. A person cannot be a Christian by proclamation. A person is a Christian only by spiritual fact indeed.

### The Gift of Grace & the Gift of Righteousness:

Verse 10: “But if Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.” That is standing before God with the gift of righteousness. This something that very few people really grasp or really understand.

Protestants misunderstand it. They say that the gift of grace is given so you are put in right

standing with God—so far, so good. Therefore, it doesn't matter what you do because Christ is going to do it all for you—WRONG! God does it this way to *inspire* you.

Romans 5:17: "For if by the offense of the one man death reigned by the one, how much more shall those who receive the abundance of grace and the **gift of righteousness...**" *That gift of righteousness is imputing to you the righteousness of Christ*—to everyone that God calls.

If Christ is *in* you, how does God the Father look at you? *As He's looking at Christ!* This is to inspire you, brethren! This is to inspire us! Would that we all could learn; God is not going to 'beat us' into the Kingdom of God. God is not going to take a rod and make us *by fear* do it because of escaping eternal death. That's better than not being there, but God isn't going to do it that way. God wants to *inspire* us!

How is He doing that? *Part of it is by saying, 'Look, I know your sins! I know the law of sin and death you have in you. I understand that, but I want you in My kingdom. I have called you and I want you to love Me with all your heart, mind, soul and being and inspire you into the Kingdom of God, and to inspire you to not want to sin by saying that when I view you I see Jesus Christ Who is your Advocate saying, **Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!**'* Think of that for a minute!

That's not to say, 'Well, if God does that then I'll go do anything I want to do and repent later. You're in deep trouble if you do that. That's not why God gave the gift of righteousness.

When we all stop and think to the innermost depths of our being and what miserable sinners we really are, isn't that a fantastic gift? Isn't that so absolutely overwhelming that you can go to God and really draw close to Him in prayer and understanding and let God's Spirit *lead* you?

Let's see what it will lead you to do, Romans 8:10: "But if Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Now, if the **Spirit of Him...** [the Father] ...Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you..." (vs 10-11). There are two parts to the Spirit of God:

1. the Spirit of Christ
2. the Spirit of the Father

They are not separate; they are two aspects of the Holy Spirit of God. That's something to contemplate.

Verse 11: "Now, if the **Spirit of Him...** [the Father] ...Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is **dwelling within you...**"

Verse 9: "...if anyone does not have *the*

**Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him."

There are the two aspects of the Spirit of God: that which is Christ-like and that which is from the Father to make you the begotten son of God. Who was the only begotten of the Father anyway? *Jesus Christ!*

"...He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken... [make alive with Spirit power] ...your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you. So then, brethren, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to *the* flesh... [no physical thing is going to make you spiritual] ...because if you are living according to *the* flesh, you shall die; but if by *the* Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live" (vs 11-13).

- The Spirit of God is going to convict you of sin.
- The Spirit of God, within you, is going to give you the power to overcome sin.

The longer that you have the Spirit of God the more you're going to see the sinfulness of sin, because then you will understand everything that you do originates right up here in the mind.

"...but if by *the* Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live" (v 13). If you're doing that then the Holy Spirit will *lead* you! Granted, you have to yield to the Holy Spirit.

Verse 14: "For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God. Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father'" (vs 14-15). That's why it's so important, brethren, that each one of you know and understand that it is God the Father Who is dealing with you in your life.

Verse 16: "The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now, if *we* are children, *we* are also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him" (vs 16-17).

There's one other thing that will take place. This is the difficult part of it. The more you yield to the Spirit of God and are led by the Spirit of God, in many cases the greater the trials that you go through. Look at what the Apostle Paul went through.

Paul said, v 18: "For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time *are* not worthy to *be compared* with the glory that shall be revealed in us." You cannot compare it!

### The Holy Spirit will Intercede for Us!

It's going to intercede in such a way that

sometimes all you have inside is just a feeling. That feeling is such that you have no words to truly express what you feel. Have you ever been that way? I know I have!

Let's see how the Holy Spirit will work with us to God. This is something that we have to, in faith, understand is taking place. We can see the results of it over a period of time.

Verse 23: "And not only *that*, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, also groan within ourselves, awaiting the sonship—the redemption of our bodies. For by hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is not hope; for why would anyone still be hoping for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we ourselves wait for it with patience. Now, in the same way also, the **Spirit is conjointly helping our weaknesses...**" (vs 23-26).

We need to understand that. 'Infirmities' here (KJV) is not sicknesses. It is *weaknesses* of the flesh. The Spirit will compensate for the weakness of the flesh. Every human being is going to have one or more sins that will almost be like a lifelong plague!

- You hate it!
- You don't want it!
- You're disgusted with it!

Regardless of what it is, you can hang any label on it, whichever is yours that you are burdened down with, because as long as we're in the flesh we're going to have something we're going to be burdened down with.

I'll tell you one of mine. I am not, by nature, a loving person—period! I'm just not! I don't have a loving, kind face. I know that! My burden is—and the reason I emphasize it so much—because I'm trying to learn it, brethren. I see myself falling so short. There are other things, but this is the major one. I am constantly confronted with situations where that I'm beginning to learn how to apply this:

1-John 4:16: "And we have known and have believed the love that God has toward us.... [Everyone is willing to accept that. Oh yes, everyone wants that!] ...God is love, and the one who dwells in love is dwelling in God, and God in him. By this *spiritual indwelling*, the love of God is perfected within us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world" (vs 16-17). That's the gift of righteousness that God has given to us.

Verse 18: "There is no fear in the love of God; rather, perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment.... [I understand that. When things go wrong and there's fear and everything like that, it is tormenting!] ...And the one who fears has not been

made perfect in the love of God. We love Him because He loved us first." (vs 18-19). We're not going to God and say, 'O God, I love You, I chose You, aren't I great?' That's why God the Father has to call us and the Spirit draws.

Verse 20: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar. For if he does not love his brother whom he has seen, how is he able to love God Whom he has not seen?" That, brethren, it is the most difficult thing for me. I don't know about you, but that is the most difficult for me. It doesn't mean that I run around and hate people. But I just find in many cases, that though as Paul said, ***'the will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not'***—in himself.

I have to say the same thing! I do not find that with me—from me. Whatever love I have it has to come from God. I do take solace in the fact that Peter had to *learn* to love God. John had to *learn* to love God. He was called one of the 'sons of thunder' so he must not have been a very pleasant person when he was young. But I see that, and I see—if God's Spirit is convicting me—I am beginning to understand the tremendous love that God has not only for me, because that would be selfish to me, but for everyone that He calls, ***and even the whole world!***

John 3:16: "For **God so loved the world...**"—not just you, not just me. In order to love the world, in order to bring salvation to the world, in order to straighten out this world, it's got to take a love of love.

So, pray for me that God will lead me, intercede for me, and you, and all the brethren. I tell you one thing, out of all this if there's any one convicted thing that I see in all the trouble that's in the Churches of God today is that they're all trying to 'play church' and not love God and each other.

What I'm saying is that **love is a gift of God**. If it's a gift, you don't have it; it's something we don't have. It has to be the *gift of the Spirit* as it leads us. I hope that God will lead us in it, brethren, that we can help those in the different Churches of God.

I get sermons all the time from people sending me this and that. I know what's being preached and where it's being preached and what is being preached. They're all still in the 1950s or they're still thundering Acts 2 and that's the whole summation of their life. You've got to do this and that and got to have all these works—and they're fine, you need to do those—but then where's the time that you grow into maturity where you're going to grow in love.

Anyone who says that he really has the love of God come right here, I'll get right behind you. I

will follow you wherever you go. But I know one thing, it's got to be a *gift from God! The Holy Spirit is going to make intercessions for us!*

### **The Holy Spirit is Helping:**

Romans 8:26: "Now, in the same way also, the Spirit is conjointly **helping our weaknesses...**" Whatever that is you plug yours in there, the Spirit will help you.

I am beginning to learn and understand that when you really focus in on really loving God, then the Holy Spirit can work with you even more. That doesn't mean that it's going to be easy, or that it's going to come in great gushes of liberality. God wants us to develop the character of Christ through the things that we are going through. So, it's helping our weaknesses.

"...because we do not fully understand what we should pray for, according as it is necessary... [Isn't that so? We think we need this and that and the other thing] ...but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be expressed *by us*" (v 26). So, the Spirit is going to convey to God what you really feel and mean and know. **This is not speaking in tongues, because it "...cannot be expressed..." It can't be heard with the human ear.**

Our prayers come up to God. When we say 'Father,' we have direct access to God the Father and Christ is at the right hand. Lots of times people don't pray because they have a guilty conscience. Well, you're not going to get rid of your guilty conscience and then go pray. God's Spirit is convicting you to give you that [guilty conscience] so you will go to God and repent! ***Let the Holy Spirit lead you!***

I've done this many, many times. When you sin, you think: I'll just get it straightened out and then I'll go to God. God already knows! Only He can straighten it out—right? I mean, look at the whole affair with David and what he did. He was going to work it out His way and then do some big deal and then present God with some great thing. God sent Nathan<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup> and he said, 'You're the one.' He should have gone to God right off.

Revelation 8:3: "And another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar; and much incense was given to him, so that he might offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that *was* before the throne. And the smoke of the incense went up before God from *the* hand of the angel, ascending with the prayers of the saints" (vs 3-4). Isn't that something? *Prayers go right to God!*

### **How God's Spirit is Going to Lead:**

This is the best way to describe it. How they get from here to there is a spiritual function and God knows. It's not how long the prayer is. There are many lessons in this parable in the book of Luke. This is to show you how God's Spirit is going to lead.

God doesn't care how long you've been in the Church. God does not care what positions you may or may not have held. God wants you to do everything that is listed here of the Pharisee and the publican [tax collector]:

Luke 18:9: "And to some who **trusted in themselves...**" Brethren, if there's anything you can't trust it's yourself and human nature, just because of the nature of it. If you trust that you are righteous... Who's righteousness are we to have? *We go to God and say thank you for the righteousness of Christ!* 'Inspire me to love You; inspire me to overcome, because You are so good and kind to view me this way.' I tell you, when you really go that way, then you understand something that's really important. That's how you overcome. Then you have the desire to overcome in the right way. {tie this in with 2-Cor. 10—about those who compare themselves among themselves are not wise.}

'...that they were righteous, and despised others...' (v 9). That righteousness is not from God. How can you say you love God when you 'hate your brother whom you can see'? There it is!

"...He also spoke this parable: 'Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one *was* a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed with himself in this manner: "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers—or even as this tax collector"'" (vs 9-11)—all things he should not do; it is required that you not do them.

What did Jesus tell the 'rich man' when he came and asked 'Good Master, what good thing should I do that I may have eternal life.' Jesus said, 'Don't call Me good, there's only one good and that's the Father. But if you will inherit eternal life, keep the commandments.'

The rich man said, 'Which?' and Jesus listed them off, and the rich man said, 'I've done that all my life.' Jesus said, 'Go sell all that you have; because when you're done with those commandments I've got plenty more.'

Verse 12: "'I fast twice in the week, *and* I give a tithe *of* everything that I gain.'...." He's trying to build spiritual character with physical things. Yes, there should be tithing, that needs to be; but it needs to be done right and it needs to be done

because you love God. Whatever you give, if you don't give because you love God, don't send it. I don't want to extort a penny out of anyone. All of these physical things that you do, which are right, you can't make that equal the spiritual attitude of loving God.

Notice the publican: hated, despised, maybe ugly because it's the only job he could get, no one liked him, no friends. The only ones he would be friends with is he would go into the local tavern and get something to eat or drink and guess who would be there? *All the harlot and ne'er-do-wells and all that sort of thing*—bad and miserable people. That's why Jesus went to the publicans and sinners, because at least they knew they needed God—right? The ones who don't think they need God are the ones who are in trouble!

Verse 13: “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat himself on *the* chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’”

- Do you have the ‘law of sin and death’ in you? *Yes!*
- Are you a sinner by nature? *Yes!*
- Can we go to God and say how good we are? *No!*
- Can we go before God and thank Him for His goodness, mercy, righteousness, His Spirit and His love? *Yes!*

That's what God wants to give us.

That makes overcoming a whole lot simpler—doesn't it? That makes overcoming a whole lot easier. It does! I have overcome things by seeing the lack of love and trying to, with God's Spirit, grow in that love. I've been able to overcome things that I have exerted a great amount of effort to overcome and couldn't do it; I just couldn't do it! You'll find the same thing in your own situation as you go along.

Verse 14: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled; and the one who humbles himself shall be exalted.” How do you humble yourself? *You go to God and admit that everything that you have comes from Him! That's how!* You don't go put on a humble attitude. You don't go around and beat your back, flagellated and have it bleeding. You go to God and ***admit that with everything that you have has come from Him!***

(go to the next track)

Here's another parable that we know. We're going to see everything at work right here in this parable. We're going to see the good, the bad, the ugly and the redeemed and the one who is not so redeemed.

Luke 15:11<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: “Then He said, ‘A certain man had two sons; and the younger...’” (vs 11-12). It's always the younger who becomes the ‘whippersnapper’—right? Whenever you have sons, there's always the competition to be ‘as good as’ or ‘better than.’ The older one always thinks he's got it made, and he pretty well let's the younger ones know it. In this case the younger one said, ‘I'm getting out of here, I can't take this any longer.

“...of them said to *his* father, “Father, give me that portion of the property which falls to me.” And he divided to them *his* living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered everything together *and* departed into a distant country. And there he wasted *all* his substance, living *in* debauchery” (vs 12-13). Great sin; spent it all, ruined his life.

Verse 14: “But after he had spent everything, there arose a severe famine throughout that country, and he began to be in need.... [In his pride—not willing to swallow his pride—he humbled himself a little bit here]: ...Then he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine” (vs 14-15).

Remember, Jesus is talking to Jews. One of the worst jobs would be working with swine. They smell! They are disease ridden! They are miserable creatures indeed!

Verse 16: “And he was longing to fill his stomach with the husks that the swine were eating, but no one gave *anything* to him.” The world is not as good and glamorous as you think—right? ‘Go young man, go into the world, it's going to chew you alive!’ That's the whole story here—right? You think you're big, strong and tough, and you know how to do everything in the world. Now then, it gets down to the nitty-gritty.

Verse 17: “And when he came to himself...” Brethren, that's where everybody needs to come. Every human being needs to come to him or herself before God! This is talking about God the Father's love and this is talking about God the Father drawing with His Spirit. Many times He calls us at our very lowest.

Think how low this is. When you're out there in the manure and the water and the smell and the grunting and all the things that pigs have. Have you ever seen pigs fight over food? Can you imagine getting in there and trying to rip off one ear of corn to try and eat it? If you're not careful they'll turn on you and eat you!

So, “...he came to himself, he said... [a humble attitude but somewhat misunderstanding of God, in this case the father of the son] ... ‘How many of my father's hired servants have *an* abundance of

bread, and I am dying of hunger? I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you"" (vs 17-18). Here is repentance; he had to come to himself; *God's Spirit had to lead him to this*. You come to God. He goes back to his father.

He had all this worked up in his mind. He had it prepared and planned. 'When I get home the first thing I'm going to do is say this,' v 19: ""I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants."" And he arose *and* went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, **his father saw him and was moved with compassion...**" (vs 19-20).

That's what God wants to have on you and everyone—*compassion*.

- That way you *learn love*!
- That way you *learn understanding*!
- That way you *learn faith*!
- That way you *learn that whatever you have comes from God*!

"...and ran *and* embraced him, and ardently kissed him" (v 20). Does God have wide-open arms to receive anyone back? *Yes!* There it is!

Notice the father's attitude. He didn't say, 'Well, son, let me hear your speech. That's good! I'll take you on as a hired servant. Maybe you'll learn your lesson.' NO!

Verse 22: "But the father said to his servant... [He didn't want his son disgraced and run into the gutter] ...'Bring out a robe, the best robe, and clothe him, and give *him* a ring for his hand and sandals for *his* feet... [the ring was that he officially represented his father] ...and bring the fattened calf and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry'" (vs 22-23).

It shows you the tremendous feast that God is going to have with all of those who enter into the Kingdom of God—right? That's why we meet Christ in the air and have the wedding feast before we come to the earth. That's going to be quite a thing—*isn't it?*

Verse 24: ""For this my son was dead, but is alive again..." Just like that man who was trapped in the '89 earthquake. He spent five days crushed in his car but still alive, under the Cypress double-decker freeway that collapsed. Finally they got him out. I tell you what, his life changed, and he said so. When you're there stuck for five days, guess what, you get a chance to review your whole life! I bet he shed many a tear. I'll bet he resolved to do good—right? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 24: ""For this my son was dead, but is alive again, and he was lost, but is found.'..."

Verse 10: "I tell you *that* in like manner,

there is joy before the angels of God **over one sinner who repents.**" That's what God is interested in! He knows you sin! He knows you have the 'law of sin and death' in you. He put in you, and He's given you the way out through Christ: through His love, through His Spirit.

Verse 24: "...And they began to be merry.... [here's the other side of the coin]: ...But his elder son was in a field..." (vs 24-25). You could liken this unto Judaism. You could like the first son like unto all of those filthy swine goyeem; all hated by the Jews. Cast out, kicked out, nothing! Liken the second one unto the Jews.

Verse 25: "But his elder son was in a field, and when he was coming *back*, *and* approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And after calling one of the servants nearby, he inquired what these things might be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come *home*, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him safe and well.'" (vs 25-27)—and the brother ran in and kissed him. NO!

Verse 28: "Then he was angry... [see the sermon series: *Scripturalism vs Judaism*—that anger is still there to this day] ...and would not go in. As a result, his father came out and pleaded with him." Through Christ, that's what Christ did.

Verse 29: "But he answered *and* said to *his* father, 'Behold, I have served you so many years, and never did I transgress your commandment; yet you never gave me a kid, so that I might make merry with my friends;' but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.' Then he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that *is* mine is yours. But it was fitting to make merry and rejoice because your brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, but is found" (vs 29-32).

Brethren, that's one of the things that God's Spirit is going to lead us in doing. Do you see the whole situation with the attitude that we have here?

We're going to have some situations where we're going to be able to help some people recover themselves out of some of the difficulties that they are in. We don't need to come along and have the great condemning condescending, self-righteous attitude: 'Well, if you would have had enough character you wouldn't have done that.'

What are you going to do? It's done! Is that not true? *It's done!* If God forgives, does God forgive? *Yes!* Who are you to challenge what God forgives and doesn't forgive—right?

- There is how the Spirit is going to *lead* us!
- There is how the Spirit is going to *intercede* for us!

## The Holy Spirit will Teach You:

This is really important in the days that we are in today. That's why studying God's Word is so important.

What did Jesus say of the words that He spoke? *The words which I'm speaking to you, they are Spirit and Life, as well as Truth!* When we study and when we really get into the Word of God, let God's Spirit *teach* you. Part of the problem that we see with false doctrines and things that we've come up with and had to answer, is because people are 'playing religion' and they are working a doctrine and they are not loving God. Therefore, God's Spirit is not going to lead them.

John 14:26: "But *when* the Comforter *comes*, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall **teach you all things**... [everything necessary for salvation; all your life! Isn't that something?] ...and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you."

In these days, brethren, I see one of the greatest lacks among the people of God and the brethren of Jesus Christ is that they have not been studying, praying, and they have just been 'practicing' church.

I got a phone call from a woman who said, after hearing some of the things that we sent to her, 'I know why God has called me out of this other Church of God, because we're dying!' They're not yielding to the Spirit of God! They're not letting the Spirit of God *lead* them!

They still have it, like the parable of the Ten Virgins, there is some flickering going on. That's why we send the Care Package. We want to give them a little fuel for that flicker; let them come back to life again. When we're dealing with all of these false doctrines going on, as we saw one of the major Churches of God where it started out with 30 changes and then they went up to 97 and then to 130-something. It depends on how you count it.

- You've got to know the Bible!
- You've got to know the Word of God!

If you don't you're going to be in trouble. There are antichrists coming around teaching.

Here is where the danger is, 1-John 2:18: "Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now **many antichrists have risen up...**" I explain this is the book: *Lord, What Should I Do?* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). How do you handle it? *At first, when there are some that come into the Church, you can get rid of them!* Those who are righteous and love God outnumber the antichrists or the false prophets and teachers. But when they take over and are in control and you can't change them, then it's like Paul told Timothy,

'Withdraw yourself from them.' You can't stick around.

Verse 19: "They went out from among us, but they were not of us, because if they were of us they would have remained with us; nevertheless, *they left* that they might be exposed *to show* that *they* all were not of us. But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One... [God's Spirit in you] ...and you have knowledge of all things ***pertaining to salvation***" (vs 19-20).

Didn't it say that the Holy Spirit would teach you all things? There comes a time when you are mature in your Christian growth and development and you know all the basic things for salvation. You don't know everything, but this is all the basic thing for salvation and you don't need someone coming along giving you a 'new' doctrine, which is an old satanic lie, and call this 'new understanding and truth' to lead you away from Christ. That's what he's talking about here.

Verse 21: "I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it... [He's dealing with people who understand the Truth of God.] ...and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth. Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist—the one who denies the Father and the Son" (vs 21-22). That's happening right now.

This weird doctrine of the trinity is unreal! God is manifested in three ways: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He didn't really die because He's one. When He was on the cross He prayed to Himself. When He was dead He was never really dead. Because He's God, He could not be tempted. Every contradiction in the Scripture! This is what they were going through at the same time, very similar to it.

Verse 23: "Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either.... [But he has the Son has the Father also.] ...Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you; if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you will be dwelling in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us: eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray. But you yourselves have dwelling in you the anointing that you received from Him; and you do not have need of anyone to indoctrinate you..." (vs 23-27). It doesn't contradict that a teacher must be sent. You don't need any of those antichrists coming around trying to teach you. That's what he's saying.

"...for the same anointing instructs you in ***all spiritual*** things..." (v 27). What we need to pray for is to let God's Spirit *lead us and teach us* as much as we can—right? I don't think in a lifetime we will ever learn all that the Holy Spirit of God can teach us



through His Word. But at least we need to be busy doing as much as we can—right?

“...and is true, and is not a lie; and *if you do* exactly as it *has* taught you, you will be dwelling in Him [Christ]. And now, little children, dwell in Him, so that when He is manifested we may have boldness, and not be put to shame before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you *also* know that everyone who practices righteousness **has been begotten by Him**” (vs 27-29).

That's tremendous! *The Holy Spirit is going to teach you!*

### **The Holy Spirit is Going to Comfort You:**

Every one of us, sooner or later, is going to go through an experience in life where nothing but God's Spirit can help you; not even a friend, not even a husband/wife. It's going to happen that way, it's just the way that life is. When you hit the bottom and the pit is so big—just like the son feeding the swine—God alone can comfort you.

2-Corinthians 1: “Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and ***the God of all comfort***; Who comforts us in **all our tribulation**, in order that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trial, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (vs 2-4).

Brethren, may we be able to do that to a lot of brethren, and we can comfort them! A lot of people would like to be comforted before they have trouble. It doesn't work that way! Here's how God works it—I remember preaching sermons on this. It sure is amazing how God's Word is the living Word of God and it's alive, real and affects us today.

1-Peter 5:5: “In the same manner, *you* younger men be subject to *the* older men; and all of *you* be subject to one another, being clothed with humility... [Ties right in with ‘the one who exalts himself shall be abased and the one who humbles himself shall be exalted.’] ...because God sets Himself against *the* proud, but He gives grace to *the* humble. Be humbled therefore under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time... [in the right time; in the time that God wants] ...casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you. Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour.... [That's what He's doing right now!] ...Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are* in *the* world. Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after *you* have suffered a little while... [He's not going to do it

right away.] ...**Himself perfect you, establish, strengthen, and settle you**” (vs 5-10).

Those are other words that reflect the comfort that God alone can give. *God's Spirit is going to comfort us.*

John 16:33: “...In the world you shall have tribulation. But be courageous! I have overcome the world.” I've heard some people say, ‘Yeah, Lord, thanks a lot but I'm in this trouble.’ Be of good courage, God will still take care of you—throw yourself on His mercy.

### **God's Spirit will Speak to You:**

Not necessarily some audible voice, not as some people think where He comes along and a voice says, ‘Go here, go there, go the other place.’ God's Spirit will speak to you in the sense that it's going to convict you in heart and mind. That's God's Spirit doing it. There are times in the New Testament where we see that the Holy Spirit actually did speak. The message came from God, like: ‘Separate unto me Saul and Barnabas for the work I've called them to do’ (Acts 13:1-2). Then ‘the Spirit speaks expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith’ (1-Tim. 4:1).

Have you ever had a situation where God's Spirit has impressed something on your mind that you just couldn't get away from that thought and you couldn't get away from doing what that thought was compelling you to do? If that's so, *it's God's Spirit leading you*. In that sense, ***speaking*** to you.

### **God's Spirit will Inspire You:**

What I want you to do is add other Scriptures to these in your study. What I'm doing here is meant so that you can take this and add to it yourself as you study. God's Spirit will inspire you. I have experience in being inspired of God many times in speaking, so I know what I'm talking about here. But I have never had this experience:

Matthew 10:16 “Behold, I am sending you forth as sheep in *the* midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and you shall also be brought... [forcibly] ...before governors and kings for My sake, for a witness to them and to the Gentiles” (vs 16-18). That means that you're to just get up and say how it is. Just exactly when and how that's going to happen, I don't know. But here's a promise, *it will happen!*

Verse 19: “Now, when they deliver you up, do not be anxious *about* how or what you should speak; for in that hour it shall be given to you what you shall speak. For it is not you who speak, but **the Spirit of your Father that speaks in you**” (vs 19-20). It's going to have to be with conviction, with

love, with power. Those days are coming! I don't relish that they come, but I tell you what, when they've got you, let them know, however it may be. It's going to be this way:

Verse 21: "Then brother will deliver up brother to death; and *the* father, the child; and children will rise up against *their* parents and *have* them put to death. And you shall be hated by all for My name's sake... [I can see that just around the corner] ...but the one who endures to *the* end, that one shall be saved" (vs 21-22). Then it gets tough!

Verse 23: "But when they persecute you in this city, escape into another; for truly I say to you, in no way shall you have completed *witnessing* to the cities of Israel until the Son of man has come." He isn't here and it hasn't been done, and maybe we have a small part in doing it.

### God's Spirit is Going to Bear Witness:

We saw how the Spirit 'bore witness' to the man who took his inheritance and ended up with the pigs/the swine—right? He 'came to himself' and then God's Spirit as it were testified to him, convicted him by saying, 'Look, I'll just go home and be a servant.'

John 15:26: "But when the Comforter has come, which I will send to you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of the Truth, which proceeds from the Father, that one **shall bear witness** of Me. Then **you also shall bear witness**, because you have been with Me from *the* beginning" (vs 26-27).

John 16:7: "But I am telling you the truth. It is profitable for you that I go away because if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. However, if I go, I will send it to you. And when that one has come, it will convict the world concerning sin... [because of the preaching that God inspires] ...and righteousness, and judgment: Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me" (vs 7-9).

I was studying the first chapter of the Gospel of John again, and that is amazing what is there, brethren. Every word there in John 1 is breathtaking! Christ Who was God, Who created everything that there is, Who is the Light of all men, came to the world, came to His own and they didn't receive Him! Isn't that something? It's amazing!

Verse 10: "Concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer will see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have yet many things to tell you, but you are not able to bear them now. However, when that one has come, ***even the Spirit of the Truth, it will lead you into all Truth...***" (vs 10-13). That's what we need, brethren! In these times that we're living in, and all

the things that the Churches of God are going through, we need that!

"...because it shall not speak from itself, but whatever it shall hear, it shall speak. And it shall disclose to you the things to come. That one shall glorify Me because it shall disclose to you *the things that* it receives from Me. Everything that the Father has is Mine; for this reason, I said that it shall receive from Me and shall disclose *these things* to you" (vs 13-15). That is the whole function of the Holy Spirit, and that's how we are to use it. Let's see how that was used by the apostles at that time.

After they let the apostle go and they came to their own company, Acts 4:23: "Now after being released, they came to their own *brethren* and reported to them all *that* the chief priests and elders had said. And when they heard *this*, they lifted up *their* voices to God with one accord and said, 'O Master, You *are* the God Who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that *are* in them, Who by *the* mouth of Your servant David did say, "Why did the nations insolently rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ." For of a truth they did gather together against Your Holy Son, Jesus, Whom You did anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with *the* Gentiles and *the* people of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your counsel had predetermined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings...' " (vs 23-29).

I tell you what, brethren, we're in a time now when the Churches of God are being threatened. We need to gather together. We need to do what is here.

" '...and grant that Your servants may speak Your Word with all boldness... [That's what we need to do, speak the Word of God! Then God is going to reach out and do the other things.] ...by reaching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your Holy Son, Jesus' " (vs 29-30).

And may some of these things be done! May they be done that way! Not for glory! If you don't do whatever you're doing with love, it doesn't matter what you're doing. Serve God!

Verse 31: "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with *the* Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness."

You talk about an experience, that's something! I don't think it was like some of these 'holy roller' things that you see. Unfortunately, the movies depict all of that all the time. This was with sound-mindedness and power. Can you imagine the Spirit of God motivating the speaking and

preaching, bringing everything to remembrance because they walked with Christ, they talked with Christ, they were with Him day and night for almost three and a half years? Can you imagine the things that they preached at that time?

Verse 32: "And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul... [May the Church of God get back to that again, brethren!] ...neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things common." That's because they were still in Jerusalem after Pentecost. This doesn't mean Communism here by any stretch of the imagination.

Verse 33: "And with great power the apostles testified of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **great grace was upon them all.**"

That's what the Holy Spirit of God is going to do. That's how God's Spirit is going to work with us. *Yes, indeed!* That's what we need to yield to, to see and understand the power and grace of God.

- Ephesians 4:22 thru Ephesians 5:2—you're to be renewed inwardly; you are to put away the carnal things that you do and *grieve not the Holy Spirit* by continuing in all of these carnal sins of the flesh.
- 1-Thessalonians 5:17—quench not the Spirit, which means that when the Spirit of God leads you and inspires you—especially to repentance, to do the works of love and faith—don't put it out.
- Revelation 2 & 3—each section to the churches says, *'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

This is the whole idea that God wants us to understand, Ephesians 3:1: "For this cause I, Paul, *am* the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles, if indeed you have heard of the ministry of the grace of God that was given to me for you; how He made known to me by revelation the mystery..." (vs 1-3).

That's something! God is sharing His secrets with you, brethren. That's overwhelming when you understand that. That's unreal! But it's true!

"...(even as I wrote briefly before, so that when you read *this*, you will be able to comprehend my understanding in the mystery of Christ), which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets **by the Spirit**" (vs 3-5). That's how the Spirit of God works in you!

- Let the Spirit of God *lead* you!
- Let the Spirit of God *teach* you!
- Let the Spirit of God *comfort* you!
- Let the Spirit of God *guide* you!
- Let the Spirit of God *lead you into all Truth!*

That will produce the fruits of the Spirit:

- love
- joy
- peace
- longsuffering
- temperance
- goodness
- meekness

*'against such there is no law!'*

***Brethren, use the Spirit of God especially in these days in which we're living!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 6:44-45
- 2) John 14:16-17
- 3) John 20:19-23
- 4) Romans 8:14, 9-10
- 5) Romans 5:17
- 6) Romans 8:10-11, 9-18, 23-26
- 7) 1 John 4:16-20
- 8) John 3:16
- 9) Romans 8:26
- 10) Revelation 8:3-4
- 11) Luke 18:9-14
- 12) Luke 16:11-20, 22-24, 10, 24-32
- 13) John 14:26
- 14) 1 John 2:18-29
- 15) 2 Corinthians 1:2-4
- 16) 1 Peter 5:5-10
- 17) John 16:33
- 18) Matthew 10:16-23
- 19) John 15:26-27
- 20) John 16:7-15
- 21) Acts 4:23-33
- 22) Ephesians 3:1-5

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- 2 Corinthians 3
- Revelation 2; 3
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- 1 Timothy 4:1
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- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Also referenced:

- Sermon Series: *Scripturalism vs Judaism*
- Book: *Lord, What Should I Do?* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo  
Transcribed: 6-4-12

# How the Holy Spirit Works

Fred R. Coulter

All of our children have been given the opportunity to make their own choices—to choose right or to choose wrong. In Deuteronomy 30, here is what God sets before everyone! This is set before everyone in the world! Everyone in the Church! Every human being is confronted with the choices that we find here. We always need to keep this in mind.

Deuteronomy 30:11: “For this commandment which I command you today *is* not hidden from you, neither is it far off. It *is* not in heaven *that you should* say, ‘Who shall go up to heaven for us, and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither *is* it beyond the sea *that you should* say, ‘Who shall go over the sea for us to bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?’ But **the Word is very near you...**” (vs 11-14). In other words, God has made it that ***wherever His Word is it is near to you!***

I suppose if we calculated the billions of Bibles that are in the world, it would be absolutely amazing how many people have access to the Word of God. In those countries where, unfortunately, they don’t have it, then God holds them to a little different standard. Their standard is found in Rom. 2 where just in living and debating good and evil among themselves that they do end up keeping some of the laws of God, which in that case Paul said, ‘is a law unto itself.’ But nevertheless, for those of us, we have the Word of God.

Verse 14: “But the Word *is* very near you in your mouth and in your heart... [in other words, the language that you understand] ...so that you may do it. Behold, I have set before you this day life and good... [That’s what God gives to every human being] ...and death and evil, in that I command you this day to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments so that you may live and multiply. And the LORD your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it” (vs 14-16).

In order for these blessings to come, then God gives us the choice. Here with the children of Israel—the descendants of Israel, the descendants of Abraham—God does certain things, not because the children of Israel necessarily follow this, but because of *His promise to Abraham!*

Because of that, this causes a lot of different nations of the world to look at America especially—and this is really part of the heart and core of difference between Islam and the western world—they look and see that these people are so corrupt, which they are; given over to various licentious

things, which they are; ‘here we are living in this desert being very frugal’—they’re thankful they have the oil—‘and we try and lead a decent life.’ Yet, they [America] get all blessings!

That’s the heart and core of the problem of it. Because God has given these blessings to us, He holds us accountable. God defers bringing His punishment or penalty upon people in hopes that they will repent—and even repent enough in the letter of the Law—that they would return to doing at least the commandments of God that they know, some people then really take it for granted that God endorses evil. He’s not endorsing evil. He’s giving an opportunity and space for repentance.

Many times they would repent in such a way, as it says in Psa. 78 that God is interested in mercy and kindness. We need to understand all that they did in the wilderness, and all that God provided for them. They wouldn’t have had such a terrible time in the wilderness if they would have said, ‘God, we know that You’re a God of love, graciousness, mercy and kindness and we’re out here in this wilderness and it’s mighty hot. We know that You brought us out with a strong hand. We know that You performed many great miracles for us. Now, God, we would really love to have just a little bit of meat. We like this manna, but it’s a wonderful diet and it really feeds us, but it would be nice if we could have just a little bit of meat to eat in the desert.’

*No!* They didn’t do that! They spoke against God. They sinned, Psalm 78:17: “Yet, they continued to sin still more against Him by rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking food for their lust.”

You read that account in the book of Numbers. They again wanted meat, so God said, ‘Ok, I’m going to give you meat. I’m going to give you quail. You’re not going to eat it one day or two days or ten days, but for a whole month. Because of their lusts, He smote them while it was still in their teeth. Sometimes, God will give you what you want, but not necessarily as a blessing. God basis everything on our heart and mind and attitude.

Verse 19: “Yea, they spoke against God; they said, ‘Can God set a table in the wilderness?... [Listen, God can do anything!] ...Behold, He struck the rock so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed! Can He also give bread? Can He provide flesh for His people?’ Therefore, the LORD heard and was furious; so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel,

because **they did not believe in God...**" (vs 19-22). They looked to the physical thing, but they didn't believe God or believe in Him.

The greatest thing you can do is **believe God!** Then God can work with you. Not just, 'People who keep God's commandments get blessings, therefore, I'm going to keep the commandments.' You may end up with some trials because that's not the whole purpose. Keeping the commandments is required of everyone. To do them just to get blessings is not going to necessarily result in blessings, if that's your attitude. God deals with each of us in a different way. **Believing God is the most important thing.**

Verse 23: "Though He had commanded the clouds from above, and had opened the doors of heaven; and He had rained down manna upon them to eat, and gave them of the grain of heaven. Man ate the food of angels..." (vs 23-25).

- Wonder what an angel meal is like?
- Have you ever wondered what it's going to be like at the wedding feast? *We're going to eat!*
- What kind of food does God have for spirit beings?
- *I'm sure it won't be just manna! But nevertheless, they did.*

Verse 26: "He caused an east wind to blow in heaven, and by His power He brought in the south wind. And He also rained flesh upon them like dust, and winged birds like the sand of the sea; and He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their tents. So they ate and were filled to the full, for He gave them that which they craved. They were not turned away from their lust, but while their food was still in their mouths, the wrath of God came upon them and killed the strongest of them, and struck down the chosen men of Israel. For all this **they still sinned** and did not believe in His wonderful works" (vs 26-32).

I think in this age, it's going to be really something to really believe God, in spite of all of the circumstances around us. We're not in a literal, physical desert, but we certainly are in a *spiritual* desert.

Verse 33: "Therefore, He ended their days in vanity and their years in terror. When He slew them, then they sought Him... [when trouble comes, people come back to God]: ...and they turned back and sought after God earnestly" (vs 33-34).

That's what happened with 9/11; 'Oh, we forgot God.' Then they went back and remembered Him, but not the right way. 'Oh, we have to go to church. Let's have ecumenical services and bring in a motif to show us how peaceful that the Muslims

are.' Quite a thing! I think when you understand about the Word of God and how important that it is, then you realize how merciful that God is that He deals with people this way.

Verse 35: "And they remembered that God was their Rock, and the Most High God was their Redeemer. Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouths, and they lied to Him with their tongues" (vs 35-36). 'Oh yes, Lord, we'll shape up. Oh yes, Lord, we won't do that anymore.'

Verse 37: "For their heart was not steadfast with Him; neither were they faithful in His covenant. But He, *being* full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; yea, many times He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes away and does not come again. How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness and grieve Him in the desert? And still again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His hand, nor the day when He delivered them from the enemy" (vs 37-42). Then it goes on showing continuously that way.

When God sets before us life and death, He does so in such a way that He wants us to love Him. Isn't it really a paradox of God: God is love; God is full of love; yet, He is the least loved by His creation. Have you ever thought of it that way? That puts us with a great deal of responsibility upon us.

Deuteronomy 30:17: "But if your heart turn away so that you will not hear... [no longer listen to God, the Word of God] ...but shall be drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days on the land where you pass over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day..." (vs 17-19). Heaven and earth are still here—right? The words of Jesus Christ are based on heaven and earth—aren't they? *Yes!* So, that's a perpetual witness that God means what He says and says what He means.

Here's what He's put before all people. We much more so because now we—when we are baptized and receive the Spirit of God—are in a covenant relationship with God. That covenant relationship is unto death.

Verse 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that both you and your seed may live." Sound's a little bit like the Garden of Eden—doesn't it? *Yes, it does!*

Verse 20: "That you may love the LORD your God..." That's why it's so important! That's why the primary commandment is to love God.

That's why! God wants you to love Him, and God wants to love you. God wants:

- to give you of His love
- to give you of His Spirit
- to give you of eternal life
- to bless you with those things that will help you accomplish that

"...and may obey His voice, and may cleave to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, so that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob—to give it to them" (v 20). Ours is the Kingdom of God, the fulfillment of that. This is quite a thing that God sets before us in these particular cases.

There is something that has to happen to everyone that God deals with. God is patient, kind, loving and understanding. How long has God dealt with someone before they respond to the call?

I hope that we will have many, many more of the children who grew up in the Church and become adults that God will continue to work with them. I don't think God has forgotten them. I don't think God has forsaken them. But they are not in a covenant relationship with Him. When you're baptized and receive the Holy Spirit you're in a covenant relationship with God. Before that time *they have life and death set before them and they have to choose!* God wants them to *choose life*, but He wants them to *know* why they are doing this. He wants them to *understand*. He does not want them to do it just because father and mother say so. He wants them to do so because they answer the call of God individually.

Here we have the parable of the prodigal son. We can respond in several different ways. Luke 15:11: "Then He said, 'A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me that portion of the property which falls to me.' And he divided to them *his* living'" (vs 11-12).

Apparently he was of age. When your children come of age they have to stand or fall before God on their own. That's a difficult choice for parents to understand. It's very difficult when you know that they go out and make mistakes. Just as they have the right to choose the good, they also have the right to choose the bad. Hopefully, they will choose the good. Or if they choose the bad—like we have in this case—then they will respond back to God.

Verse 13: "And not many days after, the younger son gathered everything together *and* departed into a distant country. And there he wasted *all* his substance, living *in* debauchery." When we see our children make bad decisions financially, it's

tough—isn't it? It's really difficult.

Verse 14: "But after he had spent everything, there arose a severe famine throughout that country, and he began to be in need." God brings out circumstances to bring people to understanding. That's why God does not constantly give blessings all of the time. With a blessing will also probably come a trial to see how you're going to receive the blessing. I like the way William Tyndale says it: "If God bid you over the sea, He's going to send you a little tempest to see whether you believe Him or not."

When the famine began, he was in want, v 15: "Then he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine." There is nothing more loathsome for a Jewish man to do than to feed swine. By the way, the swine there that Jesus cast the demons into—out of the man who had the legion of demons—and they went into the swine, the swine were being grown for consumption by the Romans soldiers in Jerusalem. So, He accomplished two purposes:

1. got rid of the demons
2. caused a shortage of pig meat

There's a proper use for hogs: *to get rid of garbage!* We would not have the problems we have with polluting the environment if we used pigs in the right way. So, there he's out there with the pigs:

Verse 16: "And he was longing to fill his stomach with the husks that the swine were eating... [It's just like going out here to the Midwest and they give them all this good corn.] ...but no one gave *anything* to him." Here the swine, the lowest thing that could possibly come into the mind of a Jew as an occupation to do, they were being fed better than he was. ***God has a way of letting circumstances come upon people***—come upon us; we can apply this to us or anyone else—***so that He can continue to work with them.*** We'll see how He works with them.

Verse 17: "And **when he came to himself...**" That's when all of us repent, when we come to ourselves. Lots of times God will just let us go on our own vain way, our own selfish way, whatever, until we come to ourselves. God is merciful and kind. He doesn't dump it on us all at once. That's why you will go along and you ask God to help you grow, help you overcome, help you to overcome human nature, and all of these things, and help me to see my vanity and stupidity and my errors.

Then all of a sudden one day God begins to answer that prayer and BINGO! you begin to see some things. Maybe in prayer you begin to see yourself for what you really are. Maybe you begin to

see that all the time when you thought you were so high and mighty and hoity-toity, you were really kind of low and dirty as far as spiritual standing before God. God is looking to the heart!

So, “...when he came to himself...” That’s the key thing! Obviously, when he began he was not thinking right. It was ‘stinking thinking’—wasn’t it? ‘Give me my inheritance, give me my money. I am young, strong, tough, good, I can go do it on my own, dad. Bye, see you later!’

So, he gets out there and lets the wilds of the world get hold of him and spends all of his money. Now he has nothing! Doesn’t have his family, doesn’t have his father; there he is all alone in a foreign country. I tell you, working in the middle of the hog field would be a stinky, stinky proposition and all the uncleanness that goes with it. Now he starts thinking correctly. That’s what repentance brings about: *correct thinking*; provided you take it to God and let God give you more understanding and continuously help you to think in right way.

“...he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have *an* abundance of bread, and I am dying of hunger? I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you... [That’s repentance; that is admitting sin; confessing to God and confessing to the one that was offended. There he is preparing his speech.] ...and I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants”’” (vs 17-19). He had this speech all ready in mind.

Verse 20: “And he arose *and* went to his father. But while he was still a long way off...” I wonder if he was kind of like Jacob after Joseph was sold off into slavery and he assumed the goodness of his own sons. There’s a real case—isn’t it? Joseph was sold off by his own brothers because of what they basically thought was vanity, that Joseph had this dream that they were all going to bow down to ‘worship me’ ‘You young whippersnapper, who do you think you are?’ But it was true. They were going to kill him, but Judah intervened and said, ‘No, we’ll sell him. We’ll take this coat and we’ll put goats blood on it and we’ll take it back to dad and say, Dad, the lions got him.’ There was Jacob for 17 years thinking that Joseph was dead. That’s quite something!

Furthermore, Joseph got into Egypt and got caught into a corrupt legal system—didn’t he? *Yes!* And he got accused of adultery, which he didn’t do, and he was thrown into prison. There he was in the dungeon for however long he was in the dungeon, and God still intervened and worked the circumstances out so they wouldn’t be so bad for him there in the dungeon. God was still with him to humble him, to meek him, to make him fit for what God wanted.

In examples like this, it’s always necessary to see the other side of the story, to see the finish of the story. It did turn out for good, because it saved all the children of Israel—didn’t it? After Jacob died the brothers said, ‘Oh, oh, we’re in trouble, we better go to Joseph and humble ourselves. They did, they came to Joseph and said, ‘We did it and we’re sorry.’ They repented! Joseph didn’t say, ‘It’s about time.’ No, he didn’t! He said, ‘I’m not God. I know you meant it to be for evil, but God meant it for good. Go in peace!’

We look at a life history like that and we see the lessons that God deals with us. God works with us, and God does not give up on us even though the circumstances get low and desperate and miserable. All of you who are parents, if things like this have happened to your children and they virtually rejected the things of God, pray for them. Ask God to intervene for them. God will in *His* time, in *His* way.

God is in the business of salvation. That’s what’s important to remember. I imagine that this father was much the same way. He’d go out there at sundown and probably see in his own mind his son when he left. Didn’t hear from him. No cell phones! He didn’t know what happened to him, didn’t know where he was, but probably out there praying every night that everything would work out. One night he’s out there and his father saw him. The father did not say, ‘Well, it’s about time you woke up. You only deserve to be one of my servants.’ God doesn’t do that to us, either.

“...his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and ran *and* embraced him, and ardently kissed him” (v 20). That’s also how God views us when we repent and come back to him. You need to understand that.

The son started out, ‘I’ve got my speech all ready, v 21: “And his son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servant, ‘Bring out a robe, the best robe, and clothe him... [get him out of these swine clothes and give him a bath and clean him up] ...and give *him* a ring for his hand and sandals for *his* feet; and bring the fattened calf and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry. For this my son was dead, but is alive again; and he was lost, but is found.’ And they began to be merry” (vs 21-24).

God is the One Who has to work out the circumstances. There are many, many in the Church who have attended who are in similar circumstances. That’s why it’s imperative for us that when they do repent that we have the right attitude toward them. Be thankful that they’re repenting. Don’t remind them of all the wrongs that they have done, because they’re repenting of them—and they know that!

Verse 25: “But his elder son was in a field... [this is likened to the one who’s always been faithful in church] ...and when he was coming *back*, and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.... [an unusual thing] ...And after calling one of the servants nearby, he inquired what these things might be. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come *home*, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him safe and well’” (vs 25-27).

Verse 28: “Then he was angry and would not go in. As a result, his father came out and pleaded with him. But he answered *and* said to *his* father, ‘Behold, I have served you so many years, and never did I transgress your commandment; yet you never gave me a kid, so that I might make merry with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him.’” (vs 28-30).

That’s a very good example of what we go through, too. That there will be more people who will see the error of their ways, there will be more children who have left God who will come back. God hasn’t forgotten them. If we have this attitude then we will know for sure that they left for a good reason.

We have to have the attitude of compassion and forgiveness as the father had here. They know that they’ve got to get their lives squared around. They know they’ve got to change and keep the commandments of God. This is a momentous occurrence that takes place. This kind of repentance is deep and profound. It moves people to do the things that they need to do to get right with God. What is the whole lesson for the Laodiceans? *Be zealous and repent!* They all have to *come to themselves*; we have to constantly *come to ourselves* before God, too.

Verse 31: “Then he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that *is* mine is yours. But it was fitting to make merry and rejoice because your brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, but is found’” (vs 31-32).

Part of the problem involved in this with the other brother was that he didn’t understand his own nature; he did not understand the problems of self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is so hard to see, because *you’re doing right*. But because you do right, that hasn’t necessarily changed your nature. Only the Holy Spirit can change the nature.

Let’s look at another parable, Luke 7:36<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup>: “Now one of the Pharisees invited Him to eat with him. And after going into the Pharisee’s house, He sat down *at the table*. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner... [a known harlot] ...when she knew that He was sitting in the Pharisee’s house, took an alabaster flask of

ointment; and she stood weeping behind Him, *and knelt* at His feet, *and* began to wash His feet with *her* tears and to wipe *them* with the hairs of her head; and she was ardently kissing His feet and anointing *them* with the ointment.” (vs 36-38). I imagine that caused quite a little disturbance there in the Pharisees’ house.

Verse 39: “But when he saw *this*, the Pharisee who had invited Him spoke within himself, saying, ‘This *man*, if He were a prophet, would have known who and what the woman *is* who is touching Him because she is a sinner’” Jesus could understand the thoughts, so He gave them this parable:

Verse 40: “Then Jesus answered *and* said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ And he said, ‘Teacher, say *on*.’.... [you could almost see it] ...‘There were two debtors of a certain creditor; one owed five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. But when they did not have *anything with which* to pay *him*, he forgave *them* both. Tell *Me* then, which of them will love him most?’” (vs 40-42). Simon thought that’s an easy one.

Verse 43: “And Simon answered *and* said, ‘I suppose *the one* whom he forgave the most.’ And He said to him, ‘You have judged rightly.’ And after turning to the woman, He said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I came into your house, and you did not provide *any* water to wash My feet; but she has washed My feet with *her* tears and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head. You did not give Me a kiss; but she, from the *time* I came in, has not ceased to ardently kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil; but she has anointed My feet with ointment. For this cause, **I tell you**... [it’s a lesson for him] ...her many sins have been forgiven because she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, he loves little’” (vs 43-47). There’s a key lesson, brethren. It’s got to be the love of God. Everything we do has to be based on that.

Verse 48: “And He said to her, ‘Your sins have been forgiven.’ Then those who were sitting with *Him* began to say within themselves, ‘Who is this, Who even forgives sins?’ But He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace’” (vs 48-50).

We need to look at it the way that God looks at those things. We need to understand that we’re going to be dealing with a generation that has been into all kinds of things—right? They’re going to need a lot of understanding. They are going to need a lot of repenting on their part. They’re going to need the example of love. A lot of times they did the things that they did because they weren’t loved. That’s very important for us to understand.

- How does the Holy Spirit work with a person?



- In particular, how does the Holy Spirit work with someone before they're baptized?
- What is it that God does?

If we believe that God only has His eye on His Church, then we are indeed most self-righteous! God is God of heaven and earth! God is interested in all the people on earth. God has special means whereby He seeks out those who are trying to find Him. He does answer those prayers.

- How does He do it?
- By what means does He do it?

We find it right here in Revelation 5:6: "Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing a Lamb as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are **the seven spirits of God** that are sent into all the earth."

- What do those seven spirit do?
- What is their job?

Let me give you an example of how God did something and the people didn't even have a clue. The soldiers who crucified Jesus, actually nailing Him to the cross:

- What did they have? *They had His garment and His vesture—right?*
- Did they know God? *No! Had no thought about God!*
- What was their job? *The nasty job of crucifying Jews!*

Get rather callus in that kind of occupation. But nevertheless, they did what God wanted them to do. That is, they parted His garment and cast lots on His vesture to fulfill the prophecy in Psa. 22.

- Did God work with them to accomplish that? *Of course, He did!*
- Did they know it? *I doubt it! I don't think they even had a clue!*
- Is God working with people that we don't even know about?
- Is He working with them in a way that He desires? *Yes!*

I think that the seven spirits have an awful lot to do with it.

Let's look at how this operates and how it works. I do not care who the individual is, there is not one individual on earth—even an atheist... An atheist is just a 'good-time Joe.' When the going gets tough he calls on God. God is not like the joke; He doesn't answer them. God will deal with them.

Here's the principle, 2-Chronicles 15:1: "And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to

him, 'Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. **And if you seek Him, He will be found by you....**'" (vs 1-2). Jesus gave that promise—didn't He. He said, 'Seek, you will find. Knock and it shall be opened. For everyone who seeks will find, and everyone who knocks it will be opened.' We have the same principle here: **"...if you seek Him, He will be found by you...."** And God is interested in that. That's what God wants. He does not want to come down and destroy and kill people. That's why when He says, 'You that desire the day of the Lord, what is it to you?'

If anyone wants to be a prophet, you better read the book of Ezekiel.

(go to the next track)

This is what we need to realize, Ezekiel 33:7: "And you, son of man, I have set you as watchman to the house of Israel.... [That's why no one should stand up and say, 'I'm a watchman'—because you have set yourself.] ...Therefore, you shall hear the Word from My mouth, and warn them from Me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked one, you shall surely die;' if you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked one shall die in his iniquity; but I will require his blood at your hand. But, if you warn the wicked of his way, to turn from it; if he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul" (vs 7-9).

This is a responsibility for each of us in a way where we are to be a light. We are to be ready to give an answer of the hope that lies within us. That may be something that will help turn this person to God.

Verse 10: "And you, son of man, speak to the house of Israel. Thus *shall* you speak, saying, 'When our transgressions and our sins *are* on us, and we are wasting away in them, how then shall we live?' Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, **'I have no delight in the death of the wicked...** [May all of Saudi Arabia understand that, and all of the terrorists. If you take in your hand to execute God's judgment, then God's judgment is going to be upon you.] ...except that the wicked turn from his way, and live....'" (vs 10-11).

That's what God wants. God is able to help repair any life. Do you understand that? Remember, there are going to be those called at the very last hour. "...Turn you, turn you from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?" (v 11). God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Then He gives a warning: If the righteous turn from his way and sin then all the righteousness that he has done shall not be remembered. If the wicked will turn from his way and his sin, then all of his sin shall not be remembered either. That's also a very important thing for us to understand.

I think what you will see is that God is busy working with many different people at many different levels that we don't even know about, because of the way that God works. Remember when Jesus told the disciples in Samaria, 'Look at the fields, they're already white unto the harvest.' They didn't know what was going to happen, because that was early in the beginning of the ministry of Christ. That happened later on after the Day of Pentecost. The harvest was great—wasn't it? *Yes, indeed!*

We find the principle here: ***If you seek Him, you will be found of Him!*** 2-Chronicles 15:3<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: "And for a long time Israel *had been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. And when they turned in their trouble to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. And in those times *there was* no peace to him who went out, nor to him who came in, but great tumult *was* upon all the inhabitants of the lands. And nation was destroyed by nation, and city-by-city, for God troubled them with every adversity. But you be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded" (vs 3-7). Asa took heart, he returned to the Lord, they made a covenant with God, all of Judah rejoiced at the oath, and they made this covenant:

Verse 15: "And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with their whole desire. And He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.... [v 19]: "And there was no war to the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa."

Asa went ahead and he did the things that were not right, 2 Chronicles 16:7: "And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, 'Because you have relied on the king of Syria and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand, for **the eyes of the LORD...** [here's the whole point, those are the *seven spirits that are the seven eyes*] ...run to and fro in all the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart *is* perfect toward Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you shall have wars'" (vs 7-9). Then he got mad at Hanani the seer.

God is seeking out whom He is going to seek out. Let's see how God is going to begin dealing with different people. Here we have the disciples on the night of the Passover. Jesus is talking to them, John 14:15: "**If you love Me, keep the commandments**—namely, My commandments."

That's why all repentance begins with transgression of the Law. Everyone who transgresses the Law has to see that he or she is a sinner and needs to repent to God. Then they have to come to the point that they desire to keep the commandments of God. That is a starting point for them.

Verse 16: "**And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter...**" Let's say someone really has a messed up life. He or she wants to get it straightened out. They don't know God. They don't know anything about God. Maybe they just start praying. Is God going to ignore that prayer or are the seven eyes of God seeking those kinds of individuals to hopefully lead them to repentance. ***It's the graciousness of God that leads people to repentance!*** Then they begin to see they need to keep the commandments. Here we're going to find a great principle where this all ties up with love, too.

"...that it may be with you throughout the age: *Even* the Spirit of the Truth, which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be **within** you" (vs 16-17).

How many people have the Spirit of God *with* them, but not *in* them? How they respond to that depends on how God will continue to deal with them. If they come along and come to church once or twice and they're gone, and they didn't go any further than that.

- Has God necessarily given up on them? *We don't know!*
- Can the Spirit of God be *with* them? *Yes, the Spirit of God, I think, will be with them as long as they respond to God!*

***If they don't respond to God, I think it will be withdrawn.***

- What if they go through several sessions there, where then they really *come to themselves*? *I'm sure the Spirit of God will come back to be with them!*

But the Spirit of God is not *in* a person until they have repented, have been baptized, receive the laying on of hands and then the Spirit of God is *within* the individual as a begettall and the mind of Christ. We will see two functions of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him." God is love and wants to be loved. Therefore, God will continue working with an individual until they come to that point.

Verse 23: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My

Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” What is an *abode*? A *dwelling place*! When you come to that point of receiving the Holy Spirit that ***you become a temple of God!*** That’s what you are! That’s what’s important!

Verse 24: “The one who does not love Me does not keep My words...” Obviously the Holy Spirit is going to leave.

Let’s see what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning our bodies. When that happens, when the Holy Spirit comes *into* us we now have the abode of Christ and the Father. It says *WE* will come and make *OUR* abode with you—which means *in you!*

1-Corinthians 3:16: “Don’t you understand that you are God’s temple, and *that* the Spirit of God is dwelling in you?... [His abode is *within* you!] ...If anyone defiles the temple of God... [his body] ...God shall destroy him because the temple of God is Holy, ***which temple you are***” (vs 16-17). That’s the key important thing. You’ve then become a temple of God, for God to live *in you*.

How is that done? We will see that in order to accomplish this, there are two functions of the Holy Spirit. There is one Holy Spirit but two functions of it. One we will see is the function that Christ does. The other is the function of the Father, which He does.

Romans 8:9: “However, you are not in *the* flesh, but in *the* Spirit, if ***the Spirit of God*** is indeed dwelling within you. But if anyone does not have ***the Spirit of Christ***, he does not belong to Him.” Notice that we have two things:

1. the Spirit of God
2. the Spirit of Christ

That shows two aspects of the Holy Spirit. First of all, the Holy Spirit comes to those who are seeking God and is *with* them. When they repent and are baptized and receive the laying on of hands, then the Holy Spirit is *in* them, and they become the temple of God, because God the Father and Jesus Christ—through the power of the Holy Spirit—is ***dwelling in them!***

Verse 10<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup>: “But if Christ be ***within*** you... [that’s the function of Christ, the mind of Christ, the function of Christ] ...the body is indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Now, if the ***Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus*** from *the* dead is dwelling ***within*** you...” (vs 10-11).

We’re talking about two aspects of the Spirit: Spirit of Christ that dwells in you; and the Spirit of “...Him Who raised Jesus from the dead...” What does that do? *There are two distinct functions of the Holy Spirit!*

“...He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you” (v 11). What is that called? What is the function of that?

Verse 12: “So then, brethren, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to *the* flesh; because if you are living according to *the* flesh, you shall die; but if by *the* Spirit... [this is using the power of the Spirit *within* you] ...you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live. For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God**” (vs 12-14). The whole function of the Holy Spirit is *to lead us*. There are two aspects of this that we will see.

### 1. **The Function of Christ:**

Let’s look at the function of Christ, which is the mind of Christ. It is something that you have to yield to, want and desire. God is not going to force it upon you. As we started out He set choices before us.

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus.” We are to have the mind of Christ. How do we have the mind of Christ?

- by studying His Word!
- by living by His Word!
- by thinking with the Word of God!

That’s when you begin really maturing spiritually; when you use the Scriptures that are in your mind because you’ve studied it and it has become part of you. Then you think with the Scriptures! Then you have the mind of Christ. That’s the function that comes from Christ.

Part of what I am covering here I’ve covered in a little different way. That is the worse translated verse in the King James. Notice that it did not say to have the mind of the Father. It said to have the mind of Christ. Nevertheless, Christ said that ‘we will come and make Our abode—or dwelling place—with the one who loves God.

### 2. **The Function of the Father:**

What is the function of the Spirit that comes from the Father? Unfortunately, in the *King James Version* is where a lot of difficulties and problems come. This is the false doctrine of Protestantism that once you are converted you are *born again*.

1-John 3:9 (*KJV*): “Whosoever is born of God ***does not*** commit sin; for his seed remains in him: and he ***cannot*** sin, because he is born of God.” Wait a minute! If that’s true, why do we have:

1-John 1:9<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup>: “If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” If you cannot sin, why do you

have to confess your sins? It's an absolute contradiction!

1-John 5:16 "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *that is* not unto death..." If you cannot sin, if you are converted, then how can you see a brother sin a sin which not a sin unto death? It's totally contradictory. It doesn't make any sense at all. The reason is 1-John 3 is not properly translated—that's why!

A sin that is a sin not unto death is any sin that is not the unpardonable sin, any sin that can be repented of "...he shall ask, and He will give him life for those who do not sin unto death..." (v 16).

When young people have left the Church and have forsaken God, have they sinned a sin unto death? *You don't know!* So, you pray for them that they come back. Pray for them that God would work in their lives, whatever it may be, to have them come to him or her self. Then they can come back to God.

"...he shall ask, and He will give him life for those who do not sin unto death. There is a sin unto death; concerning that *sin*, I do not say that he should make *any* supplication *to God*" (v 16). How do we understand 1-John 3:9?

Let's come right through this so we understand it, 1-John 3:4 (KJV): "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

A more precise translation, v 4 (FV): "Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. And you know that He appeared in order that He might take away our sins; and **in Him is no sin**. Everyone who dwells in Him does not *practice* sin..." (vs 4-6). The verb in v 4, *practicing*, carries down into the meaning of v 6: *does not practice sin!*

"...anyone who *practices* sin has not seen Him, nor has known Him. Little children, do not allow anyone to deceive you; the one who **practices righteousness** is righteous, even as He is righteous. The one who **practices sin** is of the devil because the devil has been sinning from *the* beginning. For this purpose the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil. **Everyone who has been begotten by God...**" (vs 6-9)—the receiving of the Holy Spirit. The begettal comes from *the Father!* That is the action of the Holy Spirit on the Father's part. It is a begettal, because you are going to be His children at the resurrection.

Verse 9: "Everyone who has been **begotten** by God does not practice sin because His seed of *begettal* is dwelling within him... [Why can you not practice sin?]: ...and he is not able to *practice* sin **because he has been begotten by God.**" God's Spirit convicts you of sin—right?

Maybe for a time you can deceive yourself and think you're getting away with sin. But sooner or later you're going to *come to yourself* and *understand that you cannot practice sin!* **If you truly have the Spirit of God you cannot practice sin!** You can sin, but you can't live in sin as a way of life.

- God's Spirit is there to ensure that.
- God's Spirit is there to give you the mind of Christ
- God's Spirit is there to retain the begettal of the Holy Spirit

***so that you can become the children of God!***

That's why this verse has led to a lot of problems, especially with Protestants who like to say, 'When you're born again you cannot sin, so therefore, you don't have to worry about the Law.' It doesn't mean that at all.

Verse 9, again: "Everyone who has been begotten by God does not practice sin because His seed... ['sperma' in the Greek] ...*of begettal* is dwelling within him, and he is not able to *practice* sin because he has been begotten by God. By this *standard* are manifest the children of God and the children of the devil. Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother" (vs 9-10). This is to develop in us.

Let's look at that. The function of the Holy Spirit—which comes from God—it performs that which brings you to become the children of God. When do you become the children of God literally? *At the resurrection!* That's when your mortal bodies shall be changed from flesh to spirit. Be fashioned like His glorious body.

Romans 8:11: "Now, if the Spirit of Him... [from the Father] ...Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you... [that's the begettal] ...He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you." Therefore, the function of the Spirit by the Father is for the begettal and then for the change at the resurrection.

This gives us a better understanding of how God deals with people in the world. If anyone is seeking God, He'll send one of the seven spirits to keep tabs on what he's doing. The Spirit of God can come and be with that individual—not *in* them. If they respond to God then the Spirit of God will continue to lead them. God will lead them to repentance. If they reject it and go the other way, the Spirit of God will be withdrawn from them. They have not been called unto salvation. They have been exposed to Truth, but because they were not willing to believe and obey, therefore, God's Spirit could not remain with them to lead them to repentance. Maybe

that will happen again at a later time, we don't know.

Once we have been baptized and received the Holy Spirit as a begettal we are in a different category with God—we are *His begotten children*. It is the Father Who has caused this to be. That's why when we baptize, we baptize *into the name of the Father*, because He is the One Who sends the Holy Spirit of begettal. And *of Christ*—not into the name of Christ—because it's through His crucifixion and resurrection that we can have forgiveness of sin, and *of the Holy Spirit* because the Holy Spirit is to lead us. Then the person is baptized. All of this together in the name of Christ.

Now then, we are in a different category than the rest of the world. We are not *of* the world, as Christ said. We live in the world—sometimes we wish we didn't have to, but we do—but *we are not of the world*. Therefore, we are in a constant battle against the world and against self, and that expends *spiritual energy*! That's why you need to constantly be renewed, constantly need to stir up the Spirit of God within you.

What we need to remember is that this came as a spiritual blessing from God the Father. Stop and think how great it is, what a marvelous blessing that it is that *you are the children of God*! That's a little hard to fathom, because of the limitations of our mind. Therefore, God has guaranteed that you will have a spiritual body by the very fact that you now have a physical body. You're walking around with your guarantee all the time.

Here's why we're in a different category, Ephesians 1:3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things* with Christ.” We're not in heavenly places now, but we've been blessed with part of the heavenlies with the Holy Spirit of God.

Verse 4: “According as He has personally chosen us for Himself... [Isn't that interesting? God had this plan all ready] ...before *the* foundation of the world...” But because He sets before us choices, we respond to God—many are called, few are chosen because few repent. Once we repent, receive the Holy Spirit of God, then here is what He has done.

“...in order that we might be **Holy and blameless before Him in love**; having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will” (vs 4-5). Maybe you never thought of it before, but God has looked down upon you and called you “...according to His good pleasure...” He has! Every one of us!

What is the pleasure of God for us going to be? That's something— isn't it? Here's the Being that John said twice: *God is love*! He loved us first

and manifested His Son Jesus Christ. Therein is the love of God shown to us.

How many people respond back to God with the love of God that they need? With the love of God that God desires? *With all your heart, mind, soul, being!* That's what God wants. There can be nothing greater in this life that you can do than that. That includes keeping His commandments. That includes everything that He desires to do. That God can have pleasure in us. Isn't that something? ***He's called us for His own good pleasure! According to His own will!***

Maybe you've never thought of it this way. ***God the Father Himself has chosen you!*** The Supreme Being of the universe has reached down in your life to call you and to give you His Spirit that you can be in His kingdom! That takes a lifetime to really come to grasp the full meaning of that.

It's going to be, v 6: “To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*.” That's what imputed righteousness is all about. God looks upon us as He looks upon Christ. That's something—isn't it? That's why we go daily to have our sins forgiven. That's why God wants us to be loving, to be forgiving, to be kind—because that's what God is!

There's a time when we stand for the Truth. There's a time when we give no quarter to anybody or anything because we are defending the Truth and standing for God. That in effect is showing supreme love for God, because you're going to stand against the enemy. That's what Christ did—didn't He? *Yes, He did!*

Verse 7: “In Whom we have redemption through His blood, *even* the remission of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” That's a constant, ongoing thing, brethren. You always have access to the throne of God in heaven above through Jesus Christ. You always have access to the forgiveness of sins upon repentance. That's what we need to really grasp in this whole thing of our relationship with God.

Verse 8: “Which He has made to abound toward us in all wisdom and intelligence; having made known to us the mystery of His own will...” (vs 8-9). How many know the true plan of God? I imagine if you asked even a lot of religious people they wouldn't know. If you ran a survey in a shopping mall and asked, “What do you think God's purpose is?” I don't think anyone would say to *create His Family through mankind!*

- How's He going to do it? *God has a plan!*
- How do we know what it is? *It's laid out in the Bible and structured by the Holy Days!*

Amazing thing! It is the mystery or the secret of His will. That's how much God loves you, that He's brought you into His confidence so much that He has revealed His secret plan to you, to me, to all those that He calls regardless of where they are. Isn't that a marvelous thing? All of that is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"...according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself; that in *the Divine* plan for the fulfilling of *the* times, He might bring all things together in Christ, both the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth; yes, in Him, in Whom we also have obtained an inheritance..." (vs 9-11).

Let's talk about the inheritance a little bit. I was talking to a man recently and he said that he received an inheritance, because one of his relatives died. What did he get? *He got something!* It was not an empty envelope with ethereal POOF! It was substance. God has prepared the universe for His Family. It's going to be a literal inheritance.

- Did God give the inheritance of the land to the descendants according to His promise? *Yes, He did!*
- Was it real substance? *Yes, it was!*
- Are spiritual things of greater substance than physical things?
- In inheriting the Kingdom of God and in living in New Jerusalem, is that not being blessed with substance greater than our mind can really fully grasp at this point?

Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God.... [let the Spirit of God lead you] ...Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father.'" (vs 14-15). Isn't that something? You can call God the Father, *Daddy*—a term of endearment.

Verse 16: "The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God." Remember, God is preparing for us. Jesus said, 'If I go, I will come again. In My Father's house are many abodes and I go to prepare a place for you, that when I come I will receive you to Myself.' God is working, preparing that. That's why He wants us to work to prepare, in reciprocal fashion, *spiritually* in our lives so that when we receive the inheritance that He has prepared for us, we will be fully equipped to handle it. It's an inheritance.

Verse 17: "Now, if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him. For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that shall be revealed in us.... [That's quite a thing—isn't it?]

...The earnest expectation of the creation itself is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God." (vs 17-19). When it gets down to it, you need to realize this: ***the destiny of the world also depends upon you as a son or daughter of God!***

That's why God wants you to do it *His* way. That's why God does not want you out trying to correct the world through politics and elections and militia today. The Kingdom of God is not here. If it were then we would fight. When it does come we will fight, and we will be equipped.

Ephesians 1: 11: "Yes, in Him, in Whom we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestinated according to His purpose, Who is working out all things according to the counsel of His own will... [Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven; not my will by Your will] ...that we might be to *the* praise of His glory, who first trusted in the Christ" (vs 11-12). That's a hard one for me to comprehend, that we should be "...to *the* praise of His glory, who first trusted in the Christ."

In other words, what God is doing with those that He calls and gives the Holy Spirit to, **"...be the children and inheritors of His plan. That it is going to 'be to *the* praise of His glory...'" (v 12).**

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter (except where noted)

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:11-16
- 2) Psalm 78:17-42
- 3) Deuteronomy 30:17-20
- 4) Luke 15:11-32
- 5) Luke 7:36-50
- 6) Revelation 5:6
- 7) 2 Chronicles 15:1-2
- 8) Ezekiel 33:7-11
- 9) 2 Chronicles 15:3-7, 15, 19
- 10) 2 Chronicles 16:7-9
- 11) John 14:15-17, 21, 23-24
- 12) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- 13) Romans 8:9-14
- 14) Philippians 2:5
- 15) 1 John 3:9
- 16) 1 John 1:9
- 17) 1 John 5:16
- 18) 1 John 3:4-10
- 19) Romans 8:11
- 20) Ephesians 1:3-11
- 21) Romans 8:14-19
- 22) Ephesians 1:11-12

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 2
- Psalm 22

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