
THE HOLY SPIRIT

An essential understanding to the Christian faith

1. In the past few years the Spring Valley Church of Christ has sent throughout the brotherhood, a letter of warning against the unscriptural practices, false and unlearned teaching and preaching amongst the conservative portion of the Church. With the letter of warning we also sent a lesson on the Holy Spirit, pointing out that at the basis of the false teaching, and the trend towards a loose and unsound type of preaching and teaching, which if not corrected, would lead the conservatives into an apostasy, as devastating as that of the institutionalists, was the actual unbelief in the function and the work of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation.
2. These letters and lessons were sent all over the United States and into Australia, Canada, England, Mexico and Hawaii, so that they had a wide distribution. What good this work may have done is yet to be seen. In the warning to the Church we cited specific attempts by brethren Wallace and Tant, and others to lead the Church into an unscriptural relationship with liberal (institutional) sect; using the Gospel Guardian for the purpose. We also recalled the unscriptural meetings of the thirteen conservatives with the thirteen institutionalists, which was the forerunner for more serious attempts to sway the Church away from their long held position, of a complete withdrawal of fellowship with those who had left the truth. All should know that the New Testament teaches unequivocally that the Church is to "MARK THEM WHO CAUSE DIVISION AND TO AVOID THEM"; as well as to withdraw from the unruly and those who teach falsely. (Romans 16:17, 2nd Thessalonians 3:6 & 14, and 1st Timothy 6:1-5).
3. However, in the beginning of the year 1973, we are sorry to say that the warnings seemingly have not been heeded; even though the Church must and does know that the institutionalists left the truth, and have gone further and further away from the gospel; and it is apparent that they caused the division in the Body of Christ which led to an almost complete apostasy. It is also made manifest that they have no intention of turning away from their sins, and their false and unscriptural teaching. Nevertheless, the attempts of false brethren to lead the Church into a sinful and unscriptural alliance with the apostatized brethren have not ceased. As a matter of fact it, would seem the Church is being led in that direction; and we believe that within the next few years the separation of the conservatives and the liberals (institutionalists), will hardly be discernible. The result of this of course will be another apostasy; and the consequence of this will be that the Church will lose the New Testament marks of identification, which sets the Body of Christ apart from any other religious group. And this is already discernible amongst us.
4. So this lesson on the Holy Spirit
5. becomes very important. The rejection of the Holy Spirit is the key to all the troubles in the Church, and was the primary cause of the apostasy. It also accounts for the lack of accord amongst the conservatives upon the scriptures; and the materialistic and worldly type of teaching so prevalent today. It is fundamentally the reason the Church turned away from the New Testament pattern of evangelism of taking the gospel INTO ALL THE WORLD AND CONVERTING

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

THE LOST; and substituted instead a paid preacher system of rotating from one established Church to another at a monthly salary. They have ignored the command to take the gospel into all the world, converting the lost and establishing churches; and so thousands or perhaps even millions have never heard the glad tidings which might have saved their souls. We believe that evangelists should be paid, as they go from place to place converting the lost and establishing churches; but that type of preaching has gone out of practice, along with a great many other New Testament practices and teaching.

6. Slowly but surely the Church has slipped into a loose type of thinking due to the compromising and traditional teaching; and what we have now is a worldly and dangerous type of pseudo Christianity, motivated to great extent by monetary desires, which is leading the people of God further and deeper into a way not found in the New Testament. If this trend continues the identifying marks of the New Testament Church will fade into oblivion. The true Church of Christ is disappearing into a maze of empty and unprofitable words and unproductive rhetoric. The end result of which has been an acceptance of a sort of an unwritten acquiescence of the right of the individual member to their own opinion or their own exegesis of given scriptures. Their excuse for such is that it keeps down discord and promotes peace. However, peace bought at such a price is not the peace which is taught in the Bible; and this course has almost done away with the truth of the gospel.

7. If we turn away from the New Testament to teach our own opinions, we are in no position to take the truth to those around us. And this we have almost ceased to do anyway; and we are in no better condition, and probably much worse, than the lawless and man made institutions of the religious world. There are unethical preachers who for their own

selfish and shameful reasons, are questioning the Bible, which in turn causes the faith of many to be weakened. It seems to concern the Church very little that they disagree and are at variance upon practically all the New Testament ; and that opinions of men are accepted instead of the truth. They seem not to believe 1st Corinthians 1:10 "THAT WE ARE ALL TO SPEAK THE SAME THING, AND TO HAVE THE SAME MIND AND JUDGMENT" on the scriptures.

8. To have the truth we must seek the truth. With the rejection of the Holy Spirit, the truth was stifled; and the skeptics amongst us in their attempts to discredit the Bible, are making those who listen, doubtful of the word of God. With the Church so weakened, not only by those who do not love the truth; but by those who sell the truth, as well as the tendency to exploit the opinions of men rather than seeking for the truth, the truth will be swept away in a flood of unbelief which will swallow up the Church. And we are headed in that direction.

9. We are reminded of the words of Jeremiah 7:12 to 23 and we quote verse 28 which is most applicable in these days when truth has been trod under foot by those who claim to be Christians, "BUT THOU SHALT SAY UNTO THEM, THIS IS A NATION THAT OBEYETH NOT THE VOICE OF THE LORD THEIR GOD, NOR RECEIVETH CORRECTION: TRUTH IS PERISHED, AND IS CUT OFF FROM THEIR MOUTH." The brethren seem to be blind and unaware of the dangerous trend in the Church. They seem to have ceased fighting the good fight of faith and pay more attention to their golf scores, their position, and their salaries, than to teaching and defending the truth. In Judges we read about Samson who because of his many sins and his disobedience, that God departed from him. Judges 16:20 reads, "AND HE WIST NOT THAT THE LORD WAS DEPARTED FROM

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

HIM." The Church today like Samson does not seem to realize that God has departed from them, or is in the process of so doing.

10. One of the most pertinent evidences of the terrible spiritual condition of the Church is the fact no men have risen to defend the truth and to raise their voices against the corruption which has engulfed the Church. Could this be because it would endanger their position and their livelihood? Knowledge and wisdom depart individually as well as collectively when unbelief and false teaching take over. There is a terrible famine of the word of God throughout the whole body of Christ, amongst both members and the preachers. When covetousness and love of money become the prime motivation behind those who are supposed to preach the gospel, then truth disappears in such an unholy and commercial atmosphere.

11. In Ezekiel 22:30 we read, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; BUT I FOUND NONE." Again in Jeremiah 5:1 "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, IF YOU CAN FIND A MAN; if there be any that executeth judgment, that SEEKETH THE TRUTH; and I will pardon it." These words pass judgment upon the preaching brotherhood today. How unutterably sad it is to see the Church without leadership in times of danger and stress; without those who care enough to fight for the truth trying to preserve it in this generation. There seems to be no men to stand up and take the pure words of God forth to not only convert the lost but to build and edify the Church in the true gospel of Christ.

12. In Jeremiah 5:1-5, and we quote a few verses that are appropriate to the thought which we have just written, "O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved;

thou hast consumed them but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than rock; THEY HAVE REFUSED TO RETURN." Again, "I will get me unto the great men, will speak to them: for they have known the way of the Lord, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke and burst the bonds," verse 9, "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" God punished the Israelites when they refused correction and He will punish the Church also unless they changed.

13. There is no use to look for any great men in this generation; they have long ago departed from this earth. The Spring Valley Church of Christ has sent out warnings all over the land but little has been done to change the corruption which is amongst us. It has not aroused a man or any men as far as we can determine to go forth and fight the battle for the truth. The Church in these last years has deteriorated more and more, and become worse and worse, and they have failed to study and learn and to believe the words of God. They have lost their zeal, and everyone seeks their own things; and instead of working for the Lord they pursue the worldly life and satisfy their flesh instead of their spirit. The world is white to the harvest but there are no evangelists to go forth spreading the truth everywhere; and the men and women of the Church do not do the works so necessary in teaching and converting the lost. They have lost their fear of the punishment of God and with the loss of the fear the loss of faith ensues.

14. In this connection we quote from Jeremiah 5:1-31 a few verses, Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: FEAR YE NOT ME? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: . . . But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God . . .". Faith without fear is not acceptable to God and fear no longer motivates the Church, therefore it has become unprofitable in the things of God and will be punished. Jeremiah 6:19 reads, "Hear o earth; behold I WILL BRING EVIL UPON THIS PEOPLE, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."

15. This brings us to the lesson on the Holy Spirit. By the rejection of the Holy Spirit the Church has denied themselves that which makes it possible for them to have knowledge and understanding and helps them to overcome the wiles of the devil. It is our desire in this lesson on the Holy Spirit to disabuse the popular conception as well as the false teaching relative to the function of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation. It is now being taught to great extent, if not altogether, that scriptures which Christians today should apply to themselves, that these scriptures are for early Christians and not for us. For instance, Acts 5:32 and Acts 2:38, 1st John 2:20-27 and others which we will speak about later.

16. The Church is so mixed up upon this particular subject that some deny that we have the Holy Spirit at all and they say that in this dispensation we do not need Him. There are those who take the position that he does not dwell within their bodies, and others that He does dwell within them but has no function or work or does nothing more or less than the word does. The lack of accord on this subject manifests our lack of knowledge of and faith in the truth. To thoroughly understand the work and function of the Holy Spirit we must cast aside unbelief, as well as the unscriptural and common theory that the Holy Spirit does nothing

more or less than that which the word does. Such a statement cannot be found in the New Testament and the scriptures from the beginning attest to the fact that the Holy Spirit has functioned and done His own work the same as God and Christ.

17. It is important that we realize that the work of the Holy Spirit and the purpose of the word are two different mediums by and through which God operates. We must understand this pertinent fact if we are to understand the function of the Holy Spirit. We are all cognizant of the fact that if a premise is wrong every conclusion arrived at must of necessity be wrong. The denial of the function and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and His indwelling within our mortal bodies, as well as confusing His work with the word of God, is the postulate from which springs all the error and confusion which pervades the Church today. The false and unlearned teaching which emanates from the Body of Christ about the Holy Spirit is to a great extent due to unbelief of the scriptures, and to a much lesser extent ignorance accounts for the lack of understanding of His work in this dispensation.

18. To prove what we have said the evidence is found in articles written by some of the leading brethren on the Holy Spirit and published in one of the better known magazines sometime ago. Their lack of belief and their lack of understanding of the subject as well as their lack of accord upon the scriptures was evident in their varying opinions. They did agree upon one thing and that was something they did not prove by scriptures, which was that the Holy Spirit had no work or function in this dispensation. The overall opinion of these brethren was that IF God did give Him as Gift to the obedient (and some denied this and some were not sure although the scriptures are very plain) He had no work or function, and had no effect upon a Christian's life in any way.

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

19. They in effect all denied 1st Corinthians 6:19 which reads, "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?" 1st Cor. 3:16 confirms this scripture and we quote, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God DWELLETH IN YOU?" These verses are plain and to deny them is unbelief. Many of the brethren however are denying them, and this is one of the reasons we are writing this lesson. The rejection of the Holy Spirit is the prime reason for the great apostasy. Without Him they lost their judgment, His work of giving understanding as well as knowledge to the Church was curtailed, and His work of teaching and keeping the Church from error and ignorance was negated and the wholesale apostasy was the result. The conservatives are in grave danger of apostasy, and for the same reason as the institutionalists, because they also have refused to believe the scriptures and have in essence rejected the work of the Holy Spirit. With the rejection of the Holy Spirit the hope of eternal life is gone forever.
20. However, for those who search the scriptures for the truth, it is evident, that when the brethren reach a conclusion so contrary to the word of God, they are in error and unbelief has set in. If we believe Acts 2:38 and Acts 5:32 both of which affirm that God gives to the obedient the Holy Spirit (remember most of the Church does not believe this) then we must in turn recognize the Holy Spirit as a Being, part of the Godhead, who has meaning and substance as well as a work to do for the holy people of God. The Jews were guilty of the same kind of unbelief, and we quote Acts 7:51, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." The Holy Spirit was resisted under Moses law, and in the New Testament times; and today the Church some under the same condemnation. They have rejected the Holy Spirit as a living Being within their mortal bodies, who helps them in their struggle to overcome the devil, as the Bible teaches.
21. The question of the Holy Spirit is so vital and important it cannot be thrust aside as being of little consequence; nor can error or lack of accord on this subject be ignored. The error, the lack of spiritual understanding, and the differences of opinion which abound amongst us, and which are so casually accepted and seem to be of little concern, can be attributed to the fact that the Church has lost its spirituality and understanding of the spiritual, due to unbelief of the function of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
22. The corruption amongst the covetous preachers, who rotate from one Church to another year in and year out; and have neglected to obey the scriptures and go forth and preach the gospel TO ALL THE WORLD, has led to a dearth of sound and productive preaching and exhorting, which in turn has led to a famine of the word of God; and there is little if any spiritual understanding amongst us. Truth and sound doctrine have fled; and having an accord upon the scriptures seems to have little importance amongst the brethren.
23. Therefore, it is easily understood why we have as many differences in the brotherhood, as the denominationalists have in their perverted religious groups. There are those who have gone so far away from all things spiritual, that God has sent evil angels amongst them: (Psalms 78:49) and those who once had the truth are now teaching and believing they can 'talk in tongues', and cast out demons, and other devilish evidences of their complete spiritual destruction. Therefore we should realize that the danger inherent in the carnal approach to everything spiritual, which is proven by our lack of spiritual understanding, is caused by our rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit, which is leading the Church into apostasy. In fact,

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

the conservatives are in danger of losing their identity as a true Church of Christ. How can they be a New Testament Church and it be rampant with unbelief and ignorance?

24. The rejection of the 2nd chapter of 1st Corinthians wherein we are taught that the Holy Spirit reveals the word to us, gives us knowledge of the deep and profound things of God, and makes it possible to compare spiritual things with the spiritual, is because the church rejects these scriptures as being pertinent for Christians today. The 12th verse reads, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the HOLY GHOST TEACHETH; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

25. The Church is taught that these verses are applicable to the apostles only, and have no meaning for Christians today. To accept this false exegesis would be to believe that the apostles had access to knowledge which we don't have, that only THEY had the Holy Spirit, and had the ability to compare spiritual things with spiritual. This the true seeker for truth cannot in light of other scriptures accept. God gave to all His holy people the same assistance, the same Holy Spirit, the ability to know the deep things of God and to compare the spiritual things with the spiritual, that was given to the apostles. It says that "we might know the things that are FREELY given to us of God." God did not limit His love and assistance to the apostles only. The ability to compare the spiritual things with the spiritual, was not limited to them but was given by God to all those who are obedient and faithful to His word. God was and is no respecter of persons, therefore He would not have helped the apostles in spiritual understanding, and in the knowledge of the "deep things" and given them the aid

of Holy Spirit in separating truth from error, (1st John 4:6) and then denied Christians this same assistance. God does not prefer one above another. If the apostles needed the help of the Holy Spirit in their lives, it would be logical and reasonable to assume that the faithful children of God would also, not only need it, but would be given it.

26. In 1st Corinthians 2:14 we read "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." The same thought is contained in Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Therefore, we are quite convinced that the second chapter of 1st Corinthians was meant not only for the apostles but for all Christians, if they will receive it and believe it. The rejection of the Holy Spirit in this era has caused the Church to become carnal, and their knowledge of the word limited. Spiritual things appeal to the spirit of man: therefore, because of the lack of spirituality in the lives of the members of the Church, due to the rejection of the Holy Spirit, such an exegesis of this scriptures and others like them become "foolishness to them," and leads them to false conclusions.

27. Because of carnality, the Church has difficulty in accepting the spiritual, and as a consequence have lost their ability to understand the deep things of God. This explains their inability to understand scripture pertaining to the Holy Spirit and His work and function in the lives of all the holy people of God. For this reason they reject practically all scripture pertaining to the Holy Spirit; and because of unbelief they are blinded to truth. This accounts for their inability to perceive that the apostles were men, and they were subject to the same afflictions, the same doubts, the same weaknesses as all Christians. They had to understand the gospel even as

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

we do, and they could accept or reject it just as we do. Because the understanding of those who reject the Holy Spirit has been darkened, they wrest the scriptures and twist them to suit their own ends. This has led them into the error that is widely taught throughout the brotherhood, that some of the gospel was for the apostles only; and the other scriptures were to be applied to the early Christians and are not relevant to the Church today. The GOSPEL has never changed and applies to ALL Christians then and now.

28. The gospel was given by direct inspiration to the apostles because the New Testament had not yet been written. The words of the gospel were given by God and the Holy Spirit guided them into all truth. By the laying on of hands of the apostles, gifts were given to the Church. The miracles were given to confirm the gospel which they preached. The gospel which the apostles taught, and which was preached throughout the world, is the same gospel which Christians must believe and obey today. Only the manner of confirming it, and the methods used to obtain it; and other miraculous demonstrations used at that time for various and useful reasons were different. But demonstrations and manifestations did not change the gospel of Christ one whit; nor did it mean that certain teachings or scriptures included in the law of Christ, were to be applied to the early Christians and not to us. The reason for such a false and perverted type of deduction is because the help of the Holy Spirit, so necessary in understanding the gospel, has been taken away because of unbelief.

29. One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to teach us, 1st Corinthians 2:1 to 16 (verse 13), and 1stJohn 2:19–27; but the Church has difficulty in accepting, and/or even believing the scriptures. They lack the ability to separate truth from error, as this also is one of the functions of the Holy Spirit. In this connection we will quote

1stJohn 4:6, because it is in accord with this thought, “6We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”

30. To understand and separate truth from error and to be consistent in our teaching of the truth, (all of it), we need the independent help of the Holy Spirit, who is called the Spirit of Truth. John 15:26. This help in separating truth from error is one of the functions of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation. Even as it was in guiding and helping the people of God in this respect throughout all of the Bible. Especially was His work necessary in guiding the apostles into all truth; and bringing all things to their remembrance; as well as the gifts which He bestowed upon the early Christians by the laying on of the hands of the apostles, which also was done by and through His power.

31. However, though we believe in the independent help of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament times, and realize that the miraculous demonstrations of His work were done away with, such as tongues, prophecies and knowledge direct from God, (1st Cor. 13:8), the Church rejects the independent help of the Holy Spirit in their lives today, such as separating truth from error, teaching us, keeping us from being seduced from the truth, and helping us to mortify the flesh, and to know the deep things of God: and other assistance which we will go into later in this lesson. We seem unable in this generation at least to comprehend the work of the Holy Spirit, or to be able to separate His work in New Testament times from the work which He performs for ALL Christians today who live holy and righteous lives.

32. Therefore it seems most preposterous to hear taught in the Church today that the “Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than that which the word does.” This statement comes from man not God. We continue with verses 20 and 21 of the 2nd chapter

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

of 1stJohn; which seems to be perverted by many in their desire to escape its true meaning. "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, AND YE KNOW ALL THINGS. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth." Some say this applies only to the early Christians; but we must remember the early Christians, as well as the apostles, had the SAME GOSPEL WHICH WE HAVE. There never was but ONE gospel and it was for all.

33. The "unction" is of course the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, administered by Christ, the Holy One (which most of the brethren deny today), and not the apostles which some erroneously teach. Again we reiterate the law of Christ was the same then as it is today. The early Christians as well as the apostles, were subject to the same gospel as Christians today. It has always been difficult to understand why the brethren insist upon a difference between what the Christians in New Testament times and Christians today have to believe and obey.

34. Many of the brethren do not believe Acts 2: 38, which we quote, "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," In their rejection of the gift of the Holy Spirit they say that the Holy Spirit is giving a gift to those who are baptized. However, to show the error of such an exegesis we quote; Acts 5:32, "And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom GOD HATH GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM." To deny the teaching of these two verses is tantamount to heresy. Furthermore we have quoted a multitude of verses throughout the New Testament to prove that Christians do have an indwelling of the Holy Spirit, so to deny Acts 2:38 and Acts 5:32 is to deny the word of God.

35. Furthermore the scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is here on earth; and His dwelling place is within the mortal bodies of all the holy people of God. However, many brethren, if practically not all, deny the scriptures which prove the advent of the Holy Spirit to this earth. Christ said in John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you." The Comforter is the Holy Spirit. John 14:26; and when Christ ascended back into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to this earth. He reiterated this promised in John 14:17 and we quote, "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."

36. We hear the unbelievers say "...but these verses were said to the apostles and pertain to them only." These words were to the apostles, however the point we are trying to make is that the Holy Spirit was sent down to this earth and would be IN the apostles. If God gave to the apostles His Holy Spirit to dwell IN them, did He give them something He did not give to all the saints? The proof that all the obedient children of God received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is found not only in the verses Acts 2:38 and Acts 5:32, but many, many others throughout the New Testament. Furthermore, we do not believe God would have given the Holy Spirit to dwell within the apostles all their lives, and denied Him to all the saints. The apostles already had Him with them; (which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit) and the indwelling was an added gift, but it was not reserved for the apostles only, but was given to all Christians then and now, That's what this lesson is all about—to prove that the Holy Spirit is here on earth, dwelling within the bodies of all the holy people of God.

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

37. In John 16:13 we read, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." Again in in John 15:26, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, He shall testify of Me." All of these verses attest to the fact that the Holy Spirit is here on earth. If Christ came to this earth and lived in the flesh, then we ask, why is it so difficult to believe that the Holy Spirit has come to this earth to dwell IN the bodies (flesh) of the saints, to do the work which God ordained for Him to do. If one can be possible, then both are possible. These verses of scripture prove the Holy Spirit's advent to this earth; and there are no scriptures to prove He ever returned to heaven.
38. He was a Comforter for the apostles; but He also was and is a Comforter for all the saints. In John 14:26 we read, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." In Acts 9:31 we read, "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." As the Holy Spirit was a Comforter to the apostles so is He a Comforter to all those who believe that He dwells in their mortal bodies. The Holy Spirit gives to the holy people of God the same comfort that was given to the apostles and the early Christians. It is some thing that the word cannot give us, because it is a comfort for the spirit, that only those who are alive spiritually can partake of.
39. Some say that only the apostles were guided into all truth. But it is evident from the scriptures that what God gave to the apostles by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, He gave to Christians. The apostles were guided into truth by the Holy Spirit and if Christians are to know the truth they also need the help of the Holy Spirit. By His guidance the Church, when it is spiritually right, can come into an accord upon all scriptures. Without His help the Church wallows in the quagmire of ignorance, discord, and unbelief, and can't seem to come into an accord on hardly any subject, including the Holy Spirit: which is the condition which exists today.
40. This thought us upheld in 1st John 2:20 and 21 wherein Christians are told that they, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, "know all things." Verse 21 reads, "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth." So the Spirit not only guides us, and teaches us, but if we study diligently we can know all truth as well as know that no lie is of the truth. Verse 27 in 1st John 2 reads, "But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth IN you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him."
41. These verses of scripture are for Christians then and NOW. If they teach anything, they teach that in areas of our learning, such as perhaps knowledge of the deep things of God, the ability to separate truth from error, as well as to coordinate the scriptures so that they make sense and confirm each other, is made possible by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit's help we could not do this. Man can gain some knowledge without the Holy Spirit's help, but in these areas we are dependent upon the Holy Spirit for our understanding. The "anointing" in this verse means the gift of the Holy Spirit given to all the obedient. The conclusion we must draw from this verse is that in our study and understanding of the word of

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

God we need the help of the Holy Spirit, independent of the word.

42. Only those who have the Holy Spirit functioning within their mortal bodies are able to rightly divide the word of truth. As long as we are faithful to the word of God, and the Holy Spirit continues to abide within us, we cannot be seduced away from the truth. The apostasy of those who were once obedient children of God, was the result of losing the Holy Spirit. When a Christian continues in sin; when worldliness and love of this world is substituted for righteousness and holiness, then the Holy Spirit will leave the sinner never to return. Hebrews 6:1-6. There is no repentance once the Holy Spirit departs from His habitation here on earth. Read Jude verses 12,13 and 18,19 and 20 and 21. The reason the religious world, who all say they teach the Bible, and who arrive at all kinds of false and contradictory conclusions about it, and are unable to understand or separate error from truth, or to see their contradictions and false positions, is because they do not have the Holy Spirit. Because the Church has rejected the Holy Spirit, they also have lost themselves in a maze of contradictory opinions and ideas, and they seem oblivious to this condition, the same as the religious world. They do not come into an accord upon hardly anything anymore; and they have reached the place where they all seem to agree to disagree; and their concern for this awful state of affairs is practically nonexistent. It seems of little concern that some of the brethren do not believe we have the Holy Spirit at all, others who believe that He dwells within them but does not have any influence in their lives; and the lack of accord on this subject seemingly does not disturb them at all.

43. The lack of true teaching upon the Holy Spirit; and the lack of accord upon the scriptures in almost every area, are a proof that the Holy Spirit has left those who have

rejected Him. It is evident that the Holy Spirit does not function in the Church; and that truth has left our midst, and the scriptures are wrested from their true meaning. The dearth of sound teaching and the many conflicting opinions amongst the preaching brotherhood, are further proof that the Holy Spirit has ceased to function in the bodies of those who do not believe in Him.

44. In Eph. 1:13-14 we read, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory." We weren't sealed with the word, but with the Holy Spirit, who is a part of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit was the Gift of God, a sort of down payment, an assurance given us by God that we might, if we stayed faithful to the word, have an eternal home in heaven. He will never leave us, (break the seal) unless we quench Him by rejecting Him. If the Holy Spirit is rejected the assurance of a home in heaven is done away with.

45. God did not leave His faithful children bereft of help and succor in their battle against sin. We read in 2nd Corinthians 5:5, "Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." The Holy Spirit was the gift of God to assist us in our life here on earth; and the assurance that if we stayed faithful to the word of God, that with the help of the Holy Spirit we could be assured of a home in heaven. Without Him we would fail; but with this additional assistance provided by God for all the obedient and holy, we could with absolute certainty know that we could win the battle between the flesh and the spirit. We again point out the help of the Holy Spirit was an ADDITION to the word. Not only would He aid all Christians, who

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

stayed faithful to the word, but He was an added assurance that they would inherit eternal life.

46. In 1stThessalonians, 1:5 we read, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost". Herein, the gospel, the word AND the Holy Spirit are separated. However, in spite of this the Church has confused the word and the Spirit. They acknowledge the word, but reject the power of the Holy Spirit thereby rejecting Him in this dispensation. In 2nd Tim 1:14 we note, "That good thing which was committed unto thee, keep by the Holy Ghost; which dwelleth IN us." Here again the Holy Spirit and the word are separated. We note also that the Holy Spirit dwelled IN Timothy and the same as IN the apostles. Once more Rom. 8:11 teaches, "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." Those who say He does not dwell in them, and/or that He has no function or work in this dispensation, deny 1st Thessalonians 5:19 which says; "Quench not the Holy Spirit." He couldn't be quenched if one did not have Him. Ephesians 4:30 reads, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Could we grieve that which we do not have?

47. God and Christ do not inhabit our bodies as does the Holy Spirit. God is in heaven. He has His own habitation. Psalms 33:13 says, "The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth." God's habitation is IN HEAVEN, and always has been. Christ is in heaven. He no longer is in the flesh, but has returned to heaven to be the Intercessor for the saints, and "sitteth on the right hand of God." (cf., Colossians 3:1 and 1st Peter 3:22). Hebrews 9:24 reads, "For Christ is not

entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true: but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" Acts 2:30 tells us Christ is on His throne in Heaven.

48. We have mentioned this in this lesson because some have said God and Christ dwell in us also, in an attempt to refute the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Christ and God dwell within the holy people of God by and through the Holy Spirit. They are not down here on earth indwelling within the bodies of the saints, but in heaven. The Holy Spirit came to this earth after the ascension of Christ. John 14:20, John 16:7, and John 16:13. God sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for us. Christ finished His work by dying on the cross; their work in these respects was finished. And now the Holy Spirit is doing His work in the salvation of the saints, by dwelling within their bodies to aid them in their struggle to overcome the world.

49. The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome the wiles of the devil. When we WILL to obey Christ's commandments, the Spirit helps us in this determination. The word is clear in defining the work of the Holy Spirit, even as it is clear in specifying how the devil works to destroy the souls of men. If we can understand how the devil "entered in to Judas",— (Luke 22:3) that he might fully control Judas in his evil deed of betraying the Son of God, then is it not possible to understand that the Holy Spirit can and does dwell in the holy people of God to help them in their determination to turn away from the wiles of the devil and be obedient to the commandments of Christ? Only unbelief would deny the scriptures relative to the Holy Spirit; but this my brethren, is what the Church is doing.

50. The carnal mind is not subject to the spiritual; and this is the reason for the unbelief that permeates the whole Body of Christ. The brethren have difficulty understanding or accepting the spiritual

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

things. Even prayer is greatly misunderstood; and this is displayed by the repetitious prayers amongst the brethren, which of course has the effect of causing a lack of faith in prayer. The brethren have limited power of prayer because of the carnal approach to this vital subject, and done away with the miracles which result in our prayers of faith. The Church seems to stop short in all areas of faith when subjects such as miracles, work of the Holy Spirit, the work of angels in this dispensation (Psalms 103:17-22); and the lack of recognition or understanding of the devil as an evil being intent in leading the people of God away from righteousness Revelation 12:17.

51. As the Holy Spirit helps the saints in spiritual things, the devil is constantly working to lead them into the evil things. 1stPeter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." We don't deny the devil as a being who works constantly to lead us to sin; then we would ask why do we resist, grieve and refuse the actual personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit and His support in assisting us in our spiritual life. His part in the lives of the righteous is dependent upon believing and obeying the commandments of Christ. If the devil can effect and lead men into sin, it is reasonable and scriptural to know and realize that the Holy Spirit can also guide us, teach us, assist us, strengthen us and lead us in our spiritual life. If not why not? Only a carnal mind keeps those who reject the Holy Spirit and His work, from understanding the spiritual things which come from His personal indwelling within the holy ones.

52. We must understand that the Holy Spirit does not control our will in His work of leading, guiding and teaching the Church, anymore than the devil controlled the will of Judas. When Judas willed to do evil the devil was there to assist him in his

wicked deeds. The devil or one of his angels is always ready to help man in trespassing the law of Christ. When the holy child of God wills to do the will of God he is helped by the Holy Spirit in this endeavor. If he wills to do evil the devil is there to do his part in causing them to sin, Paul says, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2nd Cor. 2:11.

53. The Church because it is carnal seems to reject both the evil work of the devil, as well as the comfort and assistance of the Holy Spirit. Until they accept Acts 2:38 as it is written and Acts 5:32 and come to the realization of their carnal approach to all things spiritual, they will continue in ignorance and unbelief. It would be well for all to ask themselves, does the devil act independently of the word? If the devil does his wicked work independently of the word, why is it so difficult for the Church to accept the work and function of the Holy Spirit within our mortal frames, independently of the word? The word of God is perfect converting the soul. The Holy Spirit does not convert or save us; His work is to help and assist us in our struggle to overcome the world. If the brethren could separate the word and the Holy Spirit and give them their respective place in God's plan to save His people from a fiery hell, it would help them in understanding the scriptures, so that it would be possible for them to accept the truth on this subject, Furthermore, it is necessary to receive the word believing what it teaches on the Holy Spirit, if they are to inherit a home in heaven.

54. We quote Colossians 3:5-6, "Mortify (kill) therefore your members which are upon the earth; uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Again we read from Galations 6:8, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Without the Holy Spirit we sow to the flesh. If we grieve or resist Him we also sow to the flesh. He makes it possible for those who believe in Him and walk according to the word of God, to overcome the world. Without His help man could not overcome the lusts of the flesh.

55. We learn and obey the word. The Holy Spirit helps us, independent of the word, in our efforts to conquer the lusts of the flesh. In Romans 8:4–8, and we quote verse 5, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." The things of the flesh are fornication, inordinate affection, idolatry, evil concupiscence, and so forth. These fleshy things listed here are not the word but sinful manifestations of following the flesh instead of the Spirit.

56. There are things of the flesh; but there are also things of the Spirit. If the things of the flesh are not to be confused with the word, but are things which man's flesh leads him into doing, we then ask what are the things of the Spirit? My brethren would no doubt acquiesce in the things of the flesh as enumerated in the preceding paragraph; but the things of the Spirit would not mean anymore to him than the word. To those who do not believe in the Holy Spirit and His function, their explanation of the things of the Spirit, would be to say that "the things of the Spirit are the words of the Spirit." But the gospel is not the words of the Spirit. Christ said, "The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent Me." John 14:24. Again He says, "For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me. He gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak." John 12:49. In John 8:28, "When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am He and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath

taught Me, I SPEAK THESE THINGS." These verses combined with John 16:13 and we will quote, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:...", should convey a message to the Church the gospel is NOT THE WORDS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. He hears and He speaks. Even Christ was told by God what He should say, and what He said came from His Father.

57. All of this should convince the Church that their attitude towards the Holy Spirit is unscriptural; and their attempts to avoid believing in His work and function today by repeating over and over the trite and trumped up saying, "The Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than the word does," is a false assumption. It is based upon the fallacy that the word of God is the word of the Holy Spirit. This cannot be found in the Bible; and the scriptures quoted above prove that the Church is in error when they teach that the New Testament is the word of the Holy Spirit. Read John 7:16 and 17; which continues to bear out the fact the word of God is not the word of the Holy Spirit.

58. The Church is stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart, as were the Jews under Moses' law; and there is little hope that the preachers will change. The Church has labored for so long under the delusive and carnal teaching that the Spirit has no function or work separate and apart from the word, that there is little hope that they can be brought back to the truth. It is possible that most of the Church does not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in their bodies, as the scriptures teach, and therefore are lost. In rejecting the spiritual help of the Holy Spirit, without which the people of God cannot attain the perfection necessary to inherit heaven (2nd Timothy 3:16 and 17), they rejected the word of God.

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

59. We have proven conclusively that the Holy Spirit is a reality in the lives of Holy Christians; that He dwells in the bodies of all those who stay faithful to the word; and without His help no one could attain heaven. He was given as a special Gift by God to the obedient, and the purpose of God, and the function of the Holy Spirit within the saints is plainly manifest in the scriptures. We can receive and believe it, or we can reject it. In this generation the Church has been led astray by those who have corrupted the word of God, and who have ceased to believe or teach the truth upon this subject. It is sad but true, the Holy Spirit does not have His rightful and divine position in the Church because He has been rejected. Wake up before it is too late.
60. In 1st Peter we read, "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost SENT DOWN FROM HEAVEN : which things the angels desire to look into." The Holy Spirit was sent down from heaven to dwell within the bodies of the saints (if they will believe it); and we find that the devil also was cast down from heaven and confined to this earth. In Revelation 12:9,10 and 17 we read, "And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast OUT INTO THE EARTH, AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST OUT WITH HIM."
61. If we can believe the above verse that the devil was cast out of heaven into the earth and confined here until the end of time, why do some of the brethren deny the advent of the Holy Spirit to this earth? The devil is here doing his devilish work. His wrath is especially directed towards those who have obeyed the word of God. Revelation 12:17. One can understand why Peter wrote in 1st Peter 5:8 for the saints to be vigilant because the devil, full of wrath, is working to destroy them. Does the devil do his evil work independent of the word? If we can say the Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than that which the word does, which practically all the Church believes, then why could we not , upon the same premise say the devil is not really active amongst us but he just works through the word? However, we know the word does not activate the devil; and we know that the word does not activate the Holy Spirit.
62. As a matter of fact the activity of the devil was one of the reasons why the Holy Spirit was given to all the obedient children of God; He would act as a counter agent to the devil and his agents (angels), who are constantly busy trying to destroy the souls of the saints. If some can accept the fact that the devil is actively engaged in devouring whom ever he can ; and can when necessary enter into the wicked, and/or his evil angels also, to carry out his devilish Spirit as an ACTIVE counter agent who actually does His work in assisting the saints? He balanced the scales so to speak for the children of God in helping them in their battle against the devil. God saw to it that His people would lack nothing necessary to insure them of a home in heaven. The Holy Spirit makes it impossible for an obedient child of God to lose the battle here on earth if he CONTINUES IN THE FAITH. What a heavenly consolation to all those who believe the word of God.
63. In Romans 8:26–27 we read these words, "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." Herein we learn that the HOLY SPIRIT MAKETH INTERCESSIONS for the saints, and He does this according to

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

the will of God. Does the Holy Spirit make intercession for the saints independent of the word? Infirmities means sickness, weakness, feebleness as well as sorrows, afflictions and persecutions. If the Holy Spirit helps us in these things is this independent of the word?

64. If the Holy Spirit intercedes for us is it not independent of the word? When Christ intercedes for the saints is this not independent of the word? The Church rejects these verses although the Intercessor (The Holy Spirit) makes "intercession with groanings." If we accept the fact that Christ intercedes for us with God, we would have to admit that these verses teach that the Holy Spirit also intercedes for the saints. If we accept these verses then we must admit that the Holy Spirit does do MORE than the word and functions independently of the word. This would prove that those who say that the Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than the word does, are in error.

65. Many of the brethren because of unbelief, and because these verses come into conflict with their unscriptural stand against any independent action of the Holy Spirit within our bodies (even denying that He dwells within us) have perverted their meaning. A preacher in Alameda took the stand that the "Spirit" here should have a small "s", which was just an attempt to pervert the meaning of these verses, because he did not believe them, and those who believe the Bible know his statement was made because of unbelief of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), helps us to kill the flesh; and if He groans within us and aids us in our infirmities, and teaches and assists us in separating truth from lies, is He not a reality, a BEING (part of the Godhead), who acts in His own capacity and power as God ordained? Does He not do this independent of the word, even as God and Christ do their work independent of the word? Surely these things

enumerated above could not be equated with the word. As a matter of fact it is most evident, if you will accept it, that the word and the Holy Spirit are two different mediums through which God works; two different spheres of influence which are clearly outlined in the Bible; and the work of the Holy Spirit and the word could not possibly be confused, except by those who do not believe the scriptures.

66. It would seem that few accept the Holy Spirit as an actual Being, a part of the Godhead, a gift from God, and an Intercessor and Teacher, and He who helps the holy people of God to overcome the machinations of the devil, as they fight the good fight of faith here in this world. Few believe that He dwells within the bodies of the saints, or that He functions and does His own work as God has designed for Him; and which is so clearly taught in the Bible. To believe otherwise is to miss the fruits of the Spirit, as well as the joy and peace and comfort which come as a result of having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Not only do those who disbelieve the scriptures, and who reject the Holy Spirit, miss the fruits of the Holy Spirit, but they can never grow spiritually without His help. And the ultimate result of all of this is of course is punishment in hell forever.

67. The Godhead works together in harmony, but each have their own peculiar and separate work to do in the salvation of man. If the Holy Spirit does nothing more than the word, as the majority in the Church believe, then what is His work today? Throughout the Bible the Holy Spirit has had His part in the salvation of man, and God and Christ theirs. Today God and Christ have their work, but in rejecting the Holy Spirit, the Church denies He has a work to do in this dispensation, although the Bible is just as plain in its teaching of the work of the Holy Spirit now as it was in the New Testament. In Acts 8:18 we read that the miracle of laying on of the hands by the apostles was done by the power of

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

the Holy Spirit. Gifts were given by the Holy Spirit. We read in 1st Corinthians 12:1 to 7 and we quote 7, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

68. In 1st Corinthians 12:3 we note these words, "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." In Acts 20:23 we find the Holy Spirit prophesying. Jude 20 we learn we are "to pray in the Holy Spirit." We couldn't very well pray in the Holy Spirit unless we had him. Was His work independent of the word? We must answer in the affirmative; and if so His work is still independent of the word. Read Acts 13:1 and 2 and Acts 11:28. We could fill pages with His work in New Testament times; and His work has not ceased today, separate and apart from the word, within the bodies of those who believe in Him.

69. Immediately we hear objections from those who reject the Holy Spirit and do not believe He dwells within the bodies of the saints. They say, "but these verses which are given pertained to New Testament times; it doesn't have any significance in the lives of Christians today; He does not influence the lives of Christians, nor does He have any work or function within our bodies." Then we ask, what is He doing? Surely He must be doing something. If throughout the whole Bible the Holy Spirit was always engaged in His own peculiar and distinctive work why is the Church so unwilling to accept the scriptures which prove that He is still doing that work which God has ordained Him to do. And it is HIS OWN WORK; therefore it is independent of the word; the same as the work of Christ and of God has its own positive and separate manifestations.

70. One of the peculiar beliefs rampant in the Church is that the Holy Spirit has no work in this dispensation. It accounts for the great apostasy; as well as the unbelief;

the lack of accord and the famine of knowledge of the word of God amongst the conservative churches. And while possible they have not as yet completely departed from the truth, but they are on their way, they have rejected and done away with the work of the Holy Spirit as an active Helper for God's people. Therefore they will continue to digress away from the truth; and more and more depend upon their opinions, ignore the contradictory and conflicting teaching and preaching that is evident, and be unable to know the deep things of God, as well as unable to separate lies from truth. They have already stopped debating with the liberals; and will continue not to be concerned or grieved by the accumulating manifestations of the Church's departure from the truth. In other words the fight to preserve the gospel of Christ that truth might prevail, has practically ceased amongst us. If you don't believe this look around you.

71. Perhaps we might gain more insight and understanding of the Holy Spirit, by turning to the Old Testament and learning how the Holy Spirit operated and/or worked amongst the people of God at that time. No doubt we will accept His function and work in the Old testament dispensation, and if we do we will have to ask ourselves, why is it that we accept the Holy Spirit as taught in the Old Testament and His work and action in the New Testament, but are unwilling to believe the scriptures relative to His activity in this dispensation?

72. In the beginning, at the time of Creation, the Holy Spirit had His part in the creation of the world. We read in Genesis 1:2 these words, "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." In Isaiah 40:13 again we note, "Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being His counselor hath taught Him?" And again in verse 29 and 31 "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

73. If the Holy Spirit strengthens us today He also strengthened those of long ago. The verses above confirm Ephesians 3:16 and Romans 8:1 to 27, and 1st Corinthians 2:10 to 16. In Judges 14:6 Samson with the power of the Holy Spirit, killed a lion with his hands. In verse 19 of the same chapter Samson killed thirty enemies of the Lord. In Judges 15:14 Samson was bound with cords but the "Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him" and the cords were loosed from his arms. As the Holy Spirit in the past moved the people of God to do those things which God had ordained they do, and helped them in their battles against their enemies, so today the Holy Spirit helps the holy people of God in their battle against the devil, and in their work of converting the world. However, the Church today denies and rejects His power in their lives.

74. In Genesis 41:38 Pharaoh recognizes the Holy Spirit which worked with Joseph and said, "Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?" A heathen king of long ago seemingly had more spiritual perception than Christians today, who deny as well as fail to discern the activity and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives in this dispensation. However, in the past the people of God recognized and accepted the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives; and even others such as Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar recognized the Holy Spirit. In Daniel 4:8 and 9 Nebuchadnezzar who called upon Daniel to interpret his dream said, "Because I know that the Spirit of the holy gods is in thee..." Verse 18 repeats this; and Daniel 5:5 to 11 the same is again repeated. Verse 14 also.

75. In Numbers 11:16 to 29 the Holy Spirit is busy working with Moses and the elders; and in verses 25 to 29 the Spirit prophesied through them. Moses said in verse 29 these words, "And enviest thou

for my sake? Would God that ALL the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!" Moses recognized the Holy Spirit and His power and asked that all might have what he had. He had something independent of the word and he knew it and recognized that it was the Holy Spirit. Why is the Church so blind to the work and function of Holy Spirit today; and makes such a mistake as equating His power with that of the word? Spiritual blindness comes when the Holy Spirit is not allowed (or perhaps has departed as in the case of Samson and king Saul) to function according to God's plan.

76. It is evident that throughout the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did not dwell in the holy people of God, but was given to them by God when needed, whether to prophesy, or to help in the slaying of their enemies, or in the performing of miracles, etc. But in this dispensation God has blessed His people exceedingly in that He has given the Holy Spirit to dwell within the mortal bodies of "all those who obey Him:" Acts 5:32. 1st Cor 6:19 reads, "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?"

77. We quoted the above verse previously but we do so again to emphasize the importance of believing what it says. And again in 1st Corinthians 3:16, "What? Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwelleth IN you?" Again, in 1st John 3:24 we read, "And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which HE HATH GIVEN US." God and Christ dwell in us by the Holy Spirit which He has given to us. It is doubtful if there are very many that actually believe these verses, but to reject them is to lose their hope of heaven. Christ said in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth not shall be damned."

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

78. To increase our knowledge of the scriptures and to help us to have faith in God's word upon this particular subject we read in 1st Samuel 10:6, "And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man." We also become a new man if we obey Christ's commands, Romans 6:4 to 6. In 1st Sam. 19:20 we read of the Holy Spirit coming upon the messengers of the king Saul and they prophesied; and in verse 23 king Saul prophesied when the Spirit of God was upon him. So we see the Holy Spirit actively engaged in doing those things which He has always done, in helping and actively engaged Himself in doing the work which God ordained that He should.
79. It is evident that the Holy Spirit was given to Christians to help them in accomplishing those things which they could not do without His help; even as the people of God from the beginning had to have the help of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The New Testament is full of the work of the Holy Spirit, and while the Church accepts His work both in Old Testament and New Testament times, they reject His activity in this dispensation. Why? Under Moses law the Israelites vexed the Holy Spirit even as Christians grieve Him in this dispensation. Isaiah 63:10 reads, "But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit; therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them." As the Israelites rejected the power of the Holy Spirit, so does the Church reject His help in this dispensation.
80. Isaiah 63:11 continues, "Then He remembered the days of old, Moses, and His people, saying, Where is He that brought them up out of the sea with the Shepherd of His flock? Where is He that put His Holy Spirit within Him?" Verse 14 continues this thought of the activity of the Holy Spirit. But even then they disobeyed God and rejected His ight know and obey Christ, they have used for trips to the "holy land", useless meetings where the first principles are taught to people who are 99% members of the Church, and supporting institutions such as colleges and other foolishness so detrimental to their souls.
81. He (the Holy Spirit) who would have kept the Church on the right path, stimulated them into a true evangelism, kept them from error and division, and led them into paths of righteousness, they have rejected for a worldly tinsel type of Christianity, void of knowledge and true holiness, which is slowly leading them into apostasy.
82. Inasmuch as the Church today has little if any belief in the activity of devils; and many would deny that glossolalia and other manifestations amongst some of the brethren such as casting out demons and such has anything to do with devils, we would like to remind the brethren that angels, as well as the Holy Spirit, did not cease their activity because the brethren do not believe in the activity of the devil and his angels in this dispensation either. However, Peter in 1st Peter 5:8 said these words, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Is the devil an actual spirit, and does he really seek to devour those who obey the commandments of Jesus?
83. If the Church had more belief in the work and activity of the devil, it would lead to a more honest belief in hell; and perhaps would lead some of those who corrupt the word of God and who have ceased to evangelize and preach to the lost, and also those who listen and follow their devious ways, to return to the "old paths"; and try to change their worldly and unprofitable lives into that which could take them to heaven. Zeal has left us and the truth has been corrupted in this generation to the extent there is little of it left. Faith in the spiritual things of God has been trodden under foot; and faith in

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

angels, the work of the Holy Spirit, and even a belief in the reality of a devil who makes war with the saints, those who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, (Revelation 12:17) is not believed as an actuality.

84. Speaking of angels, and we will digress for a moment, we think that the Church today has become so materialistic in their viewpoint and so ignorant of the teachings of Christ, that they have rejected almost everything of a spiritual significance including angels, the work of the Holy Spirit and the activity of the devil and his angels, in this dispensation. We read in Psalms 103:20, "Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word." God has angels at His bidding, and they continue to obey Him, both good and evil ones. Revelation 9:1 to 21. Have the angels of God ceased their activity because the Church has rejected them? So they still serve God and do His will? If so do they work independently of the word?

85. Throughout the Old Testament and the New, the angels protected the people of God, helped them in their struggles with their enemies, freed them from prisons, stopped the mouths of lions, and protected them from dangers of all kinds. We today do not see them, nor do they reveal themselves nor do they speak to us; but we do know from the teaching of God that they are still doing what they have always done as they serve God. Psalms 34:7 reads, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." With the world so filled with danger, with violence, with killings and bloodshed; certainly the saints need protection, more than man can give them, and God's angels give us this protection. While it is unseen nevertheless we can be assured that God still protects His holy people. Read 2nd Samuel 22:1 to 32.

86. Pestilence, famines, fires, floods, accidents, persecutions and all such are a part of this world, but God can and does protect His people from all of this when they are faithful and holy. David said in 2nd Samuel 22:25 these words. "Therefore the Lord hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness IN HIS EYE SIGHT." Verse 28 reads, "And the afflicted people thou wilt save; but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down." These verses of course teach us that those who are upright in the sight of God are protected and saved from the violence of the world, and famine and pestilence, etc., and of course angels have their part in all of this. This does not mean that the people of God do not have afflictions, sickness and suffer other adversities in their lives. Hebrews 12:3 to 12 teaches us that God chastens us when we need it: and of course this could take the form of sickness, loss of benefits of a material nature, jobs, etc., persecutions, and other adversities which could be for our benefit spiritually. Or for other reasons when God deems it necessary that we might be made aware of His intervention in our lives, that we might learn lessons from our chastening by Him.

87. We are sure that God in doing these things has the aid of His angels when necessary. Angels, both heavenly and those of the devil are just as active today as always. Do they act independently of the word? When God's wrath is aroused against His disobedient children, or against the world, can He not use the angels? Does He not literally visit His wrath upon the wrong doers, independent of the word? Does not the devil act independently of the word? Romans 13:4 reads, "For he (the government) is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

88. Herein we are taught that the governments which rule over man in this world, are used by God to execute His wrath upon wrong doers, both in the world and in the Church. Is this independent of the word? How does He do this? Well, we believe that the apostasy of the Church in this generation, as well as the unsound and unscriptural teaching of the conservative part of the Church, combined with the rejection of the Holy Spirit can and will arouse His wrath against His disobedient children: and that some of the blessings which have been a part of the lives of Christians may well be taken away from them.
89. In the United States Christians have been blessed for many years now with a government which has been benign in nature and has allowed God's people freedom to exercise their right to obey God according to His word. As well as to take the word into all the world that the lost might be saved. They have not suffered very much persecution or violence in this respect. But if God's wrath is aroused because of the apostasy of the Church; and the lack of evangelism amongst the preachers, who work for money and who have strayed not only away from true evangelism, but have corrupted the word of God, and who concern themselves more about how much money they make to preach than the souls of the lost, then we could lose our freedom to worship God, and be restricted from preaching it. We could have a bad government which would be God's punishment for our sins and disobedience. Inasmuch as the world is used by God at His will to punish evil doers, the Church should be concerned and fear God and turn back to the old paths before it is too late. If not, He will execute His wrath against His people. Romans 13:4.
90. The Church has become very materialistic and worldly; and lost its zeal for the lost and its love for the truth. For this they will be punished. Whether God will use the government to execute His wrath or punish the Church in some other manner we do not know. But we do know that unless we change and return to the truth and accept the function of the Holy Spirit, that God's wrath will be poured down upon us. Whether we believe this or not will not change the truth of God's word, not diminish His punishment. It is inevitable.
91. We find in Acts 12:15 that Christians believed that Peter had an angel. Matthew 18:10 affirms that the children of God have an angel. Certainly the Christians in New Testament times believed and accepted the protection of angels. Its true in some instances they saw the angels in action; but both in Old Testament as well as the New, the work of ministering to the saints, and/or carrying out the commands of God, that most of it was done when the recipients of God's work amongst them was not seen. So because we don't see the angels in action in our own lives or that of the saints, does not mean that the angels are not as busy as they have always been, either executing the wrath of God upon wrongdoers, or ministering and protecting the saints when He so wills.
92. In Hebrews 1:14 we read, and this is for present day Christians, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Are we not heirs of salvation? We must believe this scripture and accept the fact that angels do minister to the holy people of God, and carry out His command wherever or whenever God so designs.
93. In Revelation 22:8 and 9 we read, "And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not; for I am THY FELLOW SERVANT, and of thy BRETHREN the prophets, and of them WHICH KEEP THE SAYINGS OF THIS

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

BOOK: Worship God." So all who keep the commandments of God shall be the recipients of the ministering help of the angels of God. Hebrews 12:22 and 23 , reads "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS. To the general assembly and Church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

94. As we are compelled to believe by the scriptures of the independent work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians today, it is here made manifest by the word of God, that we must, if we believe the scriptures, believe that angels are still active in the lives of the saints, as they always have been. Perhaps this will have the effect of leading some, who now deny the work and function of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation, to again study the word of God and BELIEVE and accept what it says. Worldliness, carnality and the loss of the Holy Spirit is the reason for the unbelief of the Church in spiritual things; and keeps them from discerning the truth as God has had it written. Psalms 97:10; 2 Samuel 24:16; and Isaiah 37:36.

95. With these things in mind we will return to our lesson on the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that when we are pleasing to the Lord the Holy Spirit functions in the manner prescribed by God, within the mortal frames of His children. When we become disobedient, unbelieving and devoid of spiritual understanding, the Holy Spirit and God depart. 1st Samuel 16:14, "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." When king Saul disobeyed God, the Holy Spirit ceased to work with him any more. However it is well to take note of the fact that king Saul continued to worship and believe in God until the end of his life, but he was always disobedient and willful. The 14th verse teaches also that

once the Holy Spirit departs from those who are disobedient children of God, the Lord has the power, and in this instance exercised it, to send an evil spirit to trouble the wicked. This is also confirmed in this dispensation, when brethren, who once knew and had the truth, and who have lost the Holy Spirit, which is evinced by their leaving the truth, are now having "evil spirits troubling them," as we can see by their resorting to such things as "talking in tongues" and "casting out demons", that God has not ceased to vent His anger and wrath upon those who are disobedient.

96. In Ephesians 3:16 we read more of the work of the Holy Spirit, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man." If we are to have the spiritual strength needed to overcome the temptations and the wickedness of this world, we must of necessity have the help of the Holy Spirit. This added help is like a man trying to carry a heavy load up a steep mountain. It is impossible for him because it is too heavy. But if a friend would come along to help with the load, then with this added assistance the load is carried to the top of the mountain. As the evilness and wickedness of this world is too much for the human frame to bear, God in His infinite mercy and understanding, gave His Holy Spirit to strengthen and help His people, in the inner man, with the need spiritual stamina necessary to win their battles.

97. Therefore, no burden would be too heavy, nor any temptation too great, because the Holy Spirit would teach the righteous, help them in their infirmities (Romans 8:26 and 27), keep them from being seduced from the truth, and strengthen the holy ones with might so that they would be able to overcome the world. It is evident that the Holy Spirit was given to Christians to help them in accomplishing those things which they

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

could not do without His help; as under the Old Testament dispensation, as well as the New Testament, they needed the Holy Spirit in their lives to accomplish and live the righteous life that God has ordained all of His people should do.

98. Isaiah 63:4 to 5 is worthy to be read and meditated upon, and we quote several verses from this chapter to augment the thought in the previous paragraph, "Then He remembered the days of old, Moses, and His people, saying, 'Where is He that brought them up out of the sea with the Shepherd of His flock? Where is He that put His Holy Spirit within Him? That led them by the right hand of Moses with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make Himself an everlasting name?' As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord caused him to rest: so didst Thou lead Thy people, to make Thyself a glorious name. Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of Thy holiness and of Thy glory: where is Thy zeal and Thy strength, the sounding of Thy bowels and of Thy mercies toward me? Are they restrained?" Verses 11 to 15.

99. If the people of God needed the Holy Spirit in their lives in the past as we learn from the Bible, it is strange that we should be so blind that we are incapable of believing and understanding that His help is just as necessary in the lives of Christians today as it has always been in the lives of the holy people of God. We can't seem to be able to separate the word and Holy Spirit; and all of this lesson is proof that the word and the Holy Spirit each have their own identity, and always have, and the word and the Holy Spirit are NOT the same.

100. In Galatians 3:2 and 3 we read, "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" There are two

thought in these verses that we would like to expound upon. Herein we learn that the Christians had more than the word of God. We know that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is given to all the obedient. Under the law of Moses the people of God did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But they did have the word of God: therefore the distinction between the word of God and Holy Spirit are made plain here. When Jews obeyed the gospel of Christ they had MORE than the law, and these verses make this very plain. It is plain that when the Galatians obeyed the gospel of Christ that they received SOMETHING that they did not have before, the Holy Spirit.

101. Furthermore, it is plain that by obeying the law of Christ they were the recipients of the Holy Spirit, which they did not have before. Therefore, these two verses prove conclusively that there is a distinction between the word and the Holy Spirit. Under Moses law the Israelites had the law (the word of God), but when they became Christians, by obedience to the law of Christ, they received an addition to the word, the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38, Acts 5:32, John 7:38 and 39, 1st Thessalonians 4:8, 2nd Timothy 1:14, Romans 8:7 to 15 and hundreds more.

102. In Rom. 8:7 to 15 and we quote several verses, these words, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Although the Israelites had the law of Moses, and the Holy Spirit worked in their lives from time to time, the flesh could never be subdued entirely, because their sins were never done away with. They had to wait for the blood of Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, for them to acquire the perfectness desired by God. 2nd Timothy 3:16 and 17. However, Paul points out here that neither could Christians conquer the flesh, even after the blood of Christ was shed, without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

103. Verse 9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be the Spirit of God DWELL IN YOU. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Righteousness came by the law of Christ and was made possible by the aid of the Holy Spirit. Without Him the flesh would prevail. Verse 13 reads, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye THROUGH THE SPIRIT do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD."
104. It is quite apparent and manifestly clear that no Christian could conquer the flesh without the aid of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, that the only way Christians can become righteous is with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Thus it is equally clear that Paul is not talking about the word of God here, He is talking about the work of the Holy Spirit, within the bodies of the righteous, WHICH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM, BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, to mortify (kill) the lusts of the flesh. There is no other exegesis possible of these verses, and if they are accepted, then the unscriptural and the almost universal acceptance of the nonsensical teaching that the Holy Spirit "has no effect upon or in a Christian's life, and that He does nothing more or less than that which the word does," will have to be absolutely and unequivocally DONE AWAY WITH. Without the Holy Spirit, as we are taught above, man is ruled by the flesh. Galatians 5:16 and 17 "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." This accounts for the great apostasy in the last few years, and for the unholy and unrighteous condition of the conservatives, and the appalling lack of accord amongst them upon the word of God. In 1st Thessalonians 4:8 we read, "He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given to us His Holy Spirit."
105. Peter in Acts 15:8 bears witness to the fact that all who obey the gospel of Christ, receive the Holy Spirit, "And God which knoweth the hearts, bare witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us." The 9th verse reads, "And put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith." Peter is saying here that the Holy Spirit was given to Jew and Gentile alike; therefore, all were able to be purified by an obedient faith with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Then why does the Church reject His work in this dispensation? Unbelief is the answer.
106. Throughout this lesson we have chosen at random verses to emphasize the remarkable and astounding picture of God's mercy and love towards those who obey Him. He sent angels to do His bidding and to succour His Children, and protect as well as bless them. He sent His Holy Spirit to guide and help Moses, Elijah, Elisha, David, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and on and on throughout the entire Bible. Christ, the apostles, and the Church were recipients of His love and mercy and His help. Angels as His messengers, and the Holy Spirit's work were prominently and clearly recorded throughout the Bible. They helped the people of God always; and today the same help is extended to the Church in its efforts to preserve the truth, to fight the good fight of faith, and to carry out its mission of converting the world. It is reasonable then to accept the fact that if the Holy Spirit has always helped the people of God He is still doing that which God ordained Him to do.
107. During the infancy of the Church the Holy Spirit was especially busy leading, directing, performing miracles, teaching, guiding and comforting the saints, as they worked to save their own souls and to

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

spread the word of the gospel of Christ. The tongues, the prophecies and the knowledge gained directly from God was to cease. 1st Corinthians 13:8. But there is not a verse of Scripture in the New Testament which remotely conveys the thought that the Holy Spirit's work, His help, His guidance, or His comfort to the people of God then or now would be done away with. If God's people all through the ages have needed not only the word of God, and the help of God, and His angels, and Christ, as well as the Holy Spirit, wherein will we find scriptures which would lead anyone to believe that the activity and work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the saints, would not be needed today? It would seem that the Church accepts the idea that all we need today is God and Christ, for they certainly have rejected the Holy Spirit as an active participant in the affairs of Christians in this dispensation, and the activity of angels in the lives of the saints is ignored entirely.

108. The Godhead works together, as well as independently- but ALL three are doing their work as they always have. If we reject the work and function of the Holy Spirit in our lives today, then to be consistent we would have to reject the work of God and Christ in our lives as well. By believing that the Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than that which the word does, we deny the Holy Spirit; and all the scriptures which we have used through this lesson would have to be rejected. The work of the Holy Spirit and the word have always been independent one of another; so to reject the Holy Spirit's WORK now, is to reject the Holy Spirit and to rely entirely upon the flesh in trying to obey the commandments of Christ. Galatians 3:2-3.

109. In 1st Corinthians 12:1-31 we read, "there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." As we go further into the chapter we read, "For to one is given by the Spirit the word

of wisdom, to another the work of knowledge by the same Spirit." The 11th verse says, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will." While this chapter deals primarily with the miraculous gifts so necessary at that time, that the Church might be edified and grow; yet in these verses is a lesson for the Church for all time. Was the Holy Spirit doing His work here; could this work be confused or equated with the word? Did He do this work independently of the word? Was it primarily His work; as interceding for the saints is one of the essential undertakings of Christ? Could the belief so prevalent in the Church that the Holy Spirit does nothing more or less than that which the word does be applied to these scriptures?

110. What we have tried to clarify here is that the Holy Spirit had His independent work to do in New Testament times, but because in so many instances it was of a miraculous nature the Church seems to think His work has ceased. We overlook the fact that because the miracles were a necessity in the infancy of the Church and was God's method to confirm the word, that the miraculous demonstrations in no way conflicted with other works of the Holy Spirit; nor did it change the gospel in any way. After the New Testament had been finished, the miracles were no longer a necessity, and along with the prophecies and tongues they ceased. But the work of the Holy Spirit which constituted and/or included many things besides miracles were still essential in the lives of the saints, as they had been for the Israelites and the early Christians.

111. In times past the Holy Spirit had His part in the creation of the world; He helped the Israelites in their battle with their enemies; He prophesied through the prophets, and directed them in their lives; and He testified of Christ in the Old Testament and of salvation through Christ through the prophets. 1st Peter 1:10-12.

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

We read in 2nd Peter 1:21 these words, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but HOLY men of God SPAKE as they were moved by the HOLY GHOST." So it is evident that the Holy Spirit has always been busy doing His work throughout all ages: and the Bible is filled with the manifestations of His activity and His power, from cover to cover. And the New Testament has fully recorded and clearly revealed His work and function in the Christian dispensation, as it has in the past.

112. Therefore, there is no excuse nor any reason for the unbelief in His work and function, and the complete and total rejection of His power in the lives of Christians today. Not only has the Church rejected His work, but they have relegated Him to a nonentity; as far as they are concerned He doesn't exist outside the word. He has no place in their lives; and His power has been circumscribed to the point that He has no reality; and because of this the people of God are bereft of His assistance, His comfort, guidance, knowledge, and the joy and love which accompanies faith in Him as the scriptures teach. To reject the Holy Spirit is to reject God and Christ; one cannot be had without the other. If we believe in the power of God in our lives; if we believe that Christ is the Intercessor between God and man then how is it possible to account for our rejection of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who is a part of the Godhead.

113. Perhaps we have been overly repetitious, but this lesson calls for such. Our hope is that some will be encouraged to go to their Bibles and study this lesson fully, and see for themselves that what is taught on these pages is the truth. The help of the Holy Spirit in guiding Christians in to all truth, in teaching and giving them knowledge of the deep things of God, and to help them separate truth from error, is just as necessary in the growth of a Christian now as it was then. This help, as

well as the peace and unity in the Church when it is walking in the truth, are NOT dependent upon miracles, but they are dependent upon the assistance of the Holy Spirit. The fact of the division amongst us and the lack of unity upon the scriptures which is so prevalent in the conservative portion of the Church, and the false teaching and worldly living so manifest within our midst are the results of the rejection of the Holy Spirit and His power and work by the Church.

114. We will continue to prove our premise that the Holy Spirit is an active participant in the lives of the holy people of God; and dwells IN the bodies of all who continue to obey Christ's commandments. In John 7:38-39 we read, "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." Again, we are told that all the obedient would be given the Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:9 we read, "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." Those who reject the Holy Spirit and deny that He dwells within their bodies (the majority of the Church deny His indwelling), do not have Christ.

115. In Romans 15:30 Christians are told to 'love the Holy Spirit.' In Philippians 2:1 we are to 'have fellowship of the Holy Spirit.' In Romans 5:5 and we quote, these word, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." None if these scriptures could possibly be equated with the word, nor were they intended to be. It seems exceedingly strange in the light of not only these verses, but many more, that most of the Church still continues to confuse the work of the Holy Spirit and that of the

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

word. In 1st John 3:11 these words are written, "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." Verse 14 teaches that "he that loveth not his brother, abideth in death." However, Romans 5:5 makes it clear that without the Holy Spirit we could not have the love of God, and if we do not love God we could not love the brethren.

116. The world cannot have the Holy Spirit. John 14:17. But they can have the word. Therefore, it is plain to see that the word and the Holy Spirit are not the same; and the Holy Spirit is an addition to the word. Without the Holy Spirit, the Church would have to depend upon the flesh and this would be fatal to their hope of heaven. Galatians 3:2-3. Because the Church has rejected the Holy Spirit, they cannot rightly divide the word of truth, they are no longer in accord upon the scriptures, and the Church is filled with tradition and false teaching.

117. In 2nd Peter 1:5 -11, Peter enumerates the spiritual attributes so necessary for our salvation; and which must be added to our lives if we are to overcome the lusts of this world. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love must be added if we are to be spiritual. Verse 10 reads, "Wherefore, the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election SURE: FOR IF YE DO THESE THINGS, YE SHALL NEVER FALL---". If we do not add these to our lives we cannot attain heaven. However, Peter tells us that if we do add them, WE SHALL NEVER FALL.

118. However, without the help of the Holy Spirit we cannot accomplish this task of changing ourselves by the addition of those things enumerated above, and we will fall. So in rejecting the Holy Spirit the Church does away with Him, whom God gave to all the obedient, that they could be SURE of winning the battle against the devil. We need MORE than the word to change from the carnal to the spiritual. And with the

gift of the Holy Spirit God made it impossible for a Christian to fail to win the good fight of faith, if they continued faithful to the word.

119. As we come to the end of this long lesson we want to write a few words on the "fruits of the Holy Spirit." That does not mean the fruits of the word; but to acquire true holiness we must know and obey the word of God and if we stay faithful throughout our life we will be the recipients of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is rejected it is apparent that we could never enjoy the fruits of the Spirit. "The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." These added to the life of a Christian would exclude worldliness, confusion, discord, division, false teaching and lack of love and zeal, which is so prevalent in the Church today.

120. The fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace, and comfort, are emotions. These emotions are not engendered by anything physical, but are a foretaste of the heavenly. The Holy Spirit, because we have lived faithfully to the word, brings to us an accumulation of all the precious moments, the tender influences, the hope of things never seen, the sweetest love, and a peace within the soul, and a comfort of the spirit, which are an assurance of the Spirit, that we have God. These fruits are reserved for those who have overcome the flesh, who have fought the good fight of faith, have loved the truth, and have loved the brethren, and have continued obedient to the word.

121. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are dependent upon our not grieving, resisting, or quenching the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30, 1st Thessalonians 5:19. Without Him and His help we could not be a holy people before God. The peace which passes all understanding; the joy in the Holy Spirit; and the love which is generated in heaven, and brought to its

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

fruition in the holy lives of the obedient, is not of this earth, and is a refreshing and lovely spiritual foretaste of that which is to come. All who live faithful to the commandments of Christ, and who have consecrated and dedicated their lives to holiness and good work, will be blessed by the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are reserved only for the spiritually alive.

122. Inasmuch as love, joy, and comfort are emotions which are stirred and fulfilled in a spiritual manner, and can be felt just as much as their physical counterparts; then it is sad indeed to observe the Church in the throes of a worldly, unbelieving and traditional pattern of religious belief, which has activated them into an almost total rejection of the Holy Spirit's function in their lives, in this generation. To miss the fruits of the Holy Spirit of love, joy and comfort is to miss the sweetest and most rewarding assurance of faith and hope in eternal life, this side of heaven. As we have learned in this lesson, to reject the work and function of the Holy Spirit is tantamount to rejecting God and Christ. If God and Christ are a reality, and we receive and are willing to admit their part in our lives, then it behooves all those who desire to return to heaven, to study and believe and accept the Holy Spirit as an active part of the Godhead, and an active participant in their lives here on earth, the same as Christ and God.

123. In conclusion of this lesson on the Holy Spirit it is our hope that those who read these pages, will be encouraged to go to their Bibles and study God's word for a better understanding of the work and function of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation; and that they will read—believing what the Bible says on this subject, rather than accepting that which perhaps in most cases they have been taught by those who, because of unbelief no longer have the Holy Spirit, and who are either unable or unwilling or both, to teach the truth upon this subject. We also

might add, that we welcome those who might be interested in a further study of this most vital subject to get in touch with us. If some might differ we ask that you correspond with us, that all might come into a unity upon the word of God.

124. Our purpose was to try and get before Christians a better understanding and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, than that which seems to be available because of the rejection of His work and function. While this lesson has been critical in the over-all assessment of the low spiritual condition of the Church today; nevertheless it is not an outright condemnation of it. We can hope and pray that there are still, scattered here and there, those who are seeking the truth and who will heed the warnings, and accept the teaching, in this lesson. Let's work the works of God and believe His holy word, ALL of it. As a last thought we quote Romans 13:12, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

125.

June 1973

Merie Weiss
148 West Maple Street
San Diego, California 92103

126.

Postscript to the Holy Spirit Lesson

127. Having just read an article from the Gospel Guardian, dated June 14, 1973, and written by brother Yater Tant, we thought it most important that a few words should be written about this article; and that this postscript should be included with the other material being sent out to the brethren. We believe that this article confirms our predictions written in the "Brethren" letter in 1968, that there was and would be a concerted effort by some of the brethren, which included brethren Yater Tant and Wm. E. Wallace, to bring about an alliance and/or "full fellowship" between the institutionalists and the conservatives.

128. Both brethren Tant and Wallace admit that they fellowship the liberals, as well as favor an alliance, "cooperation", "peace offensive" or whatever between the institutionalists and the conservative brethren. We quote only one of the many statements made by brother Tant, relative to his compromising position towards liberals. We might state here that only a few short years ago hundreds of brethren (conservative) including brother Cogdill, were making their rounds throughout the United States trying to preserve the truth; and keep the conservatives from sliding into the camp of the institutionalists. We also point out that today it would be difficult to find one outstanding preacher amongst the conservatives who is fighting against the Tant-Wallace attempt to persuade the conservatives to change their position towards the erring institutionalists. If you know of one let us know.

129. On page 10 of the "Brethren" letter, we quote brother Tant, from an article written by him in the Gospel Guardian of April 17, 1969. "Frankly we are hoping to wage a sort of "peace offensive." We are trying to reach many thousands of brethren in the "institutional" churches with a simple plea that WE EXPLORE THE AREAS WHERE WE MIGHT WORK TOGETHER, and try, as

much as possible to COMPOSE OUR DIFFERENCES, as we face a common enemy—the threat of classical liberalism." (Emphasis mine) In an effort to stop classical liberalism (tongue talking, which has overcome many in the liberal camp) brother Tant is advocating an alliance with the enemies of God, the institutionalists.

130. It is difficult to rationalize brother Tant's position in this respect, because it would seem the height of folly to call upon those who have left the truth, to help us in a battle to preserve the truth; and to help us fight that (tongue talking) which is a direct result of having left the truth for institutionalism, in the first place. But when we leave the truth, our judgment is taken away and brother Tant is no exception to this rule. We quote Proverbs 28:4, which gives us an insight to the actions of not only brethren Tant and Wallace, but all others who are on the same road to apostasy, and who are advocating and encouraging cooperation and fellowship with the liberals. "They that forsake the law praise the wicked; but such as keep the law contend with them." Read Proverbs 24:24 and 17:5.

131. On page 3 of the "Brethren" letter we quote from an article written by brother Wallace in the *Gospel Guardian* September 4, 1969, "If we COOPERATE with the liberals in a battle against a common enemy---modernism (tongue talking-M.W.)---will we gain anything regarding our FIGHT AGAINST INSTITUTIONALISM AND SPONSORING CHURCH PROJECTS?" Take careful note that brother Wallace does not attempt to answer his own question as to how we can cooperate with the institutionalists and at one and the same time fight our battle against their innovations and their rebellion against the authority of God's word. When one is blind the way becomes dark, slippery and logic and reason flee. Brother Wallace continues, "I contend that a CLOSER COMMUNICATION AND ASSOCIATION with

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

'liberal' brethren is worth careful consideration."

132. Inasmuch as the Bible teaches all Christians to AVOID those who left the truth, then it is possible for all to understand and be warned that in advocating and persuading the Church to a "closer communication and association" with those who have divided Church and gone into apostasy, that those who do so are in error and are transgressing the commandments of Christ. Romans 16:17–18 reads, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which CAUSE DIVISIONS, and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." 18th verse, "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but THEIR OWN BELLY; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." We are to avoid them who divide the Church. This is a command.

133. These words from the Bible are simple and explicit. We are all aware that the great apostasy which happened amongst us, and almost destroyed the Church, was a division which not only shattered the unity of the body of Christ, but has had an evil effect upon those who did not AT THAT TIME depart with the liberals into the slippery road of unbelief. Now there is another evil which has arisen amongst us and that is that there are those amongst the conservatives, of which brethren Tant and Wallace are only two, who are intent upon dividing the conservatives by advocating and working towards an alliance and fellowship with those who a few short years ago were warning the brotherhood against any fellowship with them in any way. This is against the law of Christ. 2nd Thessalonians 3:6 and 1st Timothy 6:3–5 READ.

134. We've written the preceding to say a few words about the article written by brother Tant in the Gospel Guardian recently (1973) wherein he says, and we quote, "For many months there has been a

growing concern on the part of many of us over the present condition of the churches; and a feeling of urgency that more positive steps be taken to get the congregations moving forward with greater zeal and determination. Two things are essential: (1) an insight into and an understanding of the REAL reasons for the apostasy of the 1950's and the 1960's and (2) a commitment to the future which will involve the WHOLE Church in a progressive program of New Testament evangelism."

135. That true evangelism that has almost disappeared amongst us is quite evident. However, if a course is pursued wherein evangelism will again become activated amongst us by men like brethren Tant and Wallace, who do not even believe the truth much less practice it, and who by their own admissions (believe in fellowshipping and cooperating with the institutionalists), then we are made to wonder if this evangelistic effort is not going to be the beginning of an offensive (which has long been advocated by them) to convert the conservative portion of the Church in to a transgression of the law of Christ by aligning themselves with the institutionalists? We believe that it is and that the Church is being softened up preparatory to an onslaught to bring them into an unholy alliance with the apostatized and sinful liberal element of the Church.

136. Furthermore, anyone who has been a Christian for the past few years is well aware of "THE REAL REASONS FOR THE APOSTASY", and we do not need to have brother Tant going forth throughout the land and expounding upon the reasons for the departure of the Church into sin and unbelief. Therefore we question his bringing up this subject in an effort, as he says to find the reasons for the liberals leaving the Church, in as much as it is quite evident from their teachings, their position outlined in their magazines, and the unlawful and unscriptural practices which they indulge in, the reason why they

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

left the body of Christ to go their own way. So there is a real and apparent danger here, and brother Tant's motives in visiting the churches of Christ throughout the land should be thoroughly investigated by all those who expect to listen to him, if they value their souls.

137. We quote again from brother Tant's article in the G.G., "What kind of 'fellowship', if any, is possible between "conservatives" and "liberal churches"? Can one worship with a Church that believes in the Herald of Truth, institutional orphan homes, etc., but which does not contribute to such projects?" There is a subtlety here that makes the writer think of what Christ said in Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, which COME TO YOU IN SHEEPS CLOTHING, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

138. The motive behind such a question is quite apparent. Brother Tant believes in fellowshipping the liberals, whether they contribute to orphan homes or believe in the Herald of Truth. It would seem to the writer that if one believed in such unscriptural projects that it would be a necessity to support such, and hypocritical not to do so. So what is the point? Does it make any difference whether or not they support that in which they believe? They are still in sin and error.

139. Well, we believe that brother Tant is on a mission to convert the conservative part of the Church to his (as well as others) well planned and contrived scheme to bring the conservative and liberal elements of the Church into an alliance and/or fellowship with each other. We are writing to warn those who may read these pages to the danger which lies in an acceptance of such a plan. We can see no reason or motive to bring up this subject at this time unless it is for that purpose: as the Church has been thoroughly taught in the past upon the sinfulness of fellowshipping the institutionalists, who have not departed from their many sins, nor repented of

dividing the body of Christ. Brother Tant has no intention of changing his mind about his desire to bring the conservatives and the institutionalists together. Therefore we believe that he intends to carry out his mission of converting the Church to an acceptance of an alliance with the institutionalists.

140. The Spring Valley Church long ago warned of this very thing; as well as warned the brotherhood against such men as brethren Tant and Wallace, and we now see that our dire predictions are on their way to becoming a reality. We are alarmed and distressed also at the poor condition spiritually of the conservatives at this time. They are ripe for the picking, or in other words because of their lack of sound teaching and preaching, and their ignorance which is appalling, there will no doubt be terrible inroads made amongst them in persuading them to accept such an unscriptural and unholy alliance.

141. Already there has been a discernible and widespread evidence of tolerance toward the institutionalists. This has been due to the lack of continued warnings from those who have discontinued their attacks upon the apostatized brethren; and as we have already shown by the preceding pages, the complete deterioration or destruction of their faith in the gospel of Christ, of such men as brethren Tant and Wallace. And of course we must include in this judgment those who are helping and encouraging brother Tant in his devious unholy attempts to lead the conservative portion of the Church in to the same apostasy as that which engulfed the institutionalists. There is no doubt at all that many in the brotherhood favor this unholy and wicked plan of brother Tant's and are supporting him in it.

142. Another reason for the attitude of tolerance towards the institutional brethren, is that in the last 10 years or more a new generation has arisen in the conservative part of the Church, many

The Holy Spirit

An essential understanding to the Christian Faith

converted to the faith because they were raised in the Church. The fact is that this new generation has not heard much about the institutionalism, and probably is not aware particularly of the danger inherent in fellowshiping them; therefore they become ready and willing converts to the machinations of men's intent upon their own motives and reasons for teaching an unlearned and weak people the unscriptural dictum of tolerance towards those who have long ago apostatized from the truth. The Church quit fighting the institutionalists, and is now reaping the whirlwind of unbelief and ignorance predominate in the conservative churches because of this.

143. We ask the brethren to pay careful attention to the preaching of brother Tant and all like him; and to search the scriptures diligently to learn the truth. Proverbs 13:5-6 and we quote verse 6, "Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way; but wickedness overthroweth the sinner." In 2nd John verses 7-11 we quote verses 9 and 10, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. IF THERE COME ANY UNTO YOU, AND BRING NOT THIS DOCTRINE, RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE, NEITHER BID HIM GOD SPEED."

144. These are words of warning to the unlearned and the willingly ignorant; and we hope that it isn't too late. However, all signs point to an almost complete apostasy within a comparatively short time. As we said in the "Holy Spirit " lesson, soon the identifying marks of the true Church of Christ will soon disappear and we feel that there will only be small groups of true Christians, scattered here and there, who will continue in THE faith of the gospel of Christ. Revelation chapter 2 and 3 might well be read and thought upon, because it is our belief that the brotherhood today is

in the same condition as the churches of Christ ????? about years after the death of Christ. We can only hope that there will be some to heed the words which we have written.

145. Remember that some of the enclosed material with this postscript was written almost five years ago, warning the Church against apostasy. We are now in the throes of it; and we would estimate that most of the Church is so dead spiritually that "their understanding is darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." Ephesians 4:18. Wake up brethren before it is too late!! We believe as we said before that as far as we know there are only four true churches of Christ in all the state of California---- one in Alameda, one in Stanton, one in Chula Vista, and one in Spring Valley.

146.
