

The Holy Spirit and A Christian Vol. 2

The Centre of Christianity



FREDRICK G. OMONDI

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and
A Christian
Vol. 2**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

This book is a sequel to the first book on the Holy Spirit and A Christian which dealt on defining the Holy Spirit, How the Holy Spirit operated in the Old Testament period and also how he is operating now in the New Testament, the character and fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the work of the same Holy Spirit.

In this book however you are going to learn about the permanency or not of the Holy Spirit, how to safeguard the anointing of God, the Ministry and gifts of the Holy Spirit, how to receive the Holy Spirit and the connection of the Holy Spirit on the rapture of Christ's holy church.

The book will be not only interesting but it is crucial to all that yearn to be with the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven eternally.

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Chapter One	5
The Holy Spirit's permanency	
Chapter Two	21
Safeguarding God's anointing	
Chapter Three	66
The Holy Spirit's Ministry and Gifts (Ascension gift ministries)	
Chapter Four	80
Receiving of the Holy Spirit	
Chapter Five	115
Importance of the Holy Spirit	
Chapter Six	139
The Holy Spirit and the rapture of the Church	

Chapter One

The Holy Spirit's permanency

Going by the scripture how does the Holy Spirit stay in an individual? Is the stay long or short? We shall begin with the Old Testament before we come to the New Testament to see what it has to say on this issue. At least we will have a clue about it.

(A) The Old Testament

I had touched a bit this issue earlier in chapter three but did not dwell much on it and now we are going to look at some scriptures. Before we move on to the scriptures I did indicate that the Holy Spirit stayed for a specific period to enable the person having him perform some task given by God and I said save for prophets and I specifically mentioned prophet Elisha and gave a few scriptures that he the Holy Spirit would stay with the individual he came upon throughout the individual's life. But for the rest it was for just some time and not permanently as such.

AND it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.

Genesis 6:1-3

Now here there is some indication by God saying he is not going to strive with man as he is also flesh. Men began to go their way and not God's (the Holy Spirit's way) as they went in the flesh and therefore in other words to say, he is not going to force himself in them and that means he can leave them alone. Get it right that the Holy Spirit in an individual is there not for fun but for God's will to be done in the individual and if not done because of the individual's self-will, well the Holy Spirit may have no business to continue being in that individual.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 1:13-15

Now my reader, is there anything clearer than that? Lust is not of the Holy Spirit as such, but of the flesh (body). Lust is sin because it is the element that leads one to sin and sin in maturity results in death. This scripture is very clear on the issue of the flesh and sin. The Holy Spirit is not a party to sin and are contrary completely. (Galatians 5:16-17). The two are not bed fellows and have no business being together.

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

Let our Lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on a harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armour bearer.

And Saul sent to Jesse, saying,

Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

1 Samuel 16:14-23

There it is in black and white. Saul had earlier received the Holy Spirit but because of sin of rebellion among other sins, now in the above scripture we find the Holy Spirit did leave him alone on his own and an evil spirit took over in his life. So, the Holy Spirit did not stay permanently in Saul's life. David was a worshipper and when he did praise his God the evil spirit could not contend with and had to leave and Saul was then refreshed. God dwells in the praises of his people. You could be wondering, how comes that an evil spirit can come from a holy God? God allows nature to take its course. The scriptures cannot be broken as a man will reap what he sows (Galatians 6:7) - Saul simply and probably ignorantly invited/gave an opportunity to the enemy, an entry point.

And when De-li'-lah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Phil-is'-tines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Phil-is'-tines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his heard; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

And she said, The Phil-is'-tines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself.

And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

But the Phil-is'-tines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Judges 16:18-21

It is a sad incident, but it happened to Samson. He was not so careful in his life and the Holy Spirit that had filled him mightily departed from him. At this very juncture, he had given the enemy a foothold by revealing his secret to the wife Delilah who kept on vexing him on the same. Satan does not easily give up in trying to tempt us. (Ephesians 4:27, Job 1:6-22; 2:1-10, Luke 4:13).

May the Lord help us to fear him always, as it cannot be business as usual with God (Judges 16:20 above, Read also Philippians 2:12).

AND it came to pass, after the year was expired at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Jo'-ab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rab'-bah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

And it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-she'-ba, the daughter of E-li'-am, the wife of U-ri'-ah the Hit'-tite?;

And David sent messengers, and took her, and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her and the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

And David sent to Jo'-ab, saying, Send me U-ri'-ah the Hit-tite.

And Joab sent U-ri'-ah to David. And when U-ri'-ah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Jo'-ab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

And David said to U-ri'-ah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And U-ri'-ah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

But U-ri'-ah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

And when they had told David, saying, U-ri'-ah went not down unto his house, David said unto U-

ri'-ah, Comest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

And U-ri'-ah said unto David,

The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Jo'-ab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

And David said to U-ri'-ah, Tarry here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee depart. So U-ri'-ah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Jo'-ab, and sent it by the hand of U-ri'-ah.

And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye U-ri'-ah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

And it came to pass, when Jo'-ab observed the city,
that he assigned U-ri'-ah unto a place where he
knew that valiant men were.

And the men of the city went out, and fought with
Jo'-ab: and there fell some of the people of the
servants of David; and U-ri'-ah the Hit'-tite died
also.

The Jo'-ab sent and told David all the things
concerning the war;

And charged the messenger, saying,

When thou hast made an end of telling the matters
of war unto the king,

And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say
unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto
the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they
would shoot from the wall?

Who smote A-bim'-e-lech the son of Je-rub'-be-
sheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone
upon him from the wall, that he died in The'-bez?
why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou,

Thy servant U-ri'-ah the Hit'-tite died also.

So the messenger went and came and showed
David all that Jo'-ab sent him for.

And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant U-ri'-ah the Hit'-tite is dead also.

Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Jo'-ab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

And when the wife of U-ri'-ah heard that U-ri'-ah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she become his wife, and bare him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 11

That was quite a sad incident indeed and for sure God did send Nathan to David to rebuke him (2

Samuel 12:1-15). David had no option but to repent pleading for God's mercy and forgiveness.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving - kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Behold, I was sharpen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desirest the truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Psalm 51:1-12

David pleaded to God that the Holy Spirit should not be taken away and that God thoroughly wash and clean him as he had been defiled by the sin. Samson had to wait for quite some time for his hair to grow and later requested back God's anointing in his life and was granted. It is easier to lose God's anointing than to get it back after losing it. Eh! It is that serious. David definitely knew that the Holy Spirit can depart from one as he was there at Saul's palace playing the harp with his hand for Saul to be refreshed by having the evil spirit leave him. David was therefore repenting of his sins to God and asking for forgiveness in the chapter of the book of Psalms. He was wise and was in the act trying to

come out of the danger zone (impenitence is a danger zone) in an individual's life. The above is my observation and don't know yours if at all it is different on this issue.

(B) The New Testament

In the New Testament it is a bit different though with some reservations as we are going to see in the scriptures.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

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.

John 14:15-17

The above scripture it seems that the Lord's intention is for a Christian to not only receive the Holy Spirit but that he abides for ever. But it seems that it depends on an individual – whether he or she

will keep God's commandments or abandon them altogether after conversion.

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and 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 bide in him.

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1 John 2:24-29

The above scripture is clear in that there are people who will try to draw you away from God's truth but

you must remain in his revealed word by obedience in order to remain in Him (that is, in his Spirit).

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

The above, is equally a warning to a Christian. I do believe also that you know very well what the word grieve means to you. You most likely have seen a person in a grief, how feels and also how can act. It is a grave matter and not a laughing matter at all. I have to leave you with those hoping you will ponder on them and come with a logical conclusion.

Chapter Two

Safeguarding God's anointing

It is of utmost importance that once you receive the Holy Spirit (God's anointing) in your life you must ensure that you do safeguarding work. It is so because once you lose God's anointing to get back anointing can take time and it is not a short time. I can attest to that fact because I once had become a victim and I think I shared that experience in my other book entitled 'A Christian and how not to backslide'. One is saved by the Lord so that one may live a holy life and at the end inherit the kingdom of God in heaven to be with the Lord forever. The vehicle that transports one to heaven is none other than the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:26-40).

Now in safeguarding God's anointing what one need to do is to stay out of sin and that is the only antidote. In this chapter I am going to dwell on some issues that I believe based on the scriptures are very much related to losing one's anointing. In each of those issues I am going to talk about I shall endeavour to give scriptures relevant to it with some explanations.

(a) Sexual immorality

AND Israel abode in Shit'-tim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods:

And Israel joined himself unto Ba'-al-pe'-or: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

And the LORD said unto Moses,

Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye everyone his men that were joined unto Ba'-al-pe'-or.

And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Mid'-ia-nitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And when Phin'-e-has, the son of El-e-a'-zar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Phin'-e-has, the son of El-e-a'-zar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my Jealousy.

Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Numbers 25:1-13

God was so upset with the children of Israel for this unbecoming behaviour such that he had already killed those thousands among them and would have continued to kill them if Phinehas had not intervened by taking a drastic and harsh action on the man of Israel and the woman he brought among them to sin with her. Let me give you other scriptures on the same.

THEN went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

And Samson lay till midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

Judges 15:1-5

Now if you continue reading further on poor Samson you will find that he had taken a wrong path and which not only resulted in God's spirit departing from him but he died a painful death which was somehow self - inflicting simply because from the word go he did not bother to safeguard the anointing he received.

THE words of king Lem'-u-el, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

What, my son? And what, the son of my womb?
And what, the son of my vows?

Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.

Proverbs 31:1-3

Please take note that in the Old Testament record show that God gave the Holy Spirit to the prophets and to the kings to help them in their respective offices and therefore wrong relationships by the kings with women can definitely affect them as the Holy Spirit is the one that helps them in decision making in their leadership.

Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I take the members of Christ, and make them members of an harlot? God forbid.

What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Remember how God killed so many of the children of Israel in one day as recorded in the book of Numbers. It means that sexual sin is a real grave matter before God of which he will not tolerate at all.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate nor abusers of themselves with mankind;

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, no revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of

the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 6:9-12

You can see the sins listed, the sins of fornication and adultery are among the first to be mentioned which means they really have more weight and that they are the only sins that are committed with the body (verse 18) - these sins bring impurities in one's life and one need to flee from them as advised or else one will not remain pure but become impure (defiled) before God who is ever holy. The scriptures continue to pin point the above sins even in the last book of the Holy Bible in the book of Revelation (Revelation 2:12-20).

In the book of Psalm in Psalm 51:10-12 king David was in deep repentance before God after getting into the sin of adultery. Please take notice of the fact that he asked God not to remove (take away) his Holy Spirit from him (probably he was feeling some emptiness in his spirit) or felt that his

relationship with God was very cold (probably God was not speaking to him answering his prayers).

FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification that ye should abstain from fornication:

That every one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour;

Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

1 Thessalonians 4:1-5

From the above scripture in an epistle of apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica fornication is an enemy in a Christian's sanctification process and therefore must be avoided at all cost as

sanctification is necessary in Christianity it being God's will.

(b) Alcoholic drinks

AND the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Phil-is'-tines forty years.

And there was a certain man of Zor'-ah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Ma-no'-ah; and his wife was barren, and bare not.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bare a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Phil-is'-tines.

Then the woman came and told his husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told me his name:

But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

Judges 13:1-5

In the above scripture you can see that Manoah's wife was instructed by the angel of the Lord that she should not drink wine or any strong drink or eat any unclean thing as the child she was going to carry in her womb will be a Nazarite unto God from the womb - meaning God will begin to work in him preparing him for God's work right in the womb - the Holy Spirit will be at work and need not be interfered with. We do have a similar scenario in the New Testament as well and is not an accident but a pattern of God as he never changes.

THERE was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the course of Abiah: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without t the time of the incense.

And there appeared unto him n angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zechariah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zechariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shalt rejoice at his birth.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:5-15

The above scripture is a similitude of the one we just saw in the Old Testament on the promise of the birth of Samson. We can conclude therefore that wine or any strong drink do defile and interfere with the operation of the Holy Spirit and therefore must be avoided completely by God's children. No wonder in the New Testament God says that his children should not be drunk with wine but instead be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). The same is also elsewhere in the Old Testament below:

AND Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said.

And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord hath kindled.

And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the Lord is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.

And the Lord spake unto Aaron, saying,
Do not drink wine or strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Leviticus 10:1-11

That scripture tells it all that the statute of God on wine and strong drink is for all generations ours included and is quite a grave matter that at any time should not be taken lightly the way some churches have taken many spiritual issues lightly these last days prior to judgement.

It is not for kings, O Lem'-u-el, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:
Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted.

Proverbs 31:4-5

Even leaders are advised not to drink wine or strong drinks as that will affect their lives and they will not perform their duties as is required by the law of the land and of course even God's laws. If you read the epistle of Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth you will find him listing drunkards (those drinking such as above) as those who will not inherit the kingdom of God, why? They will not be filled with the Holy Spirit who is the agent to take people to heaven. Read 1 Corinthians 6:10, Romans 8:9-14.

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zech-a-ri'-ah, of the course of Abi'-jah: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

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And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zech-a-ri'-ah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zech-a-ri'-ah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drinks; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:5-15

God changes not (Hebrews 13:8). You can see the same pattern repeated here too, this time round it is made even clearer the reason why drinking of wine or strong drinks is not allowed - the Holy Ghost was to be involved to be in the child while still in his mother's womb.

And they bring him unto the place Gol'-go-tha, which is, being interpreted, the place of a skull.
And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

Mark 15:22-23

When Jesus was crucified at Golgotha they gave him wine mixed with myrrh to drink but he refused to take it. The reason is obvious going by what you have just read in other scriptures - you can't mix

wine with the Holy Spirit as He will take his leave
(will not stay there but depart).

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding
what the will of the Lord is.

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;

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of
God.

Ephesians 5:17-21

We must be wise as Christians. It is the will of God
for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and not to be
drunk with wine which is excess (unwanted in
Christians' lives). Those drunk with wine behave
foolishly but those filled with the Holy Spirit will
behave normally with soberness and do good things
as described (verses 19-21).

AND Nadab and A-bi'-hu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Then Moses said unto Aaron, this is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

And Moses called Mish'-a-el and El-za'-phan, the sons of Uz'-zi-el the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said.

And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto El-e-a'-zar and unto Ith'-a-mar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil; of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.

And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,
Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Leviticus 10:1-11

Looking at verse 1 we see that the sons of Aaron had offered strange fire before the Lord which the Lord had not commanded. That simply means they must have been out of their minds to dare disobey the Lord in God's tabernacle. In verse 2 we see that the sin was so serious such that the Lord had to kill them on the spot. In Verse 3 when Moses spoke to his brother Aaron on the issue Aaron held his peace

because even he himself he could not comprehend how his sons did what they did. In verse 6 Moses instructed Aaron and his other sons not to mourn over the dead two (who had violated God's law) as that would make matters worse for the whole congregation and that they go not out of the tabernacle (probably to look at the dead bodies) or else they will die as the anointing oil of the Lord (a symbol of the Holy Spirit) was upon them. They obeyed Moses accordingly (In verse 7). Now coming to verse 8 to 11 the Lord himself now spoke to Aaron (as the high priest) why he did what he did and strictly instructed him accordingly how priests are to conduct themselves when they practice in the priestly office. In the New Testament we find that all born-again Christians are priests before the Lord (1 Peter 2:9) and therefore the Lord's statute still apply to them as well because it was a statute to all generations (Leviticus 10:9). God is holy and must be glorified in holy conduct which those two sons of Aaron failed to do and showed a bad example as leaders (priests) before the congregation, as you know people follow

/ do what their leaders do in most cases, as it has been said “action speaks louder than words” (the action of the two spoke a lot to the congregation) negatively. Now look at the following scripture touching on the priests’ conduct before people.

For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2:7-8

When in God’s service one must be sober in all aspects and that is not possible when under the influence of alcohol. Wine and strong drinks not only intoxicate the body but also corrupts it as well and one’s behaviour changes drastically for the worse.

One cannot reason and cannot do things in the right way. Now let me bring you to another scripture in the book of Exodus (Exodus 12:15-20) In that scripture the congregation of Israel were

specifically instructed not to eat leavened bread during the pass over feast and not to have any leaven in their houses and those who disobeyed their souls should be cut off from the congregation. I believe it was so because leaven is used in fermentation of wine and as we know wine and strong drinks intoxicates and corrupts and the pass over feast was a symbol of taking the body of Christ (just as it is now in the taking of the Holy Communion) and the body of Christ need not be corrupted as it is holy. God is a Spirit and does not tolerate sin and corruption is sin. So, by taking wine and strong drink if you are a true Christian you are simply trying to corrupt the Spirit of God and God will not allow that and the Spirit will leave you with your corruption to do what you please in life. Wine and strong drinks are impurities in a Christian's life and a Christian need to maintain a pure life so as to remain consecrated to one's calling in the Lord.

(c) Corrupt speech

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

And the Lord spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And the three came out.

And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the

similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed.

And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, she was leprous.

Numbers 12:1-10

Now that is how serious it can be by talking corruptly by gossip and such like evil talk.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:29-30

A seal is something that stays where it has been rubberstamped. Hence the Holy Spirit as a seal in a Christian's life need not be grieved by corrupt

speech. Suppose he is so much grieved can he continue to hear our corrupt speeches? I doubt it. We may end on our own without a seal and therefore unrecognized as Christians. Remember the epistle of Paul to the church in Rome (Romans 8:9).

Something else that I need to mention which is important as well is that some Christians when they happen to have fallen into some sin, they feel sorry and ashamed of the sin but don't repent of it assuming that things will be okay with time. The truth of the matter is that things will not be okay and it will not be business as usual at all.

Such need not drag their feet to coming to repentance. They need to quickly come to genuine repentance before the Lord asking for forgiveness and cleansing of their souls with the blood of Jesus as well as asking the Lord to help them not go back into that sin. They must act on the sin committed and not just wish it away as it can't work.

Remember sin is like poison in one's life and unless it is gotten rid of in fairly good time it will definitely cause havoc.

Sin is not something one need to play or joke around with as it is like a time bomb and can explode any time in one's life God who is gracious and merciful will restore one that genuinely repent.

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

2 Timothy 2:14-16

Any ungodly speech which show no respect and undermine others in one way or another lead the speaker more and more away from God (from the Holy Spirit's presence) and must be avoided by Christians.

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:6

Unholy speech has no grace and does not please the God of all grace and therefore grieves the Holy Spirit of God in a Christian and sort of may drive away the Holy Spirit's presence.

(d) Idolatry

AND when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us, for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said,

These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O

Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff necked people:

Now therefore let me alone that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Exodus 32:1-10

The Israelites' example above is a warning to the Church of God to refrain from idol worship lest they are harshly judged as God is a jealous God and a consuming fire (Exodus 20:1-5, Hebrews 12:28-29) Idolatry is corruption before God who is holy. Let God not disown you.

e) Disobedience

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye.

Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

Psalms 32:8-9

The Holy Spirit instructs, teaches and guides a Christian and who need to be sensitive and co-operative to his promptings and not to behave like an animal that has no understanding. A Christian is an enlightened lot and need not behave like an animal. Now that is a good advice to us Christians.

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

When your fear cometh as a desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

They shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Proverbs 1:24-29

The Holy Spirit is a counsellor to a Christian and to refuse his counsel is in itself disobedience and is to court a disaster as the Lord will not respond to one's request. Remember the case of Saul (1 Samuel 15:1-23; 28:1-29; 31:1-6).

f) Injustice

And the word of the LORD came unto Zech-a-ri'-ah, saying,

Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgement, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in his heart;

But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the

former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 7:8-12

That lesson on the Jews is equally a warning to the Church of Christ that need to be compassionate to other people and to do justice to all, lest God's wrath falls on one.

g) Wilful sin

Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:29-31

It was serious in the Old Testament dispensation to sin wilfully. The same do apply in the New

Testament dispensation going by the following scriptures.

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

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 12:30-32

Grieving the Holy Spirit is very bad as the above scripture indicates.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, 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 6:4-8

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:26-29

It is quite terrifying and may the Lord help us to be in that position, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Let us not forget that when one is saved and received the Holy Spirit God came into his or her life and we all know that he is holy. So, if we continue to live in sin again it is like chasing God from our lives to leave as alone, quite tragic! We need to be reminded the case of the likes of Samson and king Saul who God's Spirit left them on their own and their lives headed for the worst. God does not tolerate sin and that is why the scriptures keep on warning us some of which are as these:

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

MY little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not.

And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:8-2:1-2

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him: for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

Christians must desire to continue purifying themselves in their lives if they want to be with the Lord when he comes for the Church.

Now here is a word of caution brothers and sisters in the Lord. We should never sin wilfully as it is the most dangerous thing a Christian can do and which can easily make one to miss entering heaven as we saw earlier in the chapter and believe also by accepting wrong doctrines.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Colossians 2:6-10

Let us not be deceived by any man including the so called; men of God, but ensure that we are grounded in the word of God lest we are found on the wrong side and lose our souls. Now look at this sad incidence that befell a servant of God and avoid being a victim of such by always being on guard proving all things that come your way (1Thessalonians 5: 21).

AND, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

And he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign that the Lord hath spoken; behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up. So that he could not pull it in again to him.

The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.

And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored again. And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

For so it was charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

So he went another way, and returned not by the way that came to Beth-el.

Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.

And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,

And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.

Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:

For it was said to me by the word of the Lord, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.

So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.

1Kings 13:1-19

Now if you read further you will find that the prophet who came from Judah to prophesy met his death because he took in a lie from a comrade! That should teach us not to trust so much even the brethren and I have experienced the same severally in my walk with the Lord but have comforted myself in the Lord and have continued with my walk not discouraged as I yearn to be with the Lord at the end of all that has come on my way and

cannot be distracted by such things which are of no consequence as cannot be compared with what awaits me at the end of my journey.

I pity that prophet because God never changes (Hebrews 13:8) and so is his word (Matthew 5:18) as God is never confused (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Chapter Three
The Holy Spirit's Ministry and Gifts
(Ascension gift ministries)

Get to know that it is God Himself who do appoint His ministers in the same way that we find Jesus Christ called His disciples by choosing each one of them personally (Exodus 3:1-14, Matthew 10:1-15).

But later when Judas Iscariot committed suicide the remaining 11 disciples somehow in a bid to have a replacement tried to go the democratic way and appointed two and cast their lots on them and the lot fell upon Matthias (Acts 1:12-26).

They prayed yes, but appointed the two and went ahead to give their lots instead of waiting to hear God's choice or verdict over the matter, the theocratic way of doing it. The result is that we never heard of Matthias at all in the Acts of the Apostles.

The same mistake of the early church keeps on being repeated today in many churches and what a pity!

Now let me turn to the scripture touching on the Ascension gift ministries.

I THEREFORE, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vacation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love;

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.**

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:1-13

Apostle Paul in explaining the Holy Spirit's ministry addressed the above epistle to the church at Ephesus. Now let me come to the Holy Spirit's gifts to the Church as recorded by the scripture.

NOW concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

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.

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.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come,
they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as
of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house
where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like
as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and
began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit
gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout
men out of every nation under heaven.

Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude
came together, and were confounded, because that
every man heard them speak in his own language.

And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying
one to another, Behold, are not all these which
speak Galileans?

And how hear we every man in our own tongue,
wherein we were born?

Par'-thi-ans, and Medes, and E'-lam-ites, and the
dwellers in Mes-o-po-ta'-mi-a, and in, Judea, and
Cap-pa-do'-ci-a, in Pontus, and Asia,

Phryg'-i-a, and Pam-phyl'-i-a, in Egypt, and in the parts of Lib'-y-a about Cy-re'-ne, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, ye men of Judea, and ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Jo'-el;

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the lord come:

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of god among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

For David speaketh concerning him, i foresaw the lord always before my face; for he is on my right hand, that i should not be moved;

Therefore did my heart rejoyce, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption.

Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.

Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed for this, which ye now see and hear.

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, the lord said unto my lord, sit thou on my right hand, until i make thy foes thy footstool.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified both Lord and Christ.

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?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, 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 a far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:1-42

Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

AND Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Sa-mar'i-a, except the apostles.

And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

As for Saul, he made havoc of the church entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

Acts 7:51-8:12

Apostle Paul in explaining the Holy Spirit's gifts to the body of Christ addressed the above epistle to the church at Corinth. Now a brief on the same is as follows hereunder.

Group 1: Gifts of Revelation

These happens to be the Holy Spirit manifestations through which God reveals to us a part of His knowledge and Wisdom.

a) A Word of wisdom

This happens as a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit, of God's plans and purposes. In this the Mind and Will of God are spoken forth under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

b) A Word of knowledge

This happens as a supernatural revelation of facts known to God and is a miraculous flash of knowledge given by the Holy Spirit of things hidden (unknown) from the human senses or mind.

c) Discerning of spirits

This happens as a supernatural insight into the spirit world and is a revelation by the Holy Spirit as to whether the Spirit of God, or an evil spirit is at work in a particular situation.

Group 2: Gifts of Demonstration

These happens to be manifestations through which God demonstrates His power.

a) The gift of faith

This is a supernatural trust in God by the power of the Holy Spirit, to believe Him for miracles.

b) The Working of miracles

This is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature by the power of the Holy Spirit. In this, the gift of faith receives miracles which are done by the gift of the working of miracles.

c) The gifts of healing

This is a supernatural power to heal the sick by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Group 3: Gifts of Inspiration

These happens to be the manifestations of the Holy Spirit through which God speaks directly by inspired utterance.

a) The gift of prophecy

This can be defined as supernatural utterance in a known tongue.

b) The gift of Divers kinds of tongues

This is a supernatural utterance in a tongue unknown to the speaker as the Holy Spirit gives the words.

c) The gift of Interpretation of tongues

This is a supernatural showing forth of the meaning of what is spoken in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives the meaning in the known language.

Now coming to something else which is equally important is that a Christian need to find out and know one's specific ministry called to serve in so

as to serve well where one rightfully belongs so as to perfectly fulfil God's will in one's life.

For that matter one need to look at the following scriptures: Ephesians 4:11, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Timothy 3:8.

Chapter Four

Receiving of the Holy Spirit

I have found it necessary that after touching much on the Holy Spirit, it is necessary to take time and to shed light on the conditions that are required for one to be in a position of receiving the Holy Spirit and also highlight the various circumstances that believers do receive the Holy Spirit, as is recorded in the Scriptures. Just as for one to be fruitful from the word of God one need to prepare the heart (Matthew 13:1-9), it is equally so for one to prepare the heart before one can be ready to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-4).

In the Old Testament dispensation receiving of the Holy Spirit was as God chose and therefore few people did receive him. But now coming to the New Testament dispensation, it is open for all true believers in Christ Jesus (Acts 2:36-39) just as it happened on the day of Pentecost to the 120 believers that were assembled together in prayer and praising God and in anticipation for the Holy Spirit to come as was promised by the Lord (Acts 1:1-2:4).

It should be noted that for one to receive the Holy Spirit some preparation is necessary as God is holy (Exodus 19:1-25, Judges 13:1-25, Luke 1:1-15). In those scriptures one will find that some preparation was required prior to the Holy Spirit coming. That is why even Jesus the Son of God before him, God had sent John the Baptist to be a forerunner to prepare the hearts of the people, before Christ coming to them as the Saviour (Matthew 3:1-12). We also do know as a general knowledge that when a leader say a King, a President, and so on whenever they are going to meet the people (their citizens) and it is known, there are many preparations that do take place to give them a warm welcome. But that is touching on earthly kingdom. How about that do touch on heavenly kingdom, it is more of course. The Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity of God and therefore is a special guest from a superior kingdom and he must be treated with much decorum by those who want to receive him by preparing their hearts well before hand. Let me now begin with the conditions first.

A. Conditions

First and foremost, the prerequisite for qualifying one to be a recipient of the Holy Spirit is God's salvation which comes about by believing in his Son Jesus Christ and thereby one's sins are forgiven (Acts 10:34-44; 13:38-39).

It is obvious from the above scriptures that there are conditions for a candidate wanting to receive the Holy Spirit that need to be met some of which are as follows.

i) Repentance

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

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.**

Acts 2:36-38

That was Apostle Peter addressing the Jews and giving them the condition for receiving the Holy Spirit. It applies to all others (the Gentiles) as well because the formula is one.

ii) Faith

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for **he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Hebrews 11:6

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.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 1:5-7

From the two scriptures it is clear that for one to receive from God anything be it the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, name it, one need to have faith in God and that will please him and he will give what one requires.

iii) Obedience

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

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.

John 14:15-17

For one to receive the Holy Spirit God requires obedience from such an individual. Another thing is that one must be a believer because we are told that the world cannot receive him (those without Christ, that is, the unbelievers). Jesus was in that scripture addressing his disciples who had not yet received the Holy Spirit as Jesus had not yet been glorified.

But Jesus had the Holy Spirit filled in him and because he was with the disciples, he told them the Holy Spirit dwelled with them and shall be in them too, when he is sent as promised.

The LORD is far from the wicked: but he **heareth the prayer of the righteous.**

Proverbs 15:29

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but **if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.**

John 9:31

Who are the righteous? They are those who worship God and do his will, that is obey him and such he hears and answer their prayers. You can read the same condition that God gave to his people the Israelites for receiving blessings from him all of which hinged on obedience (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth

me shall be loved of my Father, **and I will** love him, and will **manifest myself to him**.

John 14:21

Quite clear - loving the Lord is keeping his commandments (doing them) and the Lord will manifest himself to such a one. God is a Spirit and God the Father and God the Son are one, therefore the Son will manifest as the Holy Spirit and not necessarily in the physical realm as it was when he was on earth with his disciples as he is now in the right hand of God in heaven (Acts 7:55-60).

iv) Separation

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:1-3

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Proverbs 4:14

Only the obedient - those who go God's way by doing his will are blessed by him when in need. Those are people who have separated themselves by living a different lifestyle of being God fearing.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what accord hath Christ with Be'-li-al? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their god, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

The above scripture talks of the need to live a separated life in order to be accepted by God the Father who is the one that blesses and he is blessed forever - very rich indeed!

v. Righteousness

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named **Zech-a-ri'-ah**, of the course of Abi'-jah: **and his wife** was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was **Elisabeth**.

And they **were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zech-a-ri'ah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not Zech-a-ri'ah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, name Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her,

Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old Age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
be it unto me according to thy word.

And the angel departed from her.

And Mary arose in those days and went into the hill
country with haste, into a city of Judah;
And entered into the house of Zech-a-ri'-ah, and
saluted Elisabeth.

**And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard
the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her
womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy
Ghost:**

And she spake out with a loud voice, and said,
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb.

And whence is this to me, that the mother of my
Lord should come to me?

For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation
sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb
for joy.

And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a
performance of those things which were told her
from the Lord.

And his father Zech-a-ri'-ah was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

And hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

That he would grant unto us that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the
day spring from on high hath visited us,
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of
peace.

Luke 1:5-13, 26-45, 67-79

From the above scripture you can see that the Holy Spirit was promised to the Virgin Mary that she would receive him. Why? She was a virgin among the women there and had kept herself pure from any defilement and God chose her to be a vessel to be used by him.

vi) Thirst for the Holy Spirit

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.)

John 7:37-39

From the above scripture it is clear that one must thirst for the Holy Spirit in order to be filled by him. No wonder Jesus had to cry aloud to put across that fact to the Jews who were present at that feast. Jesus Christ was glorified after his resurrection from the dead and his subsequent ascension into heaven (Acts 1:1-11) and later poured the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and now therefore no believer should be ignorant of the presence and availability of the Holy Spirit as the believers at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-2). In concluding the above scripture (John 7:37-39) we need to hunger and thirst for the Holy Spirit who is a spirit of righteousness (Matthew 5:6) in order to be filled.

You can also see that both Zechariah and his wife Elisabeth were righteous before God and walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless and all were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Righteous living is key for being Spirit-filled by the Lord.

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

(As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the lord;)

And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, **there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.**

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God,
and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart
in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy
people Israel.

Luke 2:21-32

From the above text you can see that the man
Simeon was both a just and devout man and that he
had been a recipient of the Holy Spirit.

It follows therefore that a just life can make one to
be a candidate for receiving of the Holy Spirit as it
had happened to the man Simeon.

Now let me bring to you some of the circumstances
where people received the Holy Spirit as recorded
in the Scriptures.

B. Circumstances

i) By Water Baptism

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto
John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:13-17

From the above scripture you can see that Jesus received the Holy Spirit immediately after being water baptized and experience has shown that it has happened to new converts who after being water baptized receive also the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives them utterance. That confirms the other scripture in the book of acts of the apostles where Peter told the Jews to repent of their sins and to be water baptized in the name of the Lord for them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:36-38).

ii) By prayer and laying on of hands

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named An-a-ni'-as; and to him said the Lord in a vision, An-a-ni'-as. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

And the Lord said unto him,

Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named An-a-ni'-as coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Then An-a-ni'-as answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

But the Lord said unto him,

Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And An-a-ni'-as went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, **Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.**

Acts 8:10-17

If you read from verse 18 onwards you will see that truly Saul received the Holy Spirit as he was bold in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews that were in Damascus so much such that the Jews plotted to kill him.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Sa-mar'-i-a had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:**

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:14-17

The same pattern just as in the other previous scripture - prayer and laying on of hands and the believers received the Holy Spirit.

AND it came to pass that, while A-pol'-los was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Eph'-e-sus: and finding certain disciples,

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.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

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.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

And all the men were about twelve.

Acts 19:1-7

Apostle Paul laid his hands on the believers at Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit and for sure they received him.

iii) By praying and expectantly waiting

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Al'phe-us, and Simon Zelo'-tes, and Judas the brother of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about a hundred and twenty)

Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling head-long, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

And it was known unto all the dwellers of Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, A-cel'-da-ma, that is to say, The field of blood.

For it is written in the book of Psalms, let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take.

Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Bar'-sa-bas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matth-i'-as.

And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen,

That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matth-i'-as; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

**And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,
and began to speak with other tongues, as the
Spirit gave them utterance.**

Acts 1:12-2:4

The disciples were gathered together in prayer expectantly on the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ and they did receive the Holy Spirit and were filled as well.

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

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 4:23-31

In the above scripture you can see that God answered the prayers of the saints and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. I too when I was praying earnestly to God and repenting of my past sins God at some point answered me and I received

the Holy Spirit and was filled and I found myself speaking in another tongue unknown to me.

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.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

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?

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer a scorpion?

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?

Luke 11:9-13

iv) By hearing God's word

And the morrow after they entered into Cae-sa-re'-a. And Cornelius waited for them, and had near friends.

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither, Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house

of one Simon a tanner by the seaside: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;

Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead.

To him all the prophets witness that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 10:10-44

You can see that by Peter preaching to those people, the Holy Ghost came to them and they began to speak with tongues and magnified God.

v) By being anointed by God's minister

THEN Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because

the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

When thou art departed from me today, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zel'-zah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorrowed for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Ta'-bor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Beth-el, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another a bottle of wine: And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Phil-is'-tines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

And thou shalt go down before me to Gil'-gal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shall thou tarry, till I come to thee, and show thee what thou shalt do.

And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

1 Samuel 10:1-10

You can see from the above scripture that after Samuel had anointed Saul to be king, the Spirit of God later came into him and he prophesied just as the other prophets who met him.

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said

There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

And he sent and brought him in.

Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ra'-mah.

1 Samuel 16:10-13

Later God rejected Saul from being king and chose David and who when Samuel the prophet anointed him, he received the Holy Spirit.

Please do note that the Holy Spirit is not a commodity to be purchased by money as one thought (Acts 8:9-23) or as some think (Matthew 25:1-13). The Holy Spirit is a gift from God which he has promised to give free of any charge to those who will repent of their sins turning away and believing in his Son Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Saviour by inviting him in their lives

The Holy Spirit is essential in a Christian for him or her to be able to live a Christian life as he brings spirituality and without him one is not considered to be truly a Christian.

For they that are of the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

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

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

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.

Romans 8:5-9

Now apostle Paul in the above scripture reminded the church at Rome the life in the spirit (in Christianity) which they needed to embrace and assumed they were all indwelt by God's spirit and if not they were to ensure they have received him or else they are not living a spiritual life and therefore are not Christians – as Christ is not in them. True Christianity is Christ indwelling in one. Without the Holy Spirit one is dead spiritually as you have seen the above scriptures that he is life.

Chapter Five

Importance of the Holy Spirit

In this chapter we are going to see that the Holy Spirit is of utmost importance in a Christian's life as he is central, being the enabler of Christian living. I do say so because the Holy Spirit comes from God the Father who is in heaven and is holy, righteous and just and therefore is able to help a Christian to live a holy and righteous life here on earth with the ultimate goal of inheriting eternal life in heaven after this life.

God is light (John 8:12) and so is his Kingdom (Revelation 21:9-23) and it is written in the Old Testament that God commanded that the lamps in the temple were to be tended continually by adding olive oil so that there is ever light in the house of God. The same applies to Christians in this New Testament dispensation as they are the temple of God and have received the Holy Spirit of God so that their lives to continue giving light to the world (Matthew 5:14-16) and that is why the scripture encourages them to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

To be precise, one begins living the Christian life only after receiving the Holy Spirit as he brings Christ into one's life and without him one is considered not a Christian (Romans 8:9). The Holy Spirit is essentially the breath of God and is life (Genesis 2:7, John 21:21-22). Let us navigate the scriptures.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Luke 2:52

The life of Jesus was shining because he was full of the spirit of his Father.

AND Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing; and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will give it.

If thou therefore wilt worship me, all that be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

And in their hands shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Luke 4:1-13

In the above scripture we do find very important lessons as Christians being the children of God. First and foremost we need the Holy Spirit to help us fight our enemy Satan who will always be tempting us the rest of our lives while on the earth as we have found out that after all the temptations to our Lord, he left him for a season, meaning he would be back again with more temptations. We found out that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, why? Because he was full of the Holy Spirit and which enabled him to defeat Satan who was tempting him. So, we also grow spiritually and get wisdom by the Holy Spirit.

When they therefore were come together, they asked him, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:6-8

The Holy Spirit empowers us for witnessing for the Lord boldly in fulfilling of our mandate on the Great Commission assigned to us (Acts 2, Matthew 28:16-18).

So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

And when they had gone through the isle of Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (or so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who is also called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Acts 13: 4-12

Quite spectacular! The sorcerer received his due share for his evil scheme. The Holy Spirit is to help

us in fighting the enemies of our God as he is more powerful than the spirit out there of the Devil (1 John 4:1-4). Now we must know that only the Spirit of God makes a difference in our lives and without him we are powerless. He is the one that makes us to be different from other people who don't have him, that is, distinguishes the saints from the sinners. Now look at the following scriptures:

THEN Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon the head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

When thou art departed from me today, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzar; and they will say unto thee, the asses which thou wentest to seek are found: lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and though shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Beth-

el, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:

And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; they shall prophesy:

And the spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt be turned into another man.

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

1 Samuel 10:1-7

You can see that what made the difference in Saul's life was the spirit of God that came into his life. Please do not that he was assured that God was would be with him after receiving God's spirit. So, you have God when the Holy Spirit is in you and

without him you are not his (Romans 8:9). Also, of importance is the fact that the Holy Spirit is the one that enables us to say no to all ungodliness as he is holy and righteous. The Holy Spirit creates us to become new creatures in God (2 Corinthians 5:17). So, for us to live righteously we must have the right spirit which only comes from God. Read on.

Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land where into he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 14:22-24

As we have seen in the above scriptures, it is clear that one need another spirit apart from his or hers and that which is none other than the Holy Spirit

for one to be transformed into another man and be able to be obedient to the Lord God and to begin to have the divine nature to enable him or her be a heir in the kingdom of God as God is a spirit and one must have that nature to be a citizen of heaven.

The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace, by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:36-38

Jesus Christ went about doing good for God was with him as he was filled with the Holy Spirit and power. It follows therefore that God's spirit is the power that enables us Christians to live a holy life as is recorded below:

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath
appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly
lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and
godly, in this present world;
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious
appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus
Christ;
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us
from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar
people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:11-14

Without the Holy Spirit we can just dance the tune
of Satan doing all sorts of evil. But thanks be to our
Great God and Saviour who purifies us to be
different from the others in the world by making us
to be zealous for righteousness, halleluiah! Read
also on the same in 2 Peter 1:1-12.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,
and hope to the end for the grace that is to be
brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:13-16

We have no alternative as Christians but to be holy as our God is holy. Holiness comes as a result of having the Holy Spirit in us and living in obedience to God's revealed word. Also, to note is that we have a guarantee of entering heaven if we do so (Revelation 19:1-9). We are the sons of God when his spirit indwells us and we are obligated to now work our own salvation (Philippians 2:12-13) by observing the following: Romans 6:1-13; 8:11-17; 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:30; 5:15-21, Galatians 5:16-18 Colossians 3:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23.

THEN came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly

gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:1-10

From the above scripture it is quite clear that only the Holy Spirit who can give us spiritual direction as he did to Apostle Paul or else, they would have gone in preaching the gospel aimlessly and most likely getting little result as only God is omniscient and gives direction through his spirit in us.

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:
for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep
things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of man, save the
spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of
God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of this world,
but the spirit which is of God; that we might know
the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things we also speak, not in the words which
man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost;
comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the
Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him:
neither can he know them, because they are
spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he
himself is judged of no man.

For who hath the mind of the Lord, that he may
instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

The above scripture reveals powerful things to us
born again Christians in that we get to know the

things of God through the Holy Spirit and can discern through him and judge things through him and be taught by him as well. Now that is too beautiful!

NOW concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

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.

Now there re diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but the same God which workekeeth all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

For the body is not one member, but many.

1 Corinthians 12:1-14

From that scripture we find yet another truth that by

The Holy Spirit we do receive gifts for serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, quite wonderful.

Now if you thought that was enough then look further down here.

**But unto every one of us is given grace
according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high,
he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(Now that he ascended, What is it but that he also
descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up
far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

**And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets;
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and
teachers;**

**For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of
the ministry, for the edifying of the body of
Christ:**

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man,
unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of
Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to
and fro, and carried about with every wind of
doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning
craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:7-16

Now we do find also that by the gifts we also receive grace equivalent to the gift one has received and some receive ministry (offices) where to minister in too. It follows therefore that the Holy Spirit being a gift from God is not a small or an ordinary gift but a very big gift fully packaged with many other gifts therein. In fact, it becomes the biggest and richest gift we have ever received while on earth. Quite a tremendous thing indeed!

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he **maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

Romans 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray perfectly according to the will of God and not our will.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Prying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:16-20

In the above scripture we see also how important the Holy Spirit is in the matter of prayer. It is so because God is a spirit and for us to communicate with him it has to be in the spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Let us now look at yet another very important aspect of the Holy Spirit.

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins,
and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11:1-5

That scripture speaks volumes on the importance of the Holy Spirit to a Christian. The fear of God is a must for anyone that wants to enter the kingdom of heaven after this life as it is one of the many commandments of God (Matthew 10:24-28). Those who do not fear God will be judged harshly by him on the judgement day. Before we go further, we need to understand what it means to fear God. To fear God is to shun evil (Job 28:28, Proverbs 1:7) and we see that is called wisdom before God. It can be as well equated to life here on earth (Romans 8:1-2) and not only life; but life in abundance – eternal life in heaven which comes about by living a holy and righteous life on earth (Revelation 19:6-8). Let us go further and see the characteristics of those that fear God. One that fears God has a distinct life style as hates sin and instead obeys God's commandments. Such as one is the one that loves God (John 14:15) and can truly serve him. He or she can only prosper or flourish and not diminish

(Psalm 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8), be promoted in life and not demoted, that is, be the head and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:1-14), Be saved and delivered and protected and therefore it is most beneficial in life.

Let us now see from the scriptures some examples of those who feared God and those who did not fear him.

Those who feared God

1. Noah (Genesis 6, 7, & 8)
2. Abraham (Genesis 12:1-9; 22:1-18)
3. Lot (Genesis 19:1-24; 2 Peter 2:6-10)
4. Joseph (Genesis 39, 40 & 41)
5. Moses (Hebrews 3:1-2)
6. Joshua (1 Kings 8:21, Joshua 24:1-24)
7. Samuel (1 Samuel 12)
8. Job (Job 1, 2 & 42)
9. Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-16)
10. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Daniel 6)
11. Daniel (Daniel 3)

Those who did not fear God

1. Cain (Genesis 4:1-12)
2. Esau (Genesis 25:27-34, Hebrews 12:14-17)
3. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)
4. Dathan, Korah and Abiram (Numbers 16)
5. Saul (1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-23; 30:1-7)

It is quite dangerous not to fear God the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein as the consequence is most tragic (Revelation 14:6-10; 20:11-15; 22:14-15).

Please take your time also and read in the second epistle of Apostle Peter to the church in the first chapter how he describes that we get God's divine nature through God's Spirit to enable us inherit the everlasting kingdom of God in heaven (2 Peter 1:1-12). It is by the baptism of the Holy Spirit that we get edified (1 Corinthians 14:4, Jude 20), we are transformed in life (Titus 3:, 2 Corinthians 3:18) and are enabled to manifest the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The list goes on and on, on the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians.

Chapter Six

The Holy Spirit and the Church's rapture

It is quite vital for a Christian to receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit because Jesus Christ before he was born we find that the conception in Mary was by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35) and when he was born and before beginning his ministry he was filled with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:13-17) that enabled him to overcome Satan who was tempting him (Matthew 4:1-11) and then he began to minister publicly (Matthew 4:12-17) and in the power of the Holy Spirit prayed at his most trying moment to be able to go through the baptism of sufferings up to his crucifixion (Matthew 26:30-27:66) and by the power of the Holy Spirit he was resurrected and triumphed over Satan (Matthew 28:1-10, Acts 2:22-28, Romans 8:11, Colossians 2:15, 1 Peter 3:17-22) and he was raptured into heaven by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49-51, Acts 1:6-9) and therefore we can see that one has to begin and end in the Holy Spirit

as we can only be perfected by the person of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:1-3).

Touching on the rapture of the Church, there is a big correlation between the Holy Spirit and the rapture. Simply put, no Holy Spirit no rapture. The Holy Spirit is the power of rapture. Let us get down to scriptures.

It is a known fact the body of a believer in Christ Jesus is become the temple of the Holy Spirit who indwells in such a believer (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20). It is also a known fact that at some point immediately prior to the Tribulation period the Holy Spirit who strains/withholds the spirit of the antichrist will be taken away from the world (2 Thessalonians 2:1-8). We very well know that the taking away of Christ's holy Church (rapture) must take place and leave the Tribulation period to be ushered in immediately then.

When the Holy Spirit is being taken away by God, he definitely will carry with him his dwelling place into heaven, that is, the souls of the holy saints together with their new and immortal bodies that he

has changed from mortality into immortality, from corruptibility into incorruptibility (1 Corinthians 15:50-57, Philippians 3:20-21). It follows therefore that the Holy Spirit do play a key role as is also explained in the book of Matthew below.

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord open to us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:1-13

From that scripture it is quite clear that when the rapture shall take place those without the Holy Spirit will miss entry into Heaven as the door into it will be closed (shut) after those who were ready had entered there. It is also clear that the Holy Spirit cannot be shared the way when one lacks salt; one can go borrow from her neighbour and salt her food. Salvation without the Holy Spirit just cannot work as Christ will not accept that (Romans 8:9) as he Himself he is a Spirit just as God the

Father (John 4:24; 10:30; 14:10-11) and therefore one must be indwelt by the Spirit of God. The wedding is a spiritual one and so is the kingdom although there are physical structures and flora (Revelation 21:1-22:5).

So let us now and then continue to ask the Lord to fill us with his Spirit so as to help us live a godly life and serve him with power and to have enough to enter into the rapture as it is his will for us (Ephesians 5 :15-21, Acts 4:1-31). Please do note that the disciples of Jesus (numbering 120) were all filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:6-2:4) but that did not stop them from asking the Lord more of the Spirit and the Lord who is so faithful did grant them their request (Acts 4:31).

Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Psalm 49:14-15

The Psalmist states that all kinds of people will be laid in the grave as a result of death but the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning, and that God will redeem that soul from the power of the grave. The spirit of God will definitely do it.

In the morning there is normally dew on the grass and so on, which is fresh and pure water and the Holy Spirit is likened to water. God will receive the upright via the resurrection of the righteous and the subsequent rapture which will take place simultaneously one after another.

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

Hosea 13:14

God gave that promise to his people and surely he is going to do it. He will give them life and remove them from the grave and he will be a terror to death and will finish the grave and will not repent for all that.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:54-55

That's it my reader, they are no more, in other words have become useless. All that will happen by the Holy Spirit.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and

with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

All that is but the work of the Holy Spirit, or maybe you are doubting? Then read this too.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:11

Right and clear, isn't it? Jesus Christ also said it, again on the promise of the Father on the resurrection of the righteous.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

And this is the will of him that sent me that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:37-40

On the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ the scripture says:

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 2:22-24

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 3:13-15

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:20

Now that is for you and me (all that have believed in Christ Jesus).

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:21-23

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

2 Corinthians 4:13-14

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:28-29

AND at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:1-2

Both the above two scriptures are talking of one and the same thing are talking of one and the same thing touching on the resurrection of the dead and distinguishing between the resurrection of the righteous (the resurrection of life) and the resurrection of the unrighteous (the resurrection of damnation). These two resurrections are set apart from each other and the first is the “resurrection of hope,” is of the saints of God, followed by the “resurrection of hopelessness,” which is of sinners (Revelation 20:1-15).

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

John 12:25-26

The above is a promise which Christ Jesus gave to his disciples and he repeated the same later as recorded below.

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas said unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:1-6

It seems even the disciples of Jesus had just a vague idea of where heaven is, as Thomas had a conversation with the Lord above. Jesus Christ is a Spirit just as God the Father as they are one (John 4:24, 10:30) and it follows therefore that we must have the Holy Spirit who will lead us and usher us into heaven to be with the Lord God eternally.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this book. In case you have any comments please do not hesitate to write to us. Also, if you had not yet accepted Jesus Christ to save your life, please feel free and with all sincerity of heart say this prayer for your salvation: ‘Lord Jesus Christ, I have read your word and believe you are the Saviour of the world. I now come to you as a sinner and repent of all my sins and ask for forgiveness. Please come into my life and cleanse my heart with your precious blood. I ask all this in your precious name. Amen.’

If you have done so know that he has saved you. Go to church and ask for water baptism by complete immersion in water and join Christian fellowship and be regular in church service attendance as well for your spiritual growth. In writing to us use the following address below.

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The Holy Spirit and A Christian

The life of a Christian and the mandatory requirement in Christianity (Romans 8: 9).

This book is instrumental in explaining the importance of the Holy Spirit and by reading it you will come to learn the following:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
- The Holy Spirit in the New Testament
- The Holy Spirit's character and fruit
- The Holy Spirit's work

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a born again Christian aged 66 years and is married and are blessed with 4 children. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds Diploma in Biblical Studies from both Emmaus Bible School and Voice of Prophecy in Nairobi. He is a life member of the Scripture Union of Kenya and fellowship in the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness.



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