

## THE ATTRIBUTES, POWER, AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many times as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord we focus on preaching about things in the scriptures to help the body of Christ overcome earthly things, for example teaching people how to turn away from sin which causes hardships in peoples lives but today I will speak on the power of the Holy Spirit which has nothing to do with our own ability, strength or the will of man.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ working in every believer of Jesus Christ. Today we will look at some of the things the Lord is doing both in the believer and in the earth. Let's look at the characteristics or "character" of the Holy Spirit and what He does for every Christian who seeks the will of God and the infilling of the Holy Spirit of God in their life!

The Holy Spirit is given by God the Father to every believer in Jesus and only those who receive Jesus Christ can receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also called the "Spirit of truth" that comes to everyone who receives Jesus Christ, a non-believer does not have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to be with anyone who believes in Jesus and has received Jesus Christ as their Savior, and "He", the Holy Spirit will never leave anyone who abides in Jesus but we see in scripture that the Holy Spirit also wants to indwell or "live" inside believers of Jesus Christ!

**John 14:17** – *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be IN you.*

How come people who do not receive Jesus are not able to see the Holy Spirit? It is because the "god" of the world has blinded them that believe not.

### **2 Corinthians 4:**

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Every believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit of God in their lives, but with a certain measure. Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure. Jesus is our example and we should all desire the Holy Spirit of God with a greater increase.

**John 3: 34** For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him.*

The Holy Spirit is mentioned as a "person", or "He" in the masculine. He the Holy Spirit never speaks of his own will but only the will of God the Father. The Holy Spirit is also guiding those in Christ Jesus to "all truth" and also showing us things to come. The fact that the Holy Spirit is our "guide" we can trust and follow because the Holy Spirit is leading us into truths about God and his entire kingdom. The leading or guidance of the Holy Spirit will only reveal absolute truth if we of course allow Him to lead us, this involves a persons will to cooperate when He leads. The Holy Spirit "speaks" the perfect will of God into our lives but we must listen when He speaks so we can follow the Lord and his will.

**John 16:13** Howbeit when "**HE**", the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you** into all truth: for **he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear**, that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come.**

Every believer that follows the leading of the Holy Spirit will never come into condemnation before God the Father. Or the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who will not allow the Holy Spirit to lead them may experience "condemnation" because we read that only those who walk after the Holy Spirit are in "no

condemnation” while others who do not allow the leading of the Holy Spirit are led by their flesh and they mind the things of the flesh instead of the will of God. If a person refuses to mind the leading of the Holy Spirit they will not only experience condemnation but spiritual death because the scriptures are clear in that anyone who walks after the leading of their flesh, it will lead to carnal living which causes spiritual death. Death in scripture is defined as separation from God because the “wage” or “payment” for sinful carnal living is death, but being led by the Holy Spirit is “LIFE and PEACE”.

**Romans 8: 1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

There are two laws that God set into effect, one brings “*life and peace*” by being led by the Holy Spirit, and the other is the law of “*sin and death*” brings spiritual death...

**2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but “they that are after the Spirit” the things of the Spirit.**

The next two verses speaks about the carnal mind that is at war and opposed to a law called the “**law of God**”, this law of God brings life and peace, and the carnal mind could never be subject to the law of God meaning that we in our flesh cannot comprehend, accept, because it is opposed to God, and as a result of this no one in the flesh can please God because all that the carnal mind understands is the law of sin and death, but when we are led by the Holy Spirit we are led by the mind of God because as we’ve read in the gospel of John the Holy Spirit only speaks what He hears God speak, and so those who are led by the Spirit of God are being led by the “mind of Christ” and are pleasing to God even while they are in their flesh and not fulfilling the will of the flesh which is carnally minded and leads to death. The only way man can please God is to be “spiritually minded” which only comes from the Holy Spirit.

**6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

**7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

Any person who has received Jesus Christ speaks by the leading of the Holy Spirit and will never come against Jesus or his word given to us – The Bible, no one led by the Spirit will ever say or do things that would contradict the Spirit of God and His word. The ones led by the Holy Spirit will always exalt Jesus as their Lord and savior and love and believe in his word the Bible. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord and savior except they have the Holy Spirit in their lives. The Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost are the same person in all of the scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.**

Every person who has received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior should be seeking and asking God of more of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life. If we are sincerely seeking and asking God for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives, God will answer their prayer when they ask for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to live with us and in us!

**Luke 11: 9 - And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to**

**him that knocketh it shall be opened.** 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: **how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

When a person receives the Holy Spirit, then the Holy Spirit will live with them forever even when they leave this earth the Holy Spirit is with them and when they enter into heaven the Holy Spirit will also be present because when He comes into the believers life the Holy Spirit is with them throughout all eternity! God intends that the Holy Spirit live with his children forever. Jesus prayed to the Father to send the Holy Spirit to comfort believers who receive the Lord as their Savior and His Holy Spirit who can comfort them.

**John 14: 16** - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, **that he may abide with you for ever;**

When a person received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior the Holy Spirit comes to “SEAL” them into Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit desires to be in them as we’ve already learned, but The Holy Spirit can be grieved with anyone who is in Jesus Christ, in other words a person can make the Holy Spirit angry with them.

**Ephesians 4:30** - And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God,** whereby **ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

The Holy Spirit brings the glory of presence of God into our lives or wherever believers may gather. All throughout the Bible The Holy Spirit is mentioned because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Even in Genesis chapter one we learn that it was the “**Spirit of God**” that hovered over the face of the deep waters.

**Genesis 1: 1** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved** upon the face of the waters.

It is up to every individual to decide if they want to be led by the “Holy Spirit” or if they want to be led by their flesh which leads to sin that causes spiritual death and separation from God. In the book of Jude we are show the contrast between two types of people, the ones who are spotted by the flesh and carnal living, and those who persevere and are living a life of prayer in the Holy Ghost – The Holy Spirit.

**Jude 1 17** But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 How that they told you **there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.** 19 **These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.** 20 **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,** 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

How can we know for certain that the Holy Spirit is God? The answer is found in the words of Jesus when He said that **God is “Spirit”** and that the true worshipers “MUST” worship God in Spirit and in Truth, this is the way God must be worshiped and nit with religious acts that many are doing today.

**John 4:** 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when **the true worshippers shall worship the Father in “spirit” and in truth:** for **the Father seeketh such to worship him.** 24 **God is a Spirit:** and **they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

When Jesus was on earth he spoke about rivers flowing from within a person when the Holy Spirit is in them. Not a river of physical water, but a spiritual fountain that flows and moves from within a person that is filled with the Spirit of God. This river is living waters and comes from the Holy Spirit and not some spiritual gifting of a man. God himself moves upon a person and fills them from within their soul.

**John 7:** 37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 **(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive:** for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

After Jesus was glorified – (taken up into heaven), the Holy Spirit was sent to begin filling believers as in the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon those present and they got so “filled” with the Holy Spirit they began to speak in an unknown tongue and began to utter words in a language they did not speak but those who heard them speaking in tongues heard them speaking in their language. Those who heard them speak their own language thought that those believers in Jesus had been drunk with wine. Look closely at verse four, it was the Holy Spirit that gave them the words to utter and was actually speaking through them when they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, in other words they were not conjuring the words up or just speaking “mambo-jumbo” to look spiritual before those that were present as some are doing today to appear “spiritual” or something. It was “**The Holy Spirit**” speaking and giving the words being uttered.

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

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Does every believer in Jesus Christ have the Holy Spirit? The answer is yes because we already have learned in John 14:17 that the Holy Spirit comes to “be” with you when you receive Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit will be “in” you when you are filled with the Holy Spirit of God. We find clear evidence in scripture of this when we read about an account where Paul the Apostle meets twelve “believers” in Christ but were not filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was with these twelve because they were baptized with the baptism of water and as we’ve also learned in 1 Corinthians 12:3 no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost, so these twelve men had the Spirit of God guiding them and was with them but were not filled with the Holy Spirit, in other words the Holy Spirit was not

“poured into them” as in filling a cup of water in the human sense. These twelve had no idea that the Holy Spirit was wanting to fill them until they heard the Apostle Paul tell them about the indwelling Holy Spirit. The twelve heard and believed and were all filled with the Spirit of God.

**Acts 19:** 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. 7 And all the men were about twelve.

Blessed are those who hunger and “THIRST” Jesus said.

**Matthew 5:** 6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Why did Jesus say thirst? The reason is because there is a spiritual river of living waters flowing from the fountains of the throne room of God, and God wants his people filled with this water as Jesus told the woman at the well when he said these words to her. Spiritually speaking, the woman at the well is the people of God his bride the Church. When the people of God drink of the waters of life – “The Holy Spirit of God” they will never thirst again as we read in the gospel of John when Jesus spoke these words!

**John 4:** 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. 10 **Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? 12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? 13 **Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

The Spirit of God is still “moving” upon the earth today to convict people of sin. So much so that the scriptures reveal that God will pour out His Spirit upon all the earth. This out-pouring of the Holy Spirit is the Lord sending His very presence to individuals lives and gatherings where people meet who are seeking the Lord and His Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes into a persons life or into a church gathering, He – The Holy Spirit will always first do three things before the blessings of the Lord is given to anyone. The Holy Spirit of God is also referenced as “The Comforter”, these are the words Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit will do when He is comes. The Spirit of the Lord will reprove the word of sin, of righteousness, and judgment first and foremost.

**John 16:** 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, **the Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** 9 **Of sin, because**

**they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.**

Every believer should be seeking and asking God for the Holy Spirit and should have a deep desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit and when they are filled with the Holy Spirit they will want to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord, a life where they allow the Spirit of God to drive out sin from their life thus making them righteous before the Lord and not by their own righteousness because they are begin to be led by the Holy Spirit who will never lead anyone to a life of sin. No one is exempt for sin, all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God and are in need on the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and teach them the ways of the Lord.

**Conclusion:** Every believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit of God so they can overcome the price of this world “Satan”, and all the deceptions that the devil brings into a persons life. We all should desire to be filled with the Spirit of God and resist the spirit of the devil. The choice to follow the ways of the Lord and to be filled with the Holy Spirit is up to us individually to decide who we will serve. Do we continue following God with a carnal mind that leads to sin and death, or do will allow to be led by the Holy Spirit that leads to life and peace? Will we serve the god of this world Satan that is focused on the flesh and continually leading people to rebel against the Lord and to do evil? Or will we be filled with the Holy Spirit and desire to do the will of God in our lives by allowing the Lord by His Spirit to lead us by the mind of Christ to eternal life and peace?

Joshua addressed the children of Israel very boldly and clear for all to understand. Joshua asked the children of Israel who they were going to serve. He also puts them in remembrance of when their fathers served “other gods” they were in bondage and slavery. Being led by the Holy Spirit is the obedience that God wants for all His children and this leads to life and peace!

#### **Joshua 24:**

**14** Now **therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth:** and **put away the gods which your fathers served** on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; **and serve ye the LORD.** **15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. **16** And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; **17** For the LORD our God, he *it is* that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: **18** And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: *therefore* will we also serve the LORD; for he *is* our God. **19** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: **for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.** **20** **If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.** **21** And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD. **22** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye *are* witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, *We are* witnesses. **23** Now therefore put away, *said he,* the strange gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. **24** And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. **25** So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. **26** And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that *was* by the sanctuary of the LORD. **27** And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a

witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. [28](#) So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

After reading and understanding what we've just leaned in this study we must all ask ourselves the same question, who are we going to serve? Who are we going to allow to lead us? Will it be the Holy Spirit of God or other another god – the devil?

The first century Apostles were also faced with this same question of what to do? They realized that only through repentance of sin could those that heard them preach could receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## Acts 2

[37](#) Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, **what shall we do?** [38](#) Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** [39](#) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. [40](#) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.** [41](#) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

The Lord leaves the choice to decide who we serve up to all of us as individuals. I pray you choose repentance and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I also pray that the rivers of living water flow through your innermost being as Jesus taught in John 7:39

I hope this study has helped you better understand the will of God and the Holy Spirit of God!

Written by; Pastor Joel Martin – Open Heaven Christian Church – Fisher Arkansas.

