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our wonderful guest

The Holy Spirit



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HOW TO RECEIVE JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOUR

If God has been speaking to you as you have read this booklet and if you are willing now to take Jesus Christ as your Saviour, here is what you should do:

Confess – tell God in your own simple words that you are a sinner, needing a Saviour. (Read Romans 3:23)

Accept – tell God that you see Jesus Christ your only Saviour and will accept Him now. (Read Romans 6:23)

Believe – that Jesus Christ has saved you because you asked Him to do so. (Read Romans 10:13)

If you have made this decision today then sign your name here and tell someone else what you have done. Join a church where you can hear God's Word preached and have fellowship with other believers.

I acknowledge myself to be a sinner in God's sight.

I accept Jesus Christ now as my Saviour.

I thank Him for saving me.

our wonderful guest
The Holy Spirit



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS WORK IN OUR LIVES

What would you say is your biggest difficulty as a believer in Jesus Christ? Is it just to simply live for Christ day by day? Is your biggest problem witnessing for Christ? Are you living a defeated life instead of knowing victory in Christ? Do you realise that God the Father has given you the Holy Spirit to live in your heart to help you with these problems? The truth is that it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can live the Christian life day by day. He takes the full and complete salvation Christ purchased for us and applies it to our daily experience. In other words, the Holy Spirit was sent to make **real** to us all that Christ made **possible** for us through His death and resurrection.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WHAT IS HE LIKE?

We need to be clear in our minds just who the Holy Spirit is as well as what He does. The Bible tells us about both. The various names given to the Holy Spirit in the Bible reveal something of His personality and character. The first truth that we need to grasp is that the Holy Spirit is a person. Sadly, there are still Christians who refer to the Spirit as “it” thinking of Him as some kind of impersonal force or influence, not unlike electricity. However, the Bible makes it clear that the Holy Spirit has the attributes of a person as well as being able to be treated like a person.

SOME WAYS IN WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS IN US AND FOR US

1. He convicts – John 16:8-11
2. He regenerates us – John 3:3-5
3. He baptises us into the Body of Christ – 1 Corinthians 12:13
4. He prays for us – Romans 8:26,27
5. He seals us – Ephesians 1:13,14
6. He sanctifies us – Romans 15:16
7. He indwells us – 1 Corinthians 6:19
8. He fills us – Ephesians 5:18
9. He guides us – John 16:13
10. He teaches us – John 14:26
11. He illuminates God’s Word and our minds – Ephesians 1:17,18
12. He produces fruit in us – Galatians 5:22,23
13. He gives gifts to us – 1 Corinthians 12:8-11
14. He strengthens us – Ephesians 3:16

SOME NAMES OF THE SPIRIT

1. The Spirit of God – Romans 8:9
2. The Spirit of Christ – Romans 8:9
3. The Holy Spirit – Luke 11:13
4. The Spirit of holiness – Romans 1:4
5. The Spirit of truth – John 16:13
6. The Spirit of the Lord – Isaiah 11:2
7. The Spirit of Life – Romans 8:2
8. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord – Isaiah 11:2
9. The Spirit of Grace – Hebrews 10:29
10. The Spirit of sonship – Romans 8:15
11. The eternal Spirit – Hebrews 9:14
12. The Counsellor – John 14:16

Look up these references and ask yourself why that title was used in that particular situation and what it can mean for you.

This will become more evident as you read further in this booklet.

The Holy Spirit is called the “*eternal Spirit*” (Hebrews 9:14) and is often referred to as the “*Spirit of God*” (Romans 8:9). Perhaps His most familiar title, “*the Holy Spirit*”, tells us more than any other name that is used. “Holy” immediately suggests holiness, purity, cleansing and uniqueness. The Hebrew and Greek words for “Spirit” are often translated as “breath” or “wind” in other places in the Bible. This reminds us that He is the Unseen One, the presence of God within us who does not draw attention to Himself but to Jesus Christ.

The Bible clearly tells us that the Holy Spirit lives within every believer. He enters our lives when Christ enters at the time when we become believers. No one needs to plead with Him to come in.

The doctrine of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit), means we can't just have a part of God resident within us. In John 14 we are taught that the Father and the Son will come and live within us (v.23) as will the Holy Spirit (v.17). Do not allow anyone to take that truth from you or cast doubts on it. Please read and believe these verses: 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19; John 4:13-15; Romans 8:9b. Notice the strong words of that last reference: “*If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ*”.

Christ living in us makes all the other work of the Holy Spirit possible and is part of the birthright of every child of God.

WHAT IS HIS WORK AND WHEN DO WE FIRST MEET HIM?

The simplest way to describe the first work of the Holy Spirit in a life is to compare it to a person looking for a place to live. That is the concept given to us in 1 Corinthians 6:19; *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”*

When do we first meet the Holy Spirit? When He comes knocking at the door of our lives. We may not know that the voice we hear is the Holy Spirit telling us of our need of a Saviour. However, later we can look back and recognise that He was the one who spoke to us at that time.

It is like being in a crowd, perhaps at someone’s home, where you began talking to the person alongside you without knowing who they were. Later your host or hostess said “I’d like to introduce you to Mr. So-and-so.” You replied, “Well, we haven’t actually met, but we’ve been talking together.” You felt you already knew that person although you did not know his name. After being introduced you could continue your conversation more intelligently.

HOW CAN WE YIELD TO HIM?

You say, “What must we do? How can we yield to the Holy Spirit?” You can do it now, but even that is not sufficient. It is a daily, hourly yielding to the Holy Spirit, moment by moment allowing Him to have His way in our hearts.

May I give you a word of personal testimony? Years ago when I was thinking very much about the work of the Holy Spirit in my life I heard a man of God say that he had learned the secret. Every morning he prayed: “Lord Jesus, I yield myself to you for this day, so that your Holy Spirit might have His way in me just for today.” I decided that I would try to follow his example and pray that same prayer myself each morning. It has meant a great deal to me to do so.

I still haven’t “arrived” but I believe **that** prayer has made more difference in my life than anything else. I recommend it to you.

Resolve now to begin each day with a prayer as suggested. Then let Him maintain that attitude moment by moment through the day. Will you try it? It will make all the difference, as the Holy Spirit within you is able, day by day, to do what He came to do. **TRY IT! TRY IT NOW! TRY IT TODAY!**

stops revealing Christ and instead concentrates on revealing sin to the heart until repentance is produced.”

When the Spirit is grieved the Bible will lose its freshness and prayer will lose its joy. We are dependent on the Spirit for illumination in study and for inspiration in prayer. When we grieve Him, He is compelled to stop those ministries.

Victory over sin becomes less and less frequent. The reality of Christ fades. Assurance is replaced by doubt. Power in service is absent.

We will know when we grieve the Spirit because He wants us to know it. He also wants us to know that through repentance His fellowship can be restored.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

If we have grieved Him, what then? *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). Remember, the Holy Spirit never goes away. In one sense, our wilfulness drives Him deeper into our lives where His presence can no longer be seen. He remains in hope of the cloud being rolled away by our confession, repentance and restoration.

If we really want His fullness, here is where we must begin! First repentance, then the complete surrender and yielding of our wills to the Holy Spirit so that He can continue His mighty work in us and through us.

When we first meet the Holy Spirit we may not know His name, and we certainly do not know the Saviour of whom He speaks. John 16:8 tells us, *“When He comes He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin...”* Why? He will convict of sin, because the world does not believe in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. This brings us to another activity of the Holy Spirit.

HIS CONVICTING WORK

The Holy Spirit comes to the person concerned and says “You are a sinner in the sight of God and you need a Saviour. You need Jesus Christ”. But He not only speaks about sin, He always points to Jesus Christ who alone can save us from our sin and its consequences.

Here is a remarkable principle: When we accept what He has said, then the Holy Spirit goes on with His divine work. In fact, until we do accept what He has said, He can go no further. The principle remains the same all through our Christian life. He may reveal to us as a Christian a particular truth which has an application to our lifestyle. The Holy Spirit says to us, “Will you accept this truth?” Until we say “yes” He cannot go on with His work of changing our lives so that we become more like Jesus. So the first words we hear from the Holy Spirit are spoken as He comes to us convincing us of our sin and our need of a Saviour.

WHAT KIND OF RECEPTION IS HE GIVEN?

When the Holy Spirit knocks at the door of a life, He often receives all kinds of excuses – just as you might if you were looking for a place to stay. Some places you visit are full already and have no vacancy. At other places the people are too busy to talk to you. “Come back some other time” they say. Or still in other places you find there are certain conditions which would prevent you from living there.

So it often is with the Holy Spirit. He finds many hearts already full and He discovers they have no room at all for Jesus Christ. He goes to another life and says “Have you any room for Jesus?” They may say “We are too busy just now. Come back some other time.” And so the excuses go on.

HIS CRISIS WORK

But now and again a person says, “Yes I know I am a sinner. I know I need Jesus Christ. He is what I need to save me. I surrender to Him and receive Him now. I invite Him into my life”. The door is opened, Jesus Christ comes in and that person is born again.

A long list could be made of all that takes place when Christ is invited to be the Lord or Master of a human life. In John 3:3-8, the Lord Jesus was speaking concerning being born again, born of the Spirit or born from above. When we turn our

you will see that there are a number of ways that our attitudes, words and behaviour can grieve the Spirit. These prevent Him, or work against Him, doing the work He wants to do in our hearts.

We are often stubborn and unyielding. We are sinful and wilful. His heart is grieved as He sees us living on a spiritual level far below that which He has planned and to which He wants to lift us. He has planned for us a life of victory. We grieve Him when we live in defeat. He has planned a life of service and witnessing. We grieve Him when we turn aside. Anything short of the Spirit's plan is a grief to Him.

The Holy Spirit seeks to lead us forward, but because the pathway of devotion and consecration is always by the way of the Cross, we draw back. That way would mean the giving up of our own will.

But while “self” is on the throne of our heart, Christ is not! When Christ is on the throne, “self” is on the Cross. This is what the Holy Spirit wants to make real to us every day!

How do we know that He is grieved? It will not be difficult to tell. Our whole life will be affected. Our sense of fellowship and communion with the Lord will be lost. The Holy Spirit will have to stop His work of developing the character of Christ in us and go back to His first work again, that of convicting us of sin. As has been said, “He

How can we keep filled? Our responsibility is to abide, to remain in fellowship with Christ and in obedience to His Word. The wonder is that the Spirit will do this in us if we will only yield to Him.

Our yielding should be a daily act, a continuing act. Every morning, let us make ourselves available to Him in sincere surrender and He will maintain us and fill us that day for the glory and praise of Christ.

The Holy Spirit **wants** to fill us. He wants to take full and absolute control of our hearts. He wants to feel that every part of our lives belongs to Him, no matter what the cost, and that He can do what He wants and reproduce Jesus Christ in our hearts.

WHAT ABOUT GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Here is another command to each believer: *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”* (Ephesians 4:30). Do you know what this means? The word “grieve” means to cause sorrow of heart. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said, “There is no word in the New Testament which more clearly and beautifully reveals the tenderness of the heart of God”.

God uses this word to teach us that it is possible for a child of His, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, to cause sorrow to His heart. How? If you check the context of Ephesians 4 (especially vs.25-32),

lives over to the authority of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes down upon us as well as into our lives and we are born again, regenerated, or born from above.

We are also accepted into the family of God and are given new life in Christ. All of this is the work of the Holy Spirit. In that instant, as we have said, He takes up His permanent residence in our lives.

This is the beginning of His living in us and He remains in our hearts until He takes us home to Heaven. Even though we may grieve Him or disobey Him, the Holy Spirit never leaves a life once He has entered.

Jesus Christ said that the Holy Spirit is “The Spirit of Truth....to abide with you forever”. This truth is repeatedly taught throughout the New Testament but we are slow to understand it. The Holy Spirit lives in every life that has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour. 1 John 4:13 reads: “We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us His Spirit.”

There are many other aspects of the Holy Spirit’s work which can be included as part of His initial “crisis” ministry.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE SPIRIT DO?

Every newly born believer is **baptised** by the Spirit into the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says: *“For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body.”* The Holy Spirit takes every new convert and “baptises” them or “places” them into the Body of Christ in such a deep and eternal way that the only term which can be used to describe such action is the word “baptise” or “immerse”. To put it simply, the Holy Spirit entered my life at the time of my conversion and I entered the Body of Christ. This latter action is clearly shown from 1 Corinthians 12:13 to be the baptism of or by the Spirit.

Every believer is also **sealed** by the Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 states: *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* By this action we are stamped with the sign of God’s ownership, a mark which remains until we are taken home to Heaven. The very presence of the Spirit in our life and the resulting changes is God’s distinguishing seal or proof that we are His.

WHAT IS HIS CONTINUING WORK?

After His initial or crisis work, what does the Holy Spirit do in a life that belongs to Christ? In what way does He continue His ministry?

1. The Holy Spirit will help us grow

The Holy Spirit wants to create and maintain those conditions under which our new life in

the Holy Spirit after years of failure and defeat. It is possible to be filled again, after having lost the blessing. Being filled with the Spirit is meant to be an ongoing, continuous experience. It is possible to be filled with the Spirit now.

How? First, there must be the **desire**: *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst.....for they will be filled”*. How strong is our desire? Many Christians do not want any more than they have now. Do we really want to be filled by the Spirit and be controlled by His presence?

How does a man become a drunkard? By thirsting and then drinking, drinking, drinking. Nothing else will satisfy him. How does a man become Spirit-filled? By thirsting and then drinking. *“If any man thirsts.....”*

Second, there must be a thorough **confession** of all known sin in accordance with 1 John 1:9, and a confession of your need of the Spirit’s filling.

Third, **abandon** yourself to Christ. Our free-will must be surrendered. The Spirit must be allowed to enthrone Christ and apply the principles and meaning of the Cross to our life.

Fourth, **ask and accept**. Tell God you want the filling of the Holy Spirit, and then believe He has been faithful and has done His part also. Trust Him even if you do not feel any difference. When we have fulfilled God’s conditions, we may confidently expect God to fulfil His part.

THE CLEAR COMMAND OF GOD: BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Every believer *has the Holy Spirit residing within them* (1 Corinthians 6:19). Every believer is *baptised by the Holy Spirit* (1 Corinthians 12:13). Every believer is *sealed by the Holy Spirit* (Ephesians 4:30). But what is most needed is that *every believer should be filled by the Holy Spirit* (Ephesians 5:18).

This is not only the personal need of our heart (if we are honest), but it is the command of God. Ephesians 5:18 contains two commands: *“Do not get drunk on wine,.....Instead, be filled with the Spirit”*. We are horrified by the possibility of the first part – that we should ever become drunk. Are we as horrified by the possibility of our not fulfilling the second part?

The fullness of the Holy Spirit means *full control by the Spirit*. It is allowing the Spirit to exercise the authority and power of Jesus in every part of our lives. It will mean Christ being glorified in every area and in every act of service. It is the answer to our need and also the fulfilment of God’s purpose in us.

HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE THIS ‘FULLNESS’?

It is possible to be filled with the Spirit of God from the very first moment of conversion. That is God’s plan. It is also possible to be filled with

Christ can grow. *“He will bring glory to me.....”*, said Jesus Christ (John 16:14). This is the goal or mission of the Holy Spirit; to change our lives so that we live for the glory of Jesus.

He is the Spirit of holiness, so He will teach us holy living. He is the Spirit of power, so He will teach us what the resurrection life of Christ within us can mean in daily living. Romans 8:2 says *“Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death”*. This means that the Holy Spirit enables us to be all that God calls us to be and to do all that God calls us to do. Our power and our spiritual growth will be measured by how much we surrender to the Holy Spirit living in us.

2. The Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26,27)

Here is one of the most encouraging aspects of the Spirit’s present ministry. Often we do not know how to pray. Or it may be that physical or emotional weakness makes it difficult for us to pray. But the Holy Spirit not only knows our condition, He knows the will and mind of God. Therefore He intercedes for us as well as helping us in our prayer life. This is often the explanation as to why many good things happen in our lives - the Holy Spirit intercedes (prays) on our behalf.

3. The Holy Spirit witnesses with our Spirit (Romans 8:15-17)

Again this is part of His continuing ministry. He works to produce assurance in our hearts that we are God's child. The Bible itself is the ground of our assurance, but those who know Jesus Christ as Saviour also know the quiet peace which comes as the Spirit of God witnesses with our spirit. That witness is subjective, hard to describe but the true believer knows the experience of it.

4. The Holy Spirit will develop Christ in us

The Holy Spirit comes to reproduce the character of Jesus Christ within us and to make the Lordship of Christ (His authority as our King) a reality in every area and experience of our lives.

The apostle Paul often spoke of this particular work of the Spirit. He told the Galatians of his great hope that Christ might be "*formed in them*" (Galatians 4:19). He told the Christians in Rome that it is God's continuing purpose that we should be "*conformed to the likeness of His Son*" (Romans 8:29).

He wrote to the Corinthians that the work of the Spirit is to change us day by day into the likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Each gift given to each member is part of the whole, and we must clearly understand the teaching of 1 Corinthians 12 on this point. Read and study it for yourself.

How do you discover your gift?

First, accept the truth that every Christian has at least one gift (or cluster of gifts), therefore you must have one.

Then ask the Lord to show you what it is. Ask your friends who know you best what they have observed. Ask your church for opportunities to test what friends have said or what you believe you might like to do for Christ. Be available. What do you enjoy doing? Is that your gift? Listen to what your church may say about you and what it thinks you can do. If you knew it was not possible to fail, what would you attempt to do for God and what gift or gifts would you need to do that?

Remember, gifts are to be used. And they are to be used to help others, not to bring glory to yourself. Nor should their use create jealousy or pride in any believer.

We will be held accountable to the Lord for our use or lack of use of these wonderful spiritual tools and also how they are used. They are to be used in line with the character of the Giver – the Spirit of love and peace.

One suggested division of the lists of these gifts in the Epistles (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and 1 Peter 4) is “speaking gifts”, “serving gifts” and “sign gifts”.

No list could be final, but if we divided the gifts mentioned in the above chapters, the lists could look something like this:

Speaking or supports gifts: Preaching, teaching, pastor, evangelist, knowledge, wisdom, counselling, exhortation, faith.

Serving gifts: Administration or organising, serving, helping, giving, mercy, hospitality.

Sign gifts: Tongues and interpretation, healing, miracles, exorcism.

Some gifts are clearly seen today, such as pastoring, teaching, (or the gift of speaking wisdom and knowledge) encouraging, evangelising, helping, administration, leadership and faith.

The “sign gifts” or “miraculous gifts” are those which cause the most difficulty and division. Christians may today have genuine gifts along these lines, but that does not mean that everyone must have the same gift. Part of the wonder of the Body of Christ is its diversity yet its marvellous unity.

This is the distinct, unique work of the Holy Spirit. But you say “doesn’t Christ already live in our lives?” Yes, He does. Then how can He be “formed within us?”

Let’s illustrate it like this: You know how a chicken develops in an egg. At first it is only a tiny speck within the egg. But given the right conditions and provided these are constantly maintained, that speck will begin to develop into an embryo. Then as time passes the chicken is actually formed or developed within the shell until the whole of the inside of the egg is filled with a living chick. Then one day it breaks the shell and the chicken is revealed.

The word Paul uses “*formed*” (Galatians 4:19), describes such a remarkable development. So it is with the Holy Spirit. He forms within us the character of Christ, doing His work silently and faithfully, as we allow Him. We could say He wants to maintain the conditions under which this work can be carried on, always with one aim in view: the reproduction of Jesus Christ within the shell of our human life. That work will only be completed when we stand before Christ in glory.

Therefore, the true evidence of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in a human life is how much of Christ can be seen in that life. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the Unseen One. Christ said the Holy Spirit would not speak about

Himself but about Christ. He will always hold the spotlight on Christ, not on Himself.

5. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23)

Part of the Spirit's work in developing the character of Christ in lives is to produce fruit that actually is the characteristics of Christ Himself. Paul calls this the "*fruit of the Spirit*" or the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit. This fruit is not natural for us. Only the Spirit of God can produce it in our lives.

In nature some fruit takes a long time to form and ripen. Others may grow quickly. This may be true spiritually also, as our growth depends on how we allow the Spirit to do His work.

Each of the nine characteristics listed in Galatians 5 deserves our careful study. The first three (love, joy and peace) relate to our inner life. The second three (patience, kindness and goodness) are linked to our outward conduct. The final three (faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) refer to what we bring to our relationships with other people.

These characteristics of Christ will grow in our lives as we allow the Holy Spirit to produce them. It may take time, but growth is an essential part of the Christian experience.

WHAT ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

Every true Christian has the gift of the Holy Spirit. That gift comes from the Father Himself. But the New Testament also speaks of "gifts" given by the Spirit to all men and women within the Body of Christ. What are these gifts? Is the Holy Spirit still giving what He gave to the early church? What were they? Are they valid today?

Spiritual gifts are the divinely-inspired abilities or capacities given by the Spirit to each member of the Body of Christ to equip that member for a particular service or ministry within or through the Body, the Church. A gift of evangelism, of course, is for use beyond the Body, and it may be that other gifts (such as mercy or helps) are to be used in that way also. However, these capacities for service are given to be used for the benefit and blessing of the Church and not merely for the personal benefit of the believer involved.

How many gifts are there? About 28 are listed in the New Testament, but the Holy Spirit is infinite and may have many others. No two believers need to have the same gift. Part of the emphasis of Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 12 concerns the variety of these gifts of the Spirit given to believing men and women.