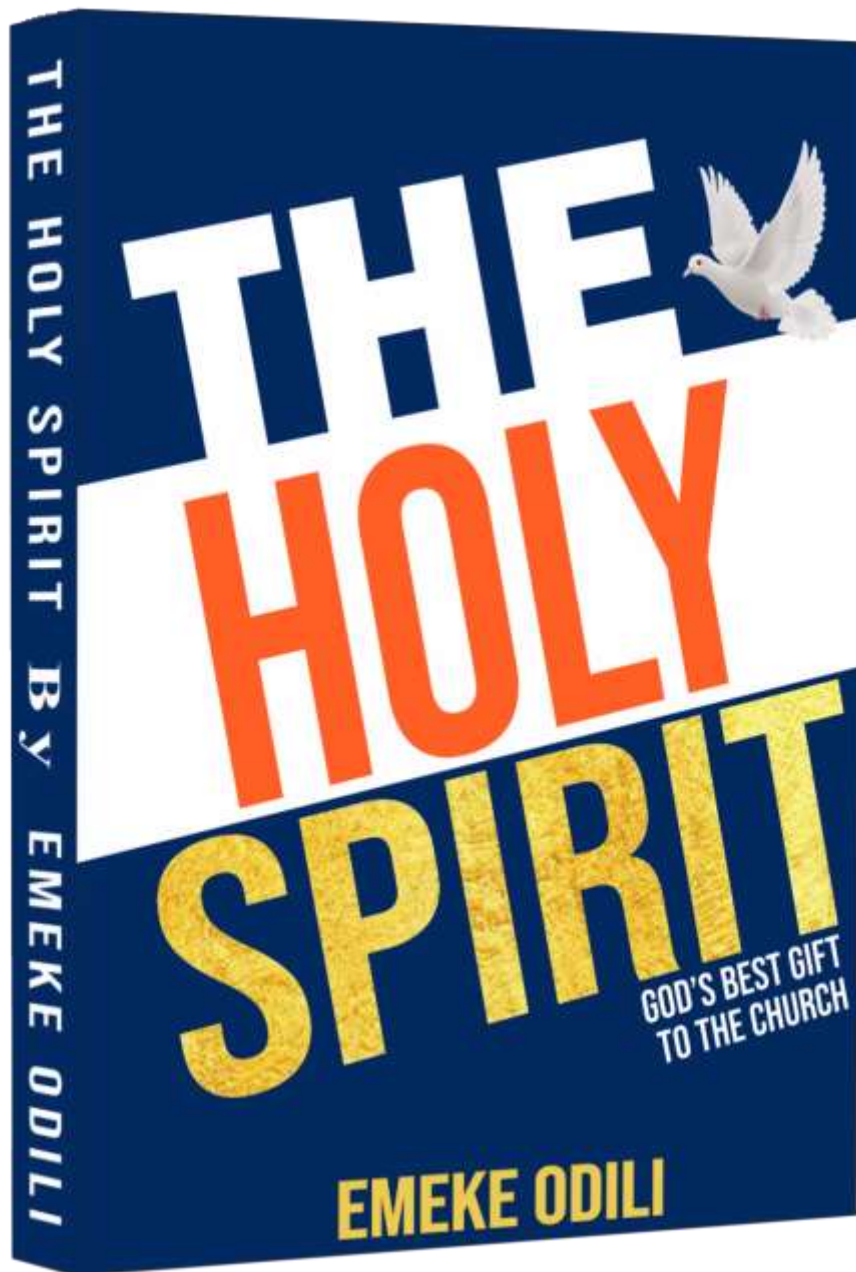




The Holy Spirit

God's Best Gift to The Church

Emeke Odili

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1 Introduction

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."—Acts 1:4-5

From the Lord Jesus' statements concerning the Holy Spirit in the scriptural text above, and in other scriptures, it can easily be understood that the Holy Spirit of God is the greatest and best gift, God promised and gave to us his children.

God's gift of the Holy Spirit to believers is a gift of himself to us, his children. As a matter of fact, once God sent the Holy Spirit to us believers on the day of Pentecost, he settled us on all side forever. But many believers come so short of the infinite blessings of the Holy Spirit in their lives and Christian walk, due mainly to ignorance and delusion.

So this book sets out to scripturally reveal the person of the Holy Spirit and also correct some of the misconceptions and delusions about the Holy Spirit that limits his manifestation in the lives of believers. In chapter two, following this introduction, we look into the Holy Spirit and His Features. In chapter three, we scripturally learn how to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit...

In chapter four we study the significance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. In chapter five we discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Chapter six we discuss the fruit of the Spirit. Chapter seven sheds great light on the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. In chapter eight, we learn about what walking in the Spirit is all about.

In Chapter nine we learn about how to have communion with the Holy Spirit. Chapter ten reveals how the various ways the Holy Spirit speaks to believers. Then in the final chapter, chapter eleven we discuss about the unpardonable sin, which the Lord Jesus says is the sin against the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Emeke Odili

2. The Holy Spirit And His Features

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 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"—John 16:12-13

From the above opening text, the Lord Jesus told his disciples, while he was about to be crucified, that he yet had many things to say unto them, but they could not bear them then. Then he said, however, when the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide them—including us—into all truth.

He said, *He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show us things to come.*

From the Lord's statement here, and from other scriptures, it is abundantly clear that the Holy Spirit is a masculine, supernatural personality. For the Lord refers to him with the masculine pronoun "he".

Then from several other scriptures we can also clearly understand that the Holy Spirit is not just a masculine supernatural entity, but an integral part or member of the Deity called the Almighty God.

Here is what we read in 1 John 5:6-8 ***"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water and the blood: and these three agree in one."***

As we can see in the above scripture, the Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus Christ here on earth, and he is also part of the Godhead—The Father, The Word (the Son) and The Holy Ghost—that bear record in heaven.

So the Holy Spirit dwells in heaven, as well as on the earth at the same time. On earth, He dwells in inside everyone that believes on the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and bears witness of Jesus Christ with their spirit.

He also bears witness of Jesus Christ and his words with diverse signs and wonders here on earth.

Just like man, who was made in the image and likeness of God is triune in nature, with spirit, soul and body...

...The one and only Deity called the Almighty God, is also triune in personality. He is made up of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost (Spirit). So the Holy Spirit is the same entity as the Father and Jesus Christ. The Father is the Lord. Jesus, the Son, is the Lord. And the Holy Spirit is also the Lord.

In 2 Corinthians 3:17 the word of God says; "***Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty***".

The above scripture says, *the Lord is that Spirit*. Which on the reversal statement means "That Spirit (The Holy Spirit) is the Lord". So the Holy Spirit is equally God Almighty as the Father and Jesus Christ.

Thus, it is crystal clear that the Holy Spirit is not breeze or breathe or just God's acting force as many wrongly believe. Rather, he is an integral part or member of the Godhead. And he is God Almighty and also Lord of all. And as such, deserves to be worshipped and praised as the other two members of the Deity—the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ.

The Features of the Holy Spirit

Listed below are the distinct features of the Holy Spirit from the scriptures:

- 1) The Holy Spirit Speaks (1Timothy 4:1)
- 2) The Holy Spirit Intercedes or prays for us, believers (Romans 8:26-27)
- 3) The Holy Spirit can be grieved, that is, made sad (Ephesians 4:30)
- 4) The Holy Spirit gives guidance or directive (Acts 11:12)
- 5) The Holy Spirit can be quenched. That is, extinguished in his manifestation, especially through carnal acts or sin (1Thessalonians 5:19)

6) The Holy Spirit Teaches the Believers (1 Corinthians 2:13). The Holy Spirit teaches spiritual things and he also teaches physical things.

Above is a brief biblical exposition of the person of the Holy Spirit and his distinct features. However, no one can teach about the Holy Spirit as much as the Holy Spirit himself.

So if you are already born again, by receiving the Lord Jesus as your Lord and personal Savior, the Holy Spirit already dwells in you. So if you want to know more about the Holy Spirit, just ask him to reveal himself better to you. And he certainly will, as you ask him in faith. But if you are not yet saved, you don't and cannot have the Holy Spirit and his sweet fellowship or communion. So if you want to be saved so you can receive the Holy Spirit of God into your spirit and have his sweet communion in your life, you must receive Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour.

3. How to Receive The Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Having discussed the personality of the Holy Spirit and His Features in the last chapter, in this chapter, I will be sharing with you the scriptural ways to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. And how to keep on getting filled or full of the Holy Spirit every time. Because you can know all there is to know about the Holy Spirit, but if you don't get filled and continually filled with the Holy Spirit, he will not profit you much. It is one thing to have the right knowledge of the Holy Spirit, and it is entirely different thing to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus Christ where taught about the Holy Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ himself, but they did not have the full benefit of the Holy Spirit until they were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Before being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was the coward who had to deny Jesus Christ before anybody. But once he was full of the Holy Spirit, he received supernatural boldness that enabled him witness the Lord Jesus Christ to the very people that crucified the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Peter received the infilling of the Holy Spirit, mighty works started showing forth from Peter and other Apostles and disciples. All that was in confirmation of the word of the Lord Jesus Christ spoken to the disciples before his ascension in Acts 1:8, he says:

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

So basically, the infilling of the Holy Spirit gives supernatural boldness and power to the believer for effective witness of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without the continual infilling of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, he is not able to carry out the great commission with all boldness and power as the Lord desires us to do. And this

is why it becomes very important for all believers to seek and be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

How to Receive The Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Listed below are the scriptural ways on how to receive the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit and continually keep on getting filled:

1. **Repentance and Faith in Jesus Christ:** *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 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."*—Acts 2:38-39

From this scripture, it is very clear that the number one step to receiving the infilling of the Holy Ghost, is repentance from sin, and receiving Jesus into your heart by faith as your Lord and Savior. Peter by the Spirit says as you repent of your sins and get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (baptism in water) you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then for the sake of clarity, he says the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit is unto everyone then present and to their children, and to all that are afar off, even to as many as the LORD our God shall call. So if you receive the call of the Lord to salvation today, you can partake freely of the gift and infilling of the Holy Spirit right away.

2. **The Word of God:** *"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost"*—Acts 10:44-45.

In the above scripture, as Peter went to meet Cornelius and spoke the word of God to him and those with him, while he was yet preaching the word of God to them, they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. So it is a scriptural fact that someone can receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and also get continually filled with the Holy Ghost by listening to the word of God. Someone can also be filled by reading the bible and other anointed books of the word of God. So to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, you should continually be listening and studying the word of God. As you listen to and study the word of God, if you are not already filled with the Holy Spirit, you can be filled. Then if you are already filled, you always receive fresh infilling.

3. **Laying on of Hands:** *"And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."*—Acts 19:6

So we can also receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands, by any believer who is already baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit; just like Paul did in the above scripture. A believer who has never been filled with the Holy Spirit, can receive the first infilling of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hand. Then someone who is already filled can also receive fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands. So if you are not yet filled with the Holy Spirit, and you desire to be filled, you can ask a believer or minister of God you know is already filled with Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, to lay hands on you for you to be filled.

4. **Prayer:** *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness"*—Acts 4:31

From the above scripture, the word of God says after the disciples of Jesus Christ prayed, they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. And obviously most of the people who prayed were already filled with the Holy Ghost; but they were filled afresh. So we can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit by the prayer of faith.

The prayer for the infilling of the Holy Spirit can be as simple as saying, *Lord Jesus, fill me with the Holy Ghost*. Then if you are already filled, you simply ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh. And as you ask by faith, he fills you instantly. When it comes to the infilling of the Holy Spirit, God doesn't waste time to fill any believer that ask him in sincerity and faith.

5. **Singing of Psalms and Spiritual Songs:** *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*—Ephesians 5:18-20. From this text above, we can see that we also receive the fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit by singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs unto God; and also by giving thanks to God always for all things in the name of Jesus Christ. As you spend quality time in singing Psalms and spiritual songs to the Lord, even in your heart without singing it out, you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

So listed above are the five scriptural ways of receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit. If you are yet to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and you desire strongly to be filled, as you take any of the above steps of faith, you will surely receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Then if you are already filled, you can enjoy continual infilling of the Holy Spirit by engaging those secrets above as a lifestyle.

In the next chapter, we will be discussing "*The Significance of the Holy Spirit*"

4. The Significance of The Holy Spirit

Whenever most people hear or think of the Holy Spirit, the major things that come to their minds are: speaking in tongues, falling under the anointing and signs and wonders. But the Holy Spirit is of much more significance than the above listed manifestations.

From the Lord Jesus' statements concerning the Holy Spirit in the scripture, it is very clear that the Holy Spirit is the best gift of God to his children—the Church. Yet many believers pay so little importance and attention to the person of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Instead, they pay much more attention to his gifts or manifestations.

They give more importance and attention to the gifts of the Holy Spirit than the person of the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of the gifts. So in this chapter, we will be scripturally exploring the significance or the importance of the Holy Spirit to the Church and saints of Jesus Christ.

The Significance of the Holy Spirit

Listed and briefly explained below are the scriptural significance or importance or the essence of the Holy Spirit to the Church—the body of Christ:

1. **The Holy Spirit is Our Seal:** *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise"* – Ephesians 1:13. The word "sealed" as used in the above scripture, means: a stamp of attestation, authentication or confirmation. For instance, in bible times, if a king issues a decree in writing, he seals it with a signet-ring; for authentication that it is truly a decree from the king. In a similar manner, the word of God tells us that the Holy Spirit is our seal of divine sonship and heritage. So anyone with the Holy Spirit of God in his or her life is a confirmed child of God. While anyone without the Holy Spirit indwelling in him is not a child of God. In Romans 8:9, the word of God says *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his"*
2. **The Holy Spirit is the Earnest of Our Redemption:** *"Now he that wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the*

Spirit." – 2 Corinthians 5:5

The term 'earnest' is from the Greek word: '*arrhabor*' meaning a pledge; that is, part of the purchase money or property given in advance as security for the rest. So when the scripture say God has given us the earnest of the Spirit, it means the Holy Spirit is the pledge or advance deposit of God in the lives of believers, as security or guarantee of our eternal redemption. So with the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, the believer is guaranteed of his eternal redemption.

3. The Holy Spirit is Our Power Giver: "*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"—Acts 1:8

In the above scripture, the word of God says we receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon us. So the Holy Spirit gives believers power to witness about Jesus Christ; in word, character and signs and wonders. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit to live above sin (Romans 8:13).

It takes the power of the Holy Spirit to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, with boldness and with signs and wonders. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit for a sinner to be convicted and converted on hearing the gospel. In short, it takes the power of the Holy Spirit for every true, supernatural and remarkable result in Christ Jesus.

4. The Holy Spirit is the Witness Bearer: "*This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*" – 1John 5:6

The witness bearing role of the Holy Spirit is a very important function of the Holy Spirit on earth and in the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit bears witness of the reality of God, Christ's existence and his word. We serve an invisible God which we have never seen. We read about God and his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who was born by a Jewish virgin woman, who was not impregnated by any man but by God himself.

This Son of God Jesus Christ which was born walked the earth and taught mankind the truth to eternal salvation and eventually he was crucified for the remission of our sin. And after his death and burial, on the third day he resurrected from the dead. All these events happened over 2,000 years before we were born. So how can we possibly confirm the reality and truthfulness of

this Christ and events when we were not even born then? This is where the witness bearing ministry of the Holy Spirit comes in. He bears witness or confirms the truth of God's word in the hearts of believers and the entire world. It is the Holy Spirit that bears witness of our divine sonship and heritage in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:16). By the witness bearing role or functionality of the Holy Spirit, in the spirit of believers, we receive divine guidance to God's best plans and purposes for our lives.

5. **The Holy Spirit is Our Comforter:** *"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."*—John 16:7

The word translated as 'comforter' in the above quoted scripture is from the Greek word "parakletos" meaning an intercessor and a consoler. So the Holy Spirit helps the believers in intercession in prayers. Then the Holy Spirit is given to the believers for consolation from every and any affliction or burden of life. As a matter of fact, the Lord Jesus also calls him the living water (John 7: 38-39). So the Holy Spirit quenches every thirst of life. He comforts us in every discomfort of life.

6. **The Holy Spirit is Our Teacher:** *"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."*—1 Corinthians 2:13

Amongst other things, one of the greatest significance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is his teaching role. The Holy Spirit teaches believers scriptural truth. As we study the scripture or listen or read teachings of the word of God, if we don't understand any matter, as we seek the Holy Spirit for clarification, he expounds the truth to us. Then apart from scriptural revelation, the Holy Spirit also teaches us any other thing (such as academic or business knowledge) that we lack understanding of, as we seek him for guidance by faith.

So the six listed points above are the major significance or importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers—the Church.

In the next chapter we will be looking into "The Gifts of The Holy Spirit"

5. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

“Now there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”—1 Corinthians 12:4-6

The Greek word translated as “gift” in our opening text above is “charisma” meaning: divine endowment; or qualification to stand in a spiritual office or service. It also means divinely endowed miraculous faculty or ability. Yes, all good abilities or gifts come from God. But in the context of this chapter, we will be dealing specifically with the gifts of the Holy Spirit as clearly stated in the scripture.

In John 7:37-38; the bible says; *“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. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (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)”*

The rivers of living water, which is the Holy Spirit, as clearly stated in the scripture above, was poured out on every believer on earth, on the day of Pentecost. And since then anyone that repents and receives Jesus as his Lord and personal Savior, receives the Holy Spirit.

As the believer receives the Holy Spirit at salvation, the rivers of living water comes into his belly and begins to flow in him to quench his thirst. Then when the believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, the rivers of living water, saturates him and begins to flow with greater force in and out of the believer.

And the major way this rivers of living water flows in and out of the believer to bless him and others is through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The bible says; *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal”*—1 Corinthians 12:7.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit can be divided into ministerial or official spiritual gifts and general believers’ spiritual gifts. The ministerial or official gifts include: Apostles,

Prophets, Teachers, Pastors and Evangelists (see Ephesians 4:8-11). While what I refer to as the general believers' spiritual gifts are the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit; which are: The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the gift of faith, gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues.

The ministerial or official gifts are for fewer numbers of believers, for standing in a particular ministerial or leadership office. While the general believers spiritual gifts are available to every believers in Christ Jesus; for carrying out the great commission and also for personal devotion and edification. In this particular chapter, we will be specifically discussing the general believers' spiritual gifts.

The Nine Gifts of The Spirit

Listed and discussed below are the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that are available to any believer in Christ Jesus, for the common profiting or edification of the Church of Christ:

- 1) The Word of Wisdom:** This gift of the Holy Spirit is a revelation to a believer, which gives him solution to a particular problem. The word of wisdom is not the same as natural human wisdom; it is revelatory wisdom from the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The Word of Knowledge:** The word of knowledge is a revelation of the Holy Spirit that gives a believer supernatural knowledge or insight concerning things he/she cannot possibly have a natural knowledge of. The word of knowledge can be knowledge of the past, present or future event. One can receive word of knowledge concerning known or unknown things or truth. The gift of word of knowledge concerning known things or truth comes as deeper or special insight into those things or truth.
- 3) The Gift of Faith:** According to scriptures, every believer has the measure of faith deposited in him at salvation (see Romans 12:3). The gift of faith supernaturally empowers the believer's faith for full manifestation of his faith in order to accomplish some great or miraculous deeds. At the manifestation of the gift of faith, the believer receives supernatural confidence or assurance for a miraculous deed from God.
- 4) The Gifts of Healing:** The gifts of healing empowers the recipient of the gifts to minister supernatural healing or cure to someone with sickness or disease. Some supernatural healings can take place instantaneously, while others take place by the process of time. That is, the person that is ministered to with the

gifts of healing recovers with time. But often the recovery period is very short, compared to natural healing process. This gifts manifest more in the lives of ministers of the gospel. Obviously because they have more contacts with people that needs healing.

- 5) The Working of Miracles:** The gift of working of miracles empowers the believer to accomplish acts that defies natural laws through the flow of the Almighty power of God. Examples of miracles include: the Lamé Walking Instantly, blind eyes opening instantly; and dead bodies coming back to life.
- 6) Prophecy:** Prophecy means speaking under divine inspiration. Prophecy can be forth-telling or foretelling of events. The bible says prophecies are for exhortation, edification and comfort (see 1 Corinthians 14:3). Not every believer can function in the office of a prophet, but every believer can operate in the gift of prophecy. Concerning prophets and prophesying here is what the Apostle Paul by the Spirit says "*Let the Prophets speak two or three and let other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For **ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may be comforted***" 1 Corinthians 14: 29-31.
- 7) Discerning of Spirits:** The gift of discerning of spirits, is the gift of the Spirit that enables us distinguish between different kinds of spirit. Apart from the Holy Spirit of God and the angels of God, there are several other types of evil spirits. There is familiar spirits, there is the spirit of infirmities; there is the spirit of witchcraft. The Holy Spirit helps us, believers, to distinguish between the good spirits and the evil spirits through the gift of discerning of spirits.
- 8) Diverse Kinds of Tongues:** The gift of speaking in diverse kinds of tongues is the primary gift of the Holy Spirit, given to a believer, immediately he or she is baptized in the Holy Spirit. This gift of tongues enables the believer to speak in diverse kinds of tongues unto God. The gift of tongues edifies the believer and also helps to stir up other spiritual gifts in the believer by the Holy Spirit.
- 9) The Interpretation of Tongues:** The gift of interpretation of tongues is the supernatural ability given to a believer to be able to interpret utterances that are given in tongues. With the gift of interpretation of tongues, the believer can interpret his own or other people's tongues. For an utterance to be accepted as true interpretation of tongue, it must be a word to the Lord, and not to the congregation.

Interpretation of tongues can be thanksgiving or prayer. If the said interpretation is an exhortation or a word of comfort to the church, then it is not an interpretation, but prophecy. Because from scriptures, we see that when people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke in tongues and prophesied. So most of what people call tongues and interpretation, is actually tongues and prophecies.

So those are the general gifts of the Holy Spirit that is available to every believer, with the Holy Spirit in him or her. To see the manifestation of these gifts, we are to maintain quality relationship with the Holy Spirit of God in us through faith and love. Any of the gifts we desire, we can covet and specifically ask God for their manifestation in our lives and ministry. And as we earnestly covet and seek God for the manifestation of these gifts in our lives and ministry, we will definitely see these gifts in manifestation in our lives according to the will of God.

6 The Fruit of the Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” --Galatians 5:22-23

While it is very scripturally true that every born again child of God has the Holy Spirit indwelling in him, if the believer does not walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit becomes of little benefit to him.

And this is why the Apostle Paul in most of his epistles admonishes us by the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit. In Galatians 5:25, Paul by the Spirit says; *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”*

As we walk in the Spirit, we enjoy the manifestation of the gifts and fruit of the Spirit. I have already discussed about the gift of the Spirit in the last chapter. So in this chapter, we will be looking into the fruit of the Spirit. Because inasmuch as God desires us to covet earnestly the gifts of the Spirit (1Corinthians 12:31), He also desires us to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Colossians 3:12-17).

The fruit of the Spirit means divine characters or attitudes that are made available to the believer's heart or spirit by the Holy Spirit in them.

And as believers yield themselves to the influence of the Holy Spirit in their hearts, these fruit of the Spirit gains free expression through them.

So What Are The Fruit of The Spirit?

In our opening text, Galatians 5:22-23, Paul by the Spirit lists out the fruit of the Spirit. And in this section, we are going to discuss each of the fruit of the Spirit:

1. **The Fruit of Love:** The number one fruit of the Spirit, listed in our opening text, is love. The word of God says, the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us (Romans 5:5). Love is the fruit of the Spirit in our hearts that enable us love God and our fellow humans, even when it is not convenient. The love of God helps us love God and our fellow men selflessly and sacrificially. It enables us show love to even our enemies as the Lord Jesus instructs us.
2. **The Fruit of Joy:** The fruit of Joy helps us, believers, to remain joyful in the Lord, no matter whatever circumstances we face in life. The Joy of the Holy Spirit is a

supernatural manifestation in the heart. It is a supernatural manifestation in the heart that is undeterred by the happenings around the believers, whether good or bad.

3. **The Fruit of Peace:** In John 14:27, the Lord Jesus says; *"Peace I leave with you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* This peace of the Lord is brought to our hearts by the Holy Spirit of God in us. The peace of God puts the believer's heart at rest. Regardless of whatever situation he finds himself. Then the peace of God also removes fear from our hearts, no matter what we face in life.
4. **The Fruit of Longsuffering:** The fruit of longsuffering helps the believer with the fortitude to go through some tribulations of life, as permitted by God. Longsuffering helps the believer to forbear his fellow brethren's offences. So in summary, longsuffering means patience with God and with our fellowmen.
5. **The Fruit of Gentleness:** Gentleness as stated in our opening text, is from the Greek word "chrestotes", meaning-- usefulness. That is, moral excellence; in character and demeanor. So the fruit of gentleness confers moral excellence on the believer. Part of the moral excellence, is the attitude of not being apt to hurt his neighbor. The fruit of gentleness removes rascality from a believer.
6. **The Fruit of Goodness:** The fruit of goodness makes believers to be beneficent. That is, it makes the believer to be always apt to do or seek the good of others. The fruit of goodness enables believer to do good to even those that spitefully treat him.
7. **The Fruit of Faith:** Faith is from the Greek word '*pistis*'. Which means persuasion or assurance. So the fruit of faith helps us maintain our assurance or confidence in God, at all times for all things. Because the bible says, the just shall live by faith. And it is the fruit of faith that helps us maintain a lifestyle of faith.
8. **The Fruit of Meekness:** Meekness means humility. So as we walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit impacts our hearts with humility. Such that no matter whatever height God lifts us to in life, we don't get puffed up and proud. Among other things, meekness makes us teachable.
9. **The Fruit of Temperance:** Temperance means self-control. So the fruit of temperance helps us to control ourselves, especially our emotions. All our human emotions and desires, if not controlled, can lead us into troubles and sins. So the Holy Spirit in us, believers, helps us to discipline ourselves. By the Holy Spirit, we are able to control our food appetite, sexual appetite and every other natural appetite which can lead to sin.

So listed above, are the nine major fruit of the Holy Spirit in us. And according to the word of God, these fruit of the Spirit, find expression in our lives as we continually give ourselves to walking in the Spirit. Then when your behaviours or attitudes begins to go contrary to any of these fruit of the Spirit as a believer, you can get them activated by prayer and confession of God's word by faith. For instance, if as a believer you suddenly discover you have lost your peace and joy, you can re-activate your peace and joy by praying in tongues; and also confessing the peace of God in your by faith. You begin to pray and confess that your heart is flooded with the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit. And as you do so with thanksgiving to God by faith, before long, the Holy Spirit of God in you will supernaturally restore your peace and joy.

7 The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;"—2 Corinthians 1:21

"But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things"—1John 2:20

As we discuss about the Anointing of the Holy Spirit, using the above quoted, opening scriptural verses as our anchor, it is important we first understand the meaning of the word "Anointing". The word "anointed" as used in 2 Corinthians 1:21 is from the Greek word "*chrio*" which means, *to smear or rub with oil*. And by implication, it means to consecrate to an office or religious service.

Then in 1John 2:20, the word translated as "unction" which is also translated as "anointing" in 1 John 2: 27 are from the Greek word "chrisma" meaning: an unguent or smearing; which figuratively means the special endowment (chrism) of the Holy Spirit.

So the anointing of the Holy Spirit means the special endowment or gift of the Holy Spirit in a person, that empowers him/her stand or carry out a particular ministerial office or service. So the anointing of the Holy Spirit is given to believers majorly for ministerial services. In the Old Testament, we see that before someone was made a king in Israel, he was first anointed with oil. The purpose of the anointing was to supernaturally empower the king to carry out his official duties or responsibilities effectively.

In the Old Testament, we also see that people were also anointed to stand or carry out the office of a prophet (see 1 King 19:16). Then in the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ read the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him in Luke 4:18-19 which says; *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."*

So the Lord Jesus Christ's great ministry here on earth, was backed with the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. He was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised. Then also to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

After the Lord Jesus' resurrection from the dead, he delegated his ministerial assignment or commission to us, his disciples, in his statements in the following scriptures:

"Then said Jesus to them again, peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me even so send I you."—John 20:21

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." – Matthew 28:18-20*

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." – Luke 16:15-20

So as we can clearly see from the above quoted scriptures, before the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ to heaven, he transferred his commission or ministry to every believer. Then of course, he also transferred his messianic anointing to us to enable us carry out his commission, here on earth, effectively.

In Acts 1:8, the Lord says; *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

So after the Lord commissioned us to carry on with his messianic commission, he says we shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon us and we shall be witnesses unto him. Then on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to the earth to anoint every believer or disciple of Jesus Christ; for the great commission he has given to us. And since the Holy Spirit arrived on earth to fill and anoint every believer on the day of Pentecost, he has remained here on earth. He has not gone back. Because the Lord says he will be with us forever.

He is on earth to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment as we preach the gospel. He is on earth indwelling every believer in Christ Jesus. He is here on earth, anointing every believer in Christ Jesus. And also for healing and delivering the captives of the devil as Jesus did. And this is why Paul by the Holy Spirit tells us in our first opening text (2 Corinthians 1:21) that God hath already anointed us, believers. And John also in our second opening text (2 John 2:20) says we, believers, have an unction or anointing from the Holy One.

So every believer in Christ Jesus, is fully anointed by God to effectively carry out the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

So if you're already a believer in Christ Jesus, as you go about preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, in fellowship or communion with the Holy Spirit, you will certainly see the manifestation of the anointing in your words, in signs and wonders to the glory of God.

Then apart from the general anointing of the Holy Spirit on every believer, God also anoints some believers for specific ministerial offices. Such as: the office of Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher and Evangelist, (see Ephesians 4:8-13). God anoints believers into any of the above listed fivefold ministerial offices, according to his will, for the perfecting of the saints. That is, to bring them to maturity concerning the gospel and spiritual things.

Then finally, the word of God also tells us that the anointing of the Holy Spirit in us teaches us all things. 1John 2:27 says; *"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you; and ye need not that any man teach you; But as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."*

So as a believer, you are fully anointed to carry out the great commission with power, signs and wonders. Even if you are not called and anointed into any of the five-fold ministry, you can also go out there and preach the gospel of Jesus. And as you preach the gospel with faith and in communion with the Holy Spirit, the Lord will work with you, confirming the word with signs following.

8 Walking in the Spirit

"This I say then, walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh"—Galatians 5:16

***"For if you live after the flesh, you shall die but if you through the Spirit do put to death the deeds of the body, you shall live."* Romans 8:13**

From the above two scriptures, and other similar scriptures, the Lord reveals to us the cure for the works (lusts or deeds) of the flesh—sin. And this cure is—walking in the Spirit...

Hence, in this chapter, we will be digging into what and what constitute walking in the Spirit. So we can be better equipped with the right knowledge on exactly how to walk in the Spirit for absolute dominion over the works of the flesh or sin.

The Constituents of Walking in the Spirit

There are six basic biblical consciousness that make up or constitute what it means to be walking in the Spirit. These include:

- **Consciousness of the Indwelling Spirit:** The number one thing that constitutes walking in the Spirit, is a full persuasion of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the spirit of the believer. That is, the realization of the permanent residence of the Holy Spirit in a believer; and walking in this reality.

This is basically where walking in the Spirit starts. Without this first reality, walking in the Spirit is not in view. The believer must realize that the Holy is not only residing in heaven, but also in his or her Spirit. Here is what the bible says concerning the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God in the life of a believer: *"Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"—1 Corinthians 3:16.*

This scripture says believers are the temple or the house of God. And that the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) resides (dwells) in us. And of course, he dwells in all of us individually. So to walk in the Spirit, you must always live in the consciousness that the Holy Spirit of God is always residing in you.

- **Death or Sacrifice Consciousness of The Body:** *"Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"—Romans 6:11 "For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God"—Colossians 3:3* So to walk in the Spirit, you must live with the consciousness that you're dead to sin in the flesh and now alive unto God in Christ Jesus. You must see yourself as a living sacrifice in Christ Jesus at all time. This is a great part of what is meant to be walking in the Spirit.
- **Working Consciousness of The Indwelling Spirit:** To walk in the Spirit, also means to be walking in the reality that the indwelling Holy Spirit in you, is always working in you; so you can please God in your lifestyle and every actions—Phillipians 2:13. This consciousness helps you always yield yourself to the works of the Spirit in your daily life.
- **Submission Consciousness (Yielding Consciousness):** Having already realized that the Holy Spirit is resident in you and that he is always working in you for God's good pleasure...You need to also live or walk in submission to his works and guidance in your heart and life. Concerning this, the bible says, we should present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service—Romans 8:1. So to walk in the Spirit, is to be consciously and consistently yielded to or submitted to the Holy Spirit; his works and continual guidance.

And to do this effectively, we must diligently learn how to discern his works and guidance at all time. To learn how the Spirit works and leads, we can study the bible and relevant Christian books that treats the topic.

- **Fruit Consciousness:** Another constituent of walking in the Spirit is fruit consciousness. Fruit here, refers to the fruit of the Spirit as enumerated in the scriptures as we can see in Galatians 5:22-23. ***"But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Self-Control: against such there is no law."*** Walking in the consciousness of the fruit of the Spirit as enumerated above...

That is, always benchmarking or judging all your actions with the above listed fruit of the Spirit, is to be walking in the Spirit.

Every of your action must and should conform to any and all of the above listed fruit of the Spirit. And any of your character or action that doesn't conform, should be dropped as soon as possible. And this character assessment must be a lifestyle. These lifestyles constitute what is meant by walking in the Spirit.

- **Repentance Consciousness:** Among other things, walking in the Spirit is living in repentance consciousness on daily and continual basis. The Greek word that

was translated in the New Testament as repentance is “metanoia”, meaning, compunction (guilt) or reversal of decision. Hence, repentance is being penitent or remorseful for sin. It is reconsidering and changing your way, action or character on conviction that it is wrong. Making this repentance from sinful attitudes or character a lifestyle is what is meant by repentance consciousness. The word of God tells us that repentance is what the Lord is sent to give, along with forgiveness of sin—[Acts 5:31](#). Then the same chapter in the very next verse tells us that the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us, is a witness of this fact—[Acts 5:32](#). So a penitent or repentant lifestyle is surely a walk in the Spirit. Which definitely is a cure for works of the flesh.

So here you have it. The six consciousness in the list above, are the major scriptural ways to walk in the Spirit as the word of God instructs. And as you do that, sin shall no longer have dominion over you in Jesus Name!

10 Communion of The Holy Spirit

"The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen"—2 Corinthians 13:14

The word translated as *communion* in the above opening text is from the Greek word "koinonia" meaning, *partnership*. Which in other words means, participation or intercourse. Going further, on the definition, the word "intercourse" means communication or dealings between people.

So when the opening text talks about the communion of the Holy Ghost, it means the partnership, participation, intercourse or communication of the Holy Spirit. Another word for communion used in the bible, is fellowship. 1 John 1:3 says; "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*"

So often time, most believers do the most they can to have fellowship with the Father and the Son. They worship and praise the Father and the Son; and totally neglect the Holy Spirit in them to the background. And the only time they mention the Holy Spirit is in their closing benediction; when they share the grace in fellowship.

And sometime, they also remember the Holy Spirit when they need him to move and work miracles. Many believers, as well as local churches, treat the Holy Spirit as a thing. They don't treat him as God and Senior Partner that he is. They don't acknowledge his presence in their lives and in their midst.

When they want to make decisions concerning their personal lives and their local churches, they don't consult the Holy Spirit. Yes, as John rightly says in the scripture I quoted earlier, truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ. But the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ are in heaven; and it is the Holy Spirit that is here on earth with us.

And if we must effectively fellowship with the Father and Jesus Christ, we must fellowship with the Holy Spirit. It is through our communion or fellowship with the Holy Spirit, that we have effective fellowship with the Father and the Son. Any fellowship we attempt to have with the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ, without the participation of the Holy Spirit, is at best, carnal.

And when our fellowship with God is carnal, devoid of the Spirit, we fall short of the blessing and glory of God in our fellowship. And thus, such fellowship becomes wearisome; and sometime, frustrating. Because there is no proper connection between the physical and the spiritual or heavenly realm.

It is the Holy Spirit that helps us establish perfect connection between our physical realm and the heavenly realm. And that is why the need for constant communion or fellowship with the Holy Spirit is of great importance in our individual and corporate Christian walk.

How to Fellowship or Commune With the Holy Spirit

Having emphasized the importance of having constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit above, we want to see the various ways we can consistently have and maintain fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God in us.

- 1) **Be Conscious of The Spirit's Presence:** "*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*" The above scripture reveals to us that we are the temple of God; that God dwells in us, in the person of his Holy Spirit. In other words, the Holy Spirit of God has a permanent residence in us. That is, we are possessed by the Holy Spirit.

Our communion or fellowship with the Holy Spirit begins with the knowledge and consciousness of this very true fact. You cannot have fellowship with the Holy Spirit if you are not always conscious of his presence. So to have fellowship with the Holy Spirit is to be always conscious of his indwelling presence in you.

- 2) **Ask for And Depend on His Help:** Having gotten the awareness and consciousness of the indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost in you, you should always ask for his help or partnership in everything you do. You should ask for his help in your prayers to the Father...

You should ask for and depend on his help in worshipping and praising the Father and the Son. You should ask for and depend on his help in preaching and other ministerial works. Even if you already have the gifts of the Spirit manifesting in your life, you should always depend on the Holy Spirit, for the effective manifestation and administration of the gifts to the glory of God. Always ask for and depend on the help of the Holy Spirit.

- 3) **Seek For and Follow His Leadings:** Another major way of maintaining fellowship with the Holy Spirit is to always seek his leading and direction in everything you do. And as you open yourself up to his leading, whatever direction he gives you, that you're sure he is the one leading you, always follow it promptly.

Disobedience to the leadings and directions of the Holy Spirit, grieves him and hinders his fellowship with his children. So as he guides you, you should always be ready to follow and obey promptly.

- 4) **Praying In Tongues:** The bible tells us that when the Holy Ghost filled the disciples on the day of Pentecost, they started speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). So speaking or praying in tongues is one of the major ways to commune with the Holy Spirit. Because as we speak in tongues, we depend on the Holy Spirit to supply us the utterance, in order to pray according to the will of God (see Romans 8:27).

Conclusion: The communion of the Holy Spirit is of great importance in our Christian walk. As we maintain consistent fellowship with the Holy Ghost in our personal and corporate lives, we enjoy more blessings and greater manifestation of God's glory in our lives. So you should dutifully seek and maintain consistent communion with him, with the four points above as guide.

11 How The Holy Spirit Speaks

"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 show you things to come."- John 16:13

From the above opening text, the Lord tells us that when the Holy Spirit comes, he will guide us into all truth. That he shall not speak of himself, but that whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show us things to come.

Now the Holy Spirit has come to the earth since the day of Pentecost, to fill every believer in Christ Jesus. And as he dwells and fills every believer, he is constantly guiding, speaking and showing things to them; according to the will of the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. But as the Holy Spirit gives this guidance to his Children, only very few believers actually understand his guidance and his voice.

Greater percentage of believers cannot actually discern the leading and the voice of the Holy Spirit. They do not really understand the various ways through which the Holy Spirit of God in them actually speaks to them. So often time, the Holy Spirit of God speaks to them, but they are not able to recognize his voice and leadings.

So in this chapter, I will be revealing the various ways the Holy Spirit speaks to us, his children, so we can be better positioned to follow his leading for our lives. And enjoy the attending benefits and profiting that come along with it.

How The Holy Spirit Speaks

The major qualification for hearing the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit, is being a child or son of God, through salvation (Romans 8:14). If you are born again, by believing in Jesus and receiving him as your Lord and personal Savior, then you already have the Holy Spirit in you. And as the Lord said in our opening text, as the Holy Ghost comes into your life, he is committed to guiding you into all truth and profiting. And listed below are the scripturally proven ways, through which the Holy Spirit guides, speaks and shows things to the children of God.

1. **The Witness of the spirit:** *"The Spirit itself (Himself) beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God"*- Romans 8:16

The word "Witness" as used in the above scripture is from the Greek word "Symmaryeo" meaning: to testify jointly; that is, to corroborate by concurrent evidence. So the witness of

the spirit talks about the Holy Spirit of God in you, testifying to and with your spirit, concerning a matter.

It is the evidence of the Holy Spirit, given to your spirit concerning an issue. And putting this in one word, it is the impression or conviction of the Holy Spirit in our spirit (Heart). And this is the primary and the major way the Holy Spirit speaks to us, his children.

Our text says the spirit bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. That is, he impresses in our spirit that for sure, we are the children of God. But apart from the witness of our sonship, he also impresses or convicts us of every other truth God wants us, his children to know about.

2. **Scriptural Insight:** "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*"- Psalms 119:105.

A major way the Holy Spirit speaks to his children is insight from the written word of God, in the scripture. As you study the word of God, as written in the scriptures, often time, the Holy Spirit speaks to your spirit; by passing specific instructions or corrections or rebukes; by illuminating the scriptures you already have in your spirit.

That is, he speaks to you, by giving you special insight concerning a particular matter or issue of life with the Word of God in your heart. So if you must hear and discern the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit consistently and clearly, you must of a necessity, give yourself to regular study of the word of God in the scriptures and other anointed materials. Other anointed materials such as: Christian literatures and audio/visuals from anointed and faithful men of God.

3. **Visions:** The Holy Spirit also speaks to us, believers, through visions. Vision is basically of two kinds. There is open vision, where you see and hear from the spirit realm, with your physical senses alert and aware of your physical environment. Then there is trance, where the person receiving the vision is cut off from the awareness of his physical environment. The visions of Cornelius and Peter in the book of Acts chapter 10, are perfect examples of the Holy Spirit, speaking to his children through visions.
4. **Dreams:** Dreams are similar to visions. But they are majorly visions and revelations of the Spirit, we receive while we are asleep. Even though it's not every dream we dream that are revelations from the Holy Spirit, it is scripturally evident that God does speak to his children through dreams. For instance, it was through dream that Joseph was told to escape with the child, Jesus and his mother into Egypt. In order to avoid being destroyed by Herod (See Matthew 2:13). Most revelations from dreams and visions are given in the form of drama; and as such, require the help of the Holy Spirit for proper interpretation. So as you receive a vision or dream you don't quite understand, you should ask the Holy Spirit for the proper interpretation.

5. **Audible Voice:** From scriptures, we also see that the Holy Spirit also speaks audibly to his children. I have heard some men of God say God speaks to them with an audible voice. Personally, I have never heard the audible voice of God, except in my spirit and in my dream. But from scriptures and the testimonies of others, it is true that the Holy Spirit does speak to his children audibly.
6. **Wisdom:** Amongst other ways, God speaks to us, his children, through wisdom. That is, inspired, moral or intellectual insight. The Holy Spirit speaks to our thought. And this is why James says; *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him"*-James 1:5. For instance, it was through intellectual revelation that Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams and proffer solution on how to manage his nation's wealth through the years of famine – (see Genesis 41).

The list above is the major scripturally proven ways in which the Holy Spirit speak to us, his children. But regardless of whatever means the Holy Spirit speaks to you, you should confirm it with scriptural truths to be on the safer side. Then if you are not also very sure about your revelation, you should also cross check in your heart for the witness of the spirit, before accepting a revelation to be from the Holy Spirit. Because familiar spirits and other deceptive evil spirits also speak to our spirit. So you must cross-check every revelation with the light of scriptures and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

12 The Unpardonable Sin

"Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" – Matthew 12:31-32

"Verily I say unto you, all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith so ever, they shall blaspheme. But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation. Because they said, he hath an unclean spirit" – Mark 3:28-30

From the above quoted scriptures, we want to discuss about the unpardonable sin. Which the Lord Jesus says is the sin or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. In this chapter, we want to fully understand the scope or context of this sin; and also to find out who is qualified to commit this unpardonable sin.

In the context of the opening scriptural text, they brought a man that was possessed with a demon, blind and dumb; and Jesus healed him, so that the blind and dumb man both spoke and saw.

While people were in awe and amazement of Jesus' miraculous healing and deliverance, the antagonist Pharisees said Jesus was casting out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. Now in all honesty, the Pharisees that made that statement knew very well that Jesus was operating with the Spirit of God, not with an evil spirit.

By their knowledge of scriptures and observation of his character, they knew very well that Jesus was the Son of God and was operating with the Holy Spirit of God. But out of envy, they maliciously and willfully accused Jesus of casting out demons with the power of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils.

This fact can be buttressed by Jesus' statement in verse 33 of the same chapter. Here is what the Lord says in Matthew 12:33; *"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit"*.

In the above verse, Jesus is saying you cannot say a good tree produces a bad fruit. Neither can you say a corrupt tree produces good fruit.

So What Is The Unpardonable Sin?

From the above scriptural analysis, it is very clear that the unpardonable sin is the conscious, willful and malicious blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

The unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit also means, renegading or turning away from Christ after receiving the knowledge of Christ and the truth of God's word (Hebrews 10:26-29; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2Peter 2:20-21)

Are Blasphemous Thoughts Unpardonable Sin?

Now concerning this matter of unpardonable sin, there are those who believe they have committed the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit, just because of some blasphemous thoughts that come to their minds.

But just having blasphemous thoughts against the Holy Spirit flow to our minds, is not committing the unpardonable sin. Every believer at one point or the other do have sinful thoughts float to their minds, including blasphemous thoughts, but that does not translate to the unpardonable sin.

When thought projects into your mind, either from the devil or from any other source, all you have to do is to resist the evil thought. And of course, God will not count an evil thought you resisted as sin against you. The only thought that becomes a sin against you is the one you embrace with all your heart.

So getting a sinful or blasphemous thought against the Holy Spirit, is never an unpardonable sin, especially if you feared and resisted that thought without embracing it. And as a matter of fact, if you feel scared that you might have committed the unpardonable sin, that's a sure sign that you have not committed the unpardonable sin.

Because it is only the person with the Holy Spirit in him that fears God. The people who commit the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit, lose the fear of God completely and are possessed of the devil. And they can freely speak against God without any fears whatsoever, because the Holy Spirit of God has departed from them.

So, if someone still fears God, and by reason of floating blasphemous thoughts against the Holy Spirit, thinks that he has committed the unpardonable sin, it is very clear he has not committed the unpardonable sin.

Who Is Qualified To Commit The Unpardonable Sin?

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gifts, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." – Hebrews 6:4-6

From the above text we can see the qualifications for committing the unpardonable sin. For someone to be able to commit the unpardonable sin:

1. He must be Enlightened: In other words, he must have a good revelational knowledge of God's word.
2. He must have tasted of the heavenly gifts: That is, the person must have had experience of the manifestation of spiritual gifts.
3. He must have received the gift of the Holy Ghost and even had good communion with the Holy Ghost.
4. He must have tasted the good word of God-- that is, the person must have had a deep understanding of God's word.
5. He must have tasted or experienced the manifestation of the power of the world to come, especially the manifestation of the anointing in his life.

It is only the person who passes the above five listed criteria that can commit the unpardonable sin. So, with the above stated scriptural fact, it is practically impossible for an unbeliever in Christ Jesus, to commit the unpardonable sin. And it is also very difficult for a baby Christian, without much revelational knowledge of God, his word and power to commit the unpardonable sin.

So, an unbeliever who is yet to be enlightened about God and his word may blaspheme God, Jesus and his Holy Spirit out of his ignorance. But when he gets enlightened and repents, his sins and blasphemies will be forgiven.

Along the same line, a baby Christian without proper enlightenment about God, his words and power can out of temptation or anger blaspheme against God and even the Holy Spirit, so long he does that in ignorance, if he repents and asks God for mercy he will be forgiven.

So How Do I Know I Have Not Committed The Unpardonable Sin?

In case you are still in doubt whether you have committed the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit or not, here is how to know you have not committed the unpardonable sin...

If you think you have committed the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit; and you still have the fear of God in your heart; you are still very dreadful of consciously sinning against God and his eternal judgment, then that is a sure sign you have not committed the unpardonable sin.

Because those who commit the unpardonable sin, against God, do not have the Holy Spirit anymore, instead they get possessed by an adversarial spirit. And as such, they don't have any iota of fear of God or his eternal judgment. So, they can easily blaspheme and sin against God with no fear whatsoever.

So, if you think you have committed the unpardonable sin against God, and yet you still have the fear of God and his eternal judgment in your heart, then know that you have not committed the unpardonable sin.

Just go ahead and ask God to sanctify your heart and mind afresh with the blood of Jesus Christ. And also ask God to cast out that spirit of condemning fear from you, and fill your heart afresh with his divine faith and love in the name of Jesus Christ. And as you ask him, your joy of salvation and sonship will be restored back to you in Jesus name!

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