

Pneumatology Notes For ETT Conference 2015

Wednesday – The Trinity

Necessity of this study:

- Abuse of Holy Spirit by Charismatic and Pentecostal theology
- Failure by some churches to stick to the text and not let their imaginations create a version of the Spirit that is divorced from Scripture
- The idea of the Holy Spirit is mysterious, even mystical sounding. But that should not limit our thinking about Him in very concrete, systematic ways.

This study cannot be exhaustive. Just three hours. And the Bible is replete with references to the Spirit of God.

From front: Genesis 1:2 – “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”

To back: Revelation 22:17 - The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

So, let’s start at the start: **Trinity**

We are Trinitarians. God reveals Himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. These are not three Gods. They are three persons that make up what the KJV calls “the Godhead.” (Gr: *theotes* – full divinity)

The ontological trinity (ontology -- a branch of metaphysics concerned with the nature and relations of being) – God as God is three-in-one.

God determines what reality is, so our understanding has to be aligned with God’s revelation of Himself, even if we cannot grasp it by human notions of logic – which are based on human limitations.

So, the trinity is a biblical reality, even if its very existence stretches our concept of how reality works. The metaphysics of heaven are different than the physical realities of this world. And we cannot limit Heaven by our physical limitations.

The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons--the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Stated differently, God is one in essence and three in persons. These definitions express three crucial truths: (1) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is only one God.

The Bible speaks of the Father as God (Phil. 1:2), Jesus as God (Titus 2:13), and the Holy Spirit as God (Acts 5:3-4).

Phil. 1:2 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of ¹our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

Acts 5:3-5 - But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God. And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it.

The Bible also indicates that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are **distinct** Persons. For example, since the Father sent the Son into the world (John 3:16), He cannot be the same person as the Son. Likewise, after the Son returned to the Father (John 16:10), the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the world (John 14:26; Acts 2:33). Therefore, the Holy Spirit must be distinct from the Father and the Son.

John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Acts 2:33 - “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

All three persons of the Trinity are intimately involved in the salvation of any individual. (1) The Father chose some before the foundation of the world. (2) The Son died to redeem those selfsame people. (3) The Holy Spirit “seals” those persons, securing them for all eternity.

1 Peter 1:1-2 – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (*elect*) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

So, there is function and purpose to each member of the Trinity. One God in three persons. *Neither the unity nor the diversity take priority*, they both work together.

Unity –

John 14:16-18 - “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

Diversity –

Luke 22:39-42 -- And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. When He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

In the baptism of Jesus, we see the Father speaking from heaven and the Spirit descending from heaven in the form of a dove as Jesus comes out of the water (**Mark 1:10-11**).

Unity and diversity displayed –

In **John 1:1** it is affirmed that Jesus is God and, at the same time, that He was "with God"- thereby indicating that Jesus is a distinct Person from God the Father (cf. also **John 1:18**).

John 1:1-2 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:18 - No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is ^cin the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

And in **John 16:13-15** we see that although there is a close unity between them all, the Holy Spirit is also distinct from the Father and the Son.

John 16:13-15 - "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose *it* to you."

Important: The Holy Spirit is not an end unto Himself. He speaks of Jesus, takes from Jesus and shows it, and drives us to Jesus.

Sometimes the Spirit is treated more like a "force" than a Person. But the Holy Spirit is not an "it", but a "He".

John 16:7-15 ---

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force (like gravity), is also shown by the fact that He has the qualities, characteristics, and activity of a person. For instance, He:

- *speaks* - **Hebrews 3:7** – Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, Harden not your hearts ...”
- *reasons* - **Acts 15:28** -- “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:
- *thinks and understands* - **1 Corinthians 2:9-11** -- but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man

which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

- *wills* - **1 Corinthians 12:11** -- But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
- *feels* - **Ephesians 4:30** -- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- *and gives personal fellowship* - **2 Corinthians 13:14** -- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

These are all qualities of personhood.

The Personhood of the Holy Spirit is distinct from the Personhood of the Son and the Father. They are three real persons, not three roles God plays.

This is not “**modalism**.” Another serious error people have made is to think that the Father became the Son, who then became the Holy Spirit. Contrary to this, the passages we have seen state that God always was and always will be three Persons. There was never a time when one of the Persons of the Godhead did not exist. They are all eternal.

While the three members of the Trinity are distinct, this does not mean that any is inferior to the other. Instead, they are all identical in attributes. They are equal in power, love, mercy, justice, holiness, knowledge, and all other qualities.

If there is one passage which most clearly brings all of this together, it is **Matthew 28:19**: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Notice that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinguished as distinct Persons. We baptize into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Second, notice that each Person must be deity because they are all placed on the same level. Jesus would obviously not have us baptize in the name of a mere creature. Therefore each of the Persons into whose name we are to be baptized must be deity.

KEVIN DEYOUNG WRITES –

If any doctrine makes Christianity Christian, then surely it is the doctrine of the Trinity. The three great ecumenical creeds—the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—are all structured around our three in one God, underlying the essential importance of Trinitarian theology. Augustine once commented about the Trinity that “in no other subject is error more dangerous, or inquiry more laborious, or the discovery of truth more profitable.”

The doctrine of the Trinity can be summed up in seven statements:

- 1) There is only one God.
- 2) The Father is God.
- 3) The Son is God.
- 4) The Holy Spirit is God.
- 5) The Father is not the Son.
- 6) The Son is not the Holy Spirit.
- 7) The Holy Spirit is not the Father.

The Athanasian Creed (used by Christian churches since the sixth century) puts it this way: “Now this is the catholic faith: That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons, nor dividing their essence. For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit, still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.”

So, to conclude: The doctrine of the Trinity is not a philosophical novelty that was dreamed up by imaginative early theologians. It is a central tenet of Christian orthodoxy . It can be drawn out and demonstrated, both explicitly and implicitly, from the whole corpus of the Bible. It is not merely alluded to or hinted at in some obscure

corner of the Bible. Is supported and taught in a multitude of biblical texts.

Thursday – Pneumatology Proper - The Holy Spirit

Pneuma – Greek word for breath, translated in the NT as “spirit.” The two concepts are intimately combined.

John 20:22 - And when He had said this, He breathed (*emphysao*) on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (*hagion pneuma*)

God is a Spirit. He is not corporeal or physical.

Gen. 1:1-3 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

God: elohym – plural. “Let us make man in our image.”

There are over 100 references to the Spirit of God in the Old Testament. And, according to the NT writers, they refer to the Holy Spirit who is promised by God to His people, whom Jesus explained in John 14 (which we’ll get to).

Proof that the NT writers identified the Holy Spirit in the OT:

Acts 7:51 - “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”

2Pet. 1:20-21 - But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation, no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Matt. 22:41-46 - Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?” They said to Him, “*The son of David.*” He said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying, ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY

LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT THINE ENEMIES BENEATH THY FEET"? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

Acts 1:15-17 - And at this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. (quoting Psalm 41) "For he was counted among us, and received his portion in this ministry."

Acts 4:24-25 - And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is Thou who DIDST MAKE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?"

Acts 28:23-28 - And when they had set a day for him (Paul), they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. And some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, saying, 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'" Let it

be known to you therefore, that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”

Heb. 3:7-12 - “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, (quoting from Psalm 95) ‘TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me*, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, ‘THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART; AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS’; AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, ‘THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.’ Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

Heb. 10:15 - And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (quoting from Jeremiah 31) “THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND UPON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,” *He then says*, “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”

The Various Activities of the Holy Spirit --

A.W. Pink wrote a series of 28-page booklets called “Studies in the Scriptures” from 1932 to 1953. They were mailed to whomever requested it. In that booklet, over the years from 1932 to 1937, he wrote a number of articles concerning the Holy Spirit. They were compiled into a book called “The Holy Spirit” that is available as a free pdf download. In that book, he devotes several chapters to the various work and activities of the Holy Spirit, including:

The Holy Spirit Regenerating -- The Spirit Quickening -- The Spirit Enlightening -- The Spirit Convicting -- The Spirit Comforting -- The Spirit Drawing -- The Spirit Working Faith -- The Spirit Uniting to Christ -- The Spirit Indwelling -- The Spirit Teaching -- The Spirit Cleansing -- The Spirit Leading -- The Spirit Assuring -- The Spirit Witnessing -- The Spirit Assisting -- The Spirit Interceding -- The Spirit Transforming -- The

Spirit Preserving -- The Spirit Confirming -- The Spirit Fructifying -- The Spirit Endowing

There obviously won't be time to deal with all of those attributes and activities. But I do want to point out so of the essentials.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to make manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.” (Wayne Grudem)

It's not enough to just be saved and going to Heaven. The work of the Spirit guides our lives here and now until we get to Heaven.

The Spirit brings peace (*shalom* – everything is right, in ordered harmony).

Gal. 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Eph. 4:1-3 -- Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All of God's elect, chosen members of Christ's church receive the Holy Spirit. It's one of the chief things we have in common. Knowing that, it ought to increase our bond of peace with one another. If I cannot love you for your own sake, then I will love you for the Spirit's sake.

The Spirit is God's guarantee:

Eph. 1:13-14 -- In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge (earnest) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

2Cor. 1:21 -- Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

2Corinthians 5:1-5 – For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

God's creation is sustained, and life itself is dependent on, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives life. **Psalm 104:29-31** -- You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground. Let the glory of the LORD endure forever; Let the LORD be glad in His works;

He preserves life. **Job 34:12-15** -- “Surely, God will not act wickedly, And the Almighty will not pervert justice. Who gave Him authority over the earth? And who has laid *on Him* the whole world? If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

The Holy Spirit empowers the resurrection – both of Christ and of His people.

Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

He gives power for service.

Judges 6:34 -- So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

Judges 15:14-15 -- When he (Samson) came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands. And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it.

1Samuel 16:12-13 -- So he sent and brought him (David) in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. 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 brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

1Sam. 19:18-24 the Holy Spirit caused King Saul to prophesy

-- Now David fled and escaped and came to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied. And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. 22 Then he himself went to Ramah, and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And *someone* said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." And he proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before

Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

Ezek. 37:1 -- The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

The Spirit of God guided Jesus in His ministry.

Matt. 3:16 – 4:1 -- And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, *and* coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (4:1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

(in all four gospels).

Luke 4:13-15 -- And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

Isaiah 61:1 & Luke 4:18 – The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

Then He drives out demons, demonstrating the dunamis power of Jesus by the Spirit of God.

The Unforgiveable Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Matt. 12:24-32 -- But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons." And knowing their thoughts He said to them, "Any

kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then shall his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Consequently they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters. Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the *age* to come."

Blasphemy – Gr. *Blasphēmia* – *evil or impious speech, railing against, or vilifying someone.*

I believe this warning is specific and situational. The Pharisees had Christ in their midst performing miracles that only God could do. They likened the Holy Spirit to the Lord of the Flies. They called the holiness of God's demonstration of power, by His Spirit, an unclean and evil thing. And that's what would not be forgiven.

(Common Question: Did I personally blaspheme the spirit – either on purpose or in my ignorance? Answer 1: If you worry about it, you haven't done it. Answer 2) If you belong to Christ, then He has forgiven your sin utterly and completely in a way that He did not do for the Pharisees, because they were not His sheep (John 10:26) Answer 3) This was a specific conversation, at a particular time, including the condemnation of the men who would be responsible for killing Him. It's stretching the text to apply Jesus words to all people in all times, especially to Christians whom Christ died to save.)

Chris promised the power of the Spirit to His apostles.

Acts 1:7-8 - He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or

epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Rom. 15:18-19 -- For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Only by the power of the Spirit can Christians persevere and live by faith.

We will continue looking at the activity and personality of the Holy Spirit tomorrow and will even dip our toe into the controversial “gifts of the Spirit.”

Friday – The Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor. 12: 1-14

Now concerning the “*pneumatikos*”(the supernatural, the non-carnal) – best translated “the spirituals” since the word later translated “gifts” is not in this verse.

In verse 4 we read: “There are diversities of gifts...” (charisma – spiritual endowments, given as act of grace, charis)

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. **3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. **6** There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. **7** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit **14** For the body is not one member, but many.

The Spirit purifies:

He's the HOLY Spirit. He is pure and holy.

1Cor. 6:9-11 - Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

2Cor. 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Matt. 3:11 - "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 16:7-11 -- "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

The Spirit gives evidence of a changed life.

Gal 5:15-26 – But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are

in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Romans 5:1-5 -- Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The Spirit gives wisdom

Eph 1:17-21 -- I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far

above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Holy Spirit brings blessings

1Cor. 3:16 -- Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1Pet. 4:14 -- If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

The ministry of the gospel, as well as the growth and establishment of the church is dependent on the guidance of the Spirit. The spirit stopped Paul from going to bythinia, but to go to Macedonia.

Acts 16:4-10 -- Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees, which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

Acts 16:6 And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The Spirit of God testifies to the truth

Rom. 9:1 -- I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,

The Spirit of God unifies ...

.....the children of God, and proves that we are His sons and daughters.

Rom. 8:9-17 -- However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

John 7:38 -- "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

Gal 4:6 -- Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

If we share a common Father, we are brethren. We are family. His Spirit unifies us.

Compare:

Number 11:25-29 -- So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He

took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again.

²⁶ But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them." ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" ³⁰ Then Moses returned to the camp, *both* he and the elders of Israel.

With:

Acts 2:1-4 – When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

And consequently --

Acts 2:37-47 -- Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse

generation!” So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Quench the Spirit. Grieve the Spirit.

Ephesians 4: 25-32 -- Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1Thes. 5:16-22 -- Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench (extinguish) the Spirit; do not despise

prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Phil. 2:1-4 -- Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Eph. 4:1-6 – Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

2 Cor. 13:11-14 – Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.