AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Bible

LESSON 20

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT in ACTION!

JESUS *promised His disciples:* "YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS COME UPON YOU" (Acts 1:8).

What did Jesus mean by this statement? Is this the *same power*—the *same spirit*—that resided in Christ and enabled Him to *obey* God *perfectly? HOW* does Jesus' promise also APPLY TO *YOU* as an *individual?* Here is the amazing truth!

Power Not Inherent!

Practically no one today understands what the Holy Spirit of God really *is*. Many have *falsely* assumed and vaguely thought of it as something "mystic"—a conception of nothingness—a hovering, fluttering "ghost," a third person of a trinity.

We hear a lot today about tapping our *own hidden resources*—our "inner consciousness"—the "dormant powers" within the mind. Modern religions are springing up claiming you possess by nature great powers *within yourself*.

But the TRUTH of the matter is that the Holy Spirit is something that was *NOT BORN IN YOU!* You were *not* born with this great power. It is something you must *receive* from God! (Acts 2:38.)

Most people don't realize that the HOLY SPIRIT is a TREMENDOUS SOURCE of dynamic, *SUPERNATURAL POWER* that can *become a part of our very minds.* IT IS THE VERY *ESSENCE* OF GOD HIMSELF—His very life, His mind, His nature—and it *imparts power! This* is the MIRACLE-WORKING power we must have within us before we can be *born* as God's Sons!

Jesus Had the Power

Let's look at the example of JESUS Christ, whose life was completely FILLED WITH this supernatural power. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He performed mighty miracles (Acts 2:22). He HEALED the SICK. He cast out demons, and He had discernment to know whether or not a person was demon possessed. He STILLED the STORM and turned water into wine.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus KEPT God's laws—the TEN COMMANDMENTS—*perfectly!* (I Pet. 2:21, 22.)

Jesus possessed tremendous power, but He said "I can *of mine own self do nothing!*" (John 5:30.)

Few realize that His miracles and obedience were *not* done by any supernatural power of *His own.* They were done through the *power* of the *Father!* JESUS EXPLAINED: "The FATHER that dwelleth IN ME, *He* DOETH THE WORKS!" (John 14:10.) The Father dwelt in Him *through* the Holy Spirit!

Power to Obey God's Law

Contrary to the common teaching among religious circles today, Jesus DID NOT do away with God's laws! Rather, He established and *magnified* them to *greater spiritual requirements* (Isa. 42:21). He taught it is now a sin just to HATE a brother in one's MIND! (Matthew 5:21-22; I John 3:15.)

CHRIST MAGNIFIED THE LAW to its highest spiritual fulfillment and showed all the

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earth—by the life *He* lived—HOW it is to be fulfilled in its *perfect, spiritual intent!* Control of bodily actions is no longer enough. Now THE MIND, the HEART, MUST also BE pure—SINLESS! Just as Christ's was!

But the "no-law" deceiver will object, "No man can keep the commandments in their true Spiritual intent. It is not *humanly* possible."

That's *right!* It *isn't humanly* possible! Israel, under the Old Covenant, *proved* that carnal man without the *power* of the Holy Spirit could not keep God's law when even *less* of its fulfillment was expected. They never even *approached* the fulfilling of the royal, *spiritual* Law! And neither can we, *of ourselves.* We need the *miraculous power of the Holy Spirit* from the Father!

Holy Spirit Now Available

CREATION IS *STILL* GOING ON! God continues to work out His great *plan* for man—even at this very moment! He made man—His greatest masterpiece of *physical* creation—of the dust of the ground in the *clay image* of Himself (Gen. 1:26; 2:7).

But He did not at that time put His *Spirit*—the Holy Spirit—within man. Yet, this is the *only power* which will enable man to keep the supreme *spiritual law* of *love*—the Ten Commandments! This *same* Holy Spirit *resides in both the Father and the Son* and makes it *natural* for them to live by the law of love!

Also, since man was made of *matter* and is mortal—having only a temporary physical life maintained by eating food, drinking water, breathing air, and the circulation of blood, wherein is the only "life" he possesses—God's Holy Spirit alone can impart *eternal life!*

JESUS CHRIST CAME TO HERALD the glorious coming of the Holy Spirit. He said: "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*" (John 7:38-39).

Peter then clearly defined the WAY TO RECEIVE THIS SPIRIT OF POWER: "*Repent,* and be *baptized* . . . and ye shall receive the *gift* of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

The TIME *IS NOW HERE!* The Holy Spirit can now be placed within *you.* It is the *only power* strong enough to enable you—composed of *weak,* mortal flesh—to keep the commandments and unlock the treasure house of blessings that God desires to bestow upon you *in this life* and ultimately impart *life for all eternity!*

But the vast MAJORITY of people are *BLINDED* to this truth. Instead, they are attempting to gain these tremendous blessings by their *own* power, even though all the years of human history reveal man's *utter failure!*

Just *how powerful is the power of the* HOLY SPIRIT we all must have in order to keep God's laws *perfectly* and receive eternal life? Here is the astounding truth made *plain*—from your Bible! SEE HERE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT *IN ACTION!* We're now ready to begin another exciting and revealing lesson.

Important Instructions

Have you been *practicing* the extremely HELPFUL HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL BIBLE STUDY that are given IN LESSON NUMBER 4?

Lesson 4 was especially designed to *help you* get the *most* out of your study time. Its principles, applied, enable you to understand God's word in a way that was *never before possible!* Neglecting to review it may reflect a lack of proper zealousness and diligence in desiring to make *every* word of God a part of your very being! Review Lesson 4 again *right now*—before you go any further and forget!

LESSON 20

Power of the Holy Spirit Demonstrated

1. Where does power reside? Psalms 62:11. Are all things possible with God? Mat. 19:26. Then isn't God ALL POWERFUL? Same verse.

2. Who created the heavens and the earth? Gen. 1:1. Did God do this by His *power?* Jer. 32:17.

COMMENT: *GOD IS CREATOR!* Here you are seeing the creative power of the Holy Spirit of God in *action!* God the Father and God the Son are *composed of Spirit. This* Spirit—the

HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD—is also the Spirit of *great power!*

3. Did the Spirit *of* God TRANSFORM the *creative ENERGY* OF GOD—a thing which *cannot* be seen—INTO the PHYSICAL CREATION we can *see* around us? Heb. 11:3.

4. How did God utilize this power in His work of creation? Did He only have to command? Psa. 148:5 and 33:9. Also Gen. 1:2-3.

COMMENT: God "*SPAKE*, AND IT WAS *DONE*." He is the One who said, "Let there be light"—and the Spirit, moving upon the face of the waters *performed* the command, and "there was light"—*instantly!* The Holy Spirit is a miracle-working power. It overcomes obstacles. This is the Spirit of *power* we need within *us!*

Now read the entire brief 26th chapter of Job for more vivid illustrations of God's *infinite power.*

5. Did God also CREATE *MAN* by His Spirit of *power?* Gen. 2:7; John 1:1-3.

6. Does God's HOLY SPIRIT—His power—PERMEATE EVERYTHING—even the whole universe? Psalms 139:7-8. Is it also compared *symbolically* to flowing water? John 7:38-39.

COMMENT: It is obvious that the Holy Spirit could *not* be a separate being—the so-called "third person" of a "trinity"!

7. Does God SUSTAIN and *uphold* His creation by the power of the Holy Spirit? Neh. 9:6 and Heb. 1:3. Is He also *ruling* by this power? Psalms 66:7.

COMMENT: Here is further demonstration of the *power* of the Holy Spirit which we must have working *within us.* GOD sits at the CONTROLS of the whole universe—and He RULES and sustains everything BY the *POWER* of the *HOLY SPIRIT!*

8. Is God's eternal power revealed to us through His physical creation? Rom. 1:19-20. Also read rapidly chapters 36:22 through to 42:6 of Job to see how *great* God really is!

COMMENT: *All things are possible for God to perform!* (Luke 1:37.) Do you realize the full impact of that statement? Yes, God's INCOMPREHENSIBLE power—by which He created the universe with its TRILLIONS OF STARS and made man from the dust of the ground—is so GREAT, that absolutely *nothing* is impossible with Him! He has *absolute* power! And a *part* of that very *same POWER CAN BE IN YOU!*

Spirit Rejected in Eden

1. Is "the mind of the *flesh*"—the carnal mind with which you were born—capable of obeying God's *spiritual* laws? Rom. 8:7-8. What does this *carnal* MIND produce? Verse 6. *But* what is the product of a *spiritual* MIND? Same verse.

2. Is God's Spirit a *sound* and *sensible, loving mind?* II Tim. 1:7.

COMMENT: A human mind *united with* and guided *by* the Holy Spirit from God leads to *peace, power and eternal life!* But the *CARNAL* MIND, *without* God's Spirit, is HOSTILE toward God and cannot think clearly. Without it you are only "half there."

To put it plainly, *we are not fully sound-minded* until we obtain *God's mind!* Until we receive it, we are on a mental plane only a little better than brute animals which go by instinct!

The *sound mind* which comes through the indwelling of God's Spirit means just what it implies. It is a truly *balanced* mind. The man possessing it is a *balanced man*—a *whole* man—united with and guided by the supreme mind of the universe!

3. Was the Holy Spirit of God available to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Gen. 2:9. But from what tree *did* they choose to eat? Gen. 2:17; 3:3, 6, 7. *Sin* seems pleasant—*at first.* Then ADAM AND EVE REFUSED God's way to *salvation,* did they not? Same verses.

4. What was ADAM'S GREAT PUNISHMENT for disobeying God? Gen. 3:17-19, 22-24.

COMMENT: If Adam and Eve had partaken of the tree that represented *God's HOLY SPIRIT* in the Garden of Eden—the "tree of life" [*eternal* life], they would have lived forever! But Adam and Eve had to *desire* the *Spirit*—cry out for it—and surrender themselves to God's will in order to receive His Holy Spirit of *eternal* life, exactly as all must do *today* to receive it. *There has never been but this one way to salvation!* But Adam and Eve WOULD *NOT* ACCEPT SALVATION and eternal life GOD'S WAY.

INSTEAD, they CONTINUED following after the way that pleased their OWN carnal nature—the WAY that leads only to death (Gen. 2:17). They wilfully continued committing acts of both "good *and* evil" (same verse). And BECAUSE OF THIS *attitude* GOD WITHHELD His Holy SPIRIT of Love and eternal life from mankind (Gen. 3:24).

Adam and Eve were *mortal*—not *immortal!* They were born subject to death, just as we all are. God said that when they took of the *wrong* tree, they would *die;* and people have been dying ever since!

From the very minute mortal MAN disobeyed, he WAS *CUT OFF* FROM *contact* with God! He was cut off FROM *ACCESS* TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD and the *gift* of eternal life! Ever since then, God has ALLOWED MAN TO GO HIS OWN WAY, setting apart 6,000 years for him to do so. Mankind, as a whole, has *continued* choosing disobedience (Rom. 3:23). Without the Holy Spirit only *misery* and death have followed.

But Christ has come to herald the ARRIVAL

of the HOLY SPIRIT ONCE AGAIN for all who will accept it. Man should have learned his lesson *by now!*

Spiritual Power Promised to Man!

1. Why was Israel of old *unable* to keep even the *letter* of God's law contained in the Old Covenant? Deut. 5:29.

COMMENT: ISRAEL was a physical, *carnal* church! (Acts 7:38.) They *did not have the strength of character*—the "heart"—to be faithful in keeping their covenant vow because they *did not possess* God's HOLY SPIRIT! It was NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM since there was *no promise of receiving the Holy Spirit at that time!* (John 7:39.) From the time of Adam, God was letting man see the effects of living *without* the Holy Spirit!

Therefore, the *righteousness* under the *first* covenant *had* to be accomplished through human — *fleshly* — effort. But their *dis*obedience *proves* they couldn't obey God's laws by *human* power *alone!*

2. *How did* GOD SAY HE WOULD MAKE IT *POSSIBLE* FOR MEN TO OBEY HIS LAWS? Ezek. 36:26-27.

3. Will the *HOLY SPIRIT* ultimately be made AVAILABLE FOR *EVERYONE* who *chooses* to receive it? Joel 2:28-29.

4. Remember, the Holy Spirit is compared to *living waters* (John 7:38, 39). Who is the *fountain source* of the Holy Spirit of life and power? Jer. 17:13 and John 4:10, 14.

COMMENT: Jesus Christ is the *mediator* of A "BETTER COVENANT" which contains "better promises" (Heb. 8:6). Among these precious promises is the *gift* of the Holy Spirit which is compared to *flowing water.*

5. Did God promise to give His Spirit of power to those who *sincerely desire* —"thirst"— for it? Isa. 44:3 and John 7:37-39.

COMMENT: The Scriptures plainly show that the Holy Spirit *can* be placed *within* man! For "out of his"— *man's* —"*belly* [his innermost being] *shall flow* rivers of living water."

6. *When* was the Holy Spirit to be made available once again for mankind? John 7:39 and 16:7. Doesn't this prove that the Holy Spirit (the "comforter") was not generally available for mankind *before* Christ's death and ascension to heaven?

7. Did Jesus specifically promise that the Holy Spirit would dwell in his disciples—His followers? John 14:17.

COMMENT: When God created man of the dust of the ground, He did not place an obedient nature within him. And when God offered Adam the *opportunity* of receiving the Holy Spirit and eternal life as a *gift*, man's *rebellious nature* went contrary to God and chose the way that has only brought suffering and death!

But God, in His great mercy, FORETOLD of a time when He would *once again*, after man had learned lessons by his sad experiences, offer His Holy Spirit to mankind so all could obey the spiritual law and reap the physical and spiritual blessings the world really desires. The *New* Covenant promises all this!

Without the Holy Spirit, man is *incomplete!*

Christ Received Great Power!

1. Did CHRIST—the "Word"—become *human flesh and blood* with human *nature?* Heb. 2:9, 14; John 1:14 and Heb. 4:14, 15. Was HE *MIRACULOUSLY BEGOTTEN* physically BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF POWER? Mat. 1:18-20.

COMMENT: Jesus miraculously became a *human being.* In His flesh was the *same* human *carnal nature* that you and I have. But Christ would have had *no* supernatural power except for *one* thing. He was also begotten *spiritually* by the Holy Spirit. By *this* begettal He derived His *spiritual power.*

Jesus' miraculous PHYSICAL begettal is A *TYPE* illustrating OUR *SPIRITUAL* begettal by which the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit will *change* and strengthen us the way it did Christ!

2. Did God the Father completely fill Jesus with His Spirit of power? John 3:34 and Col. 1:19. What did Christ do with this tremendous power? Acts 10:38.

3. What are a few of the many breath-taking *divine MIRACLES* JESUS PERFORMED by the *power* of God's Holy Spirit dwelling within Him? Read them for yourself *now!*

What did Christ *do* to WATER? John 2:1-11. How did Jesus, through the divine power of God, deal with a DEMON-POSSESSED MAN? Mark 1:23-28. Was Jesus able to *cleanse a leper?* Mark 1:40-42.

4. What did Christ do to the waves of a roaring SEA? Mat. 8:23-27. In what way did Christ show mercy to two BLIND MEN? Mat. 9:27-31. What *miracle* did the *power* of the Holy Spirit perform through Jesus for the man with a WITHERED HAND? Mat. 12:9-13.

5. How were FIVE THOUSAND people *miraculously FED* by Jesus? Mat. 14:15-21. Was the *power of God* that Christ possessed so great that just a *touch* of His garment healed the sick? Mat. 14:34-36. What did Jesus even do to Lazarus by God's power? John 11:39-45.

COMMENT: These are only a *few* of Jesus' astounding miracles as recorded in the four gospels. God's *miracle*-working power was amply demonstrated through the *human* body of Jesus Christ. That *same* power of the Holy Spirit may

work *in* and *through you, too!* THIS POWER IS THE *ONLY* POWER WHICH CAN CHANGE YOU FROM YOUR PRESENT EVIL, CARNAL SELF to a spiritual character acceptable to God!

6. Did Jesus admit He was power*less* to do anything by His *own strength?* John 5:30. Then *who* did do all these marvelous works? John 14:10.

COMMENT: JESUS, *POWERLESS* OF HIS OWN HUMAN SELF, *was filled with the divine power* of the Father! The supernatural power of God did the *work* of God through Christ's *human body*. Jesus had *emptied* Himself of the divine glory and power He had *with* the Father from eternity! He became *fleshly*—just like you and I. He plainly SAID He COULD of Himself —with His own *human* strength—DO *NOTHING! Neither can we!*

7. Did Jesus Christ set a *perfect example* for us in *all* things? Should we *imitate Him?* I Pet. 2:21. In what other way did Jesus SET US AN *EXAMPLE* that WE SHOULD *FOLLOW* in His steps? John 15:10. Read also Mat. 19:17.

8. Did Jesus keep and teach more than just the letter of the law? Isa. 42:21 and Mat. 5:27-28, 43-44.

COMMENT: Jesus revealed that God's law is a *spiritual* law. Today a person not only breaks the command against adultery by performing the physical act, but if he *just looks* and *lusts* after a woman in his own *heart* and *mind*, he has already committed adultery with her! This *mental* act disobeys the *spiritual intent* of God's great law of love as summed up in the *basic* Ten Commandments. The whole New Testament is an *expansion* of God's law to its great *spiritual intent* and *purpose!*

9. Was Jesus Christ able to keep the minutest spiritual intent of God's law perfectly—even though He was human? Heb. 4:14, 15; I Pet. 2:22.

COMMENT: Satan the DEVIL, through his *false ministers* (II Cor. 11:13-15), is *DECEIVING* the WORLD INTO BELIEVING that *human beings* are NOT REQUIRED to KEEP the SPIRITUAL LAW of God.

People are falsely taught that Jesus came as our Savior *without* the normal *human* nature of *mortal* flesh. They completely overlook the *supreme factor* in this whole material universe—the *power* of the *Holy Spirit* when placed within man! They would like to believe that through some "special process" of His own Christ could keep the law of God *in our stead!* And, by this, they like to conclude, "We *don't have to keep* the *spiritual law*"!

Nothing could be further from the truth!

The HUMAN CHRIST KEPT THE SPIRITUAL LAW! SO CAN WE! HOW? BY receiving the SAME SPIRIT He received!!

What Christ did *in our stead* was *to die* for us to pay the penalty of our *breaking* God's Law. And His *obedience* through the Spirit within Him is an *example* to us that we also may be obedient through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit!

Yes, Jesus was tempted in *all points like we are*. He was composed of the *same* weak, carnal, fleshly *nature*. He was *tempted* through the lusts of His human nature, but obeyed *all* of God's laws—*perfectly*—for He was filled with the *power* of the *Holy Spirit!*

The Mortal Christ Raised Immortal

1. Is Christ the Captain—the Leader—of our salvation? Heb. 2:10. Is He the Author of it too? Heb. 5:9.

2. Did Jesus become the first *human* to be *spiritually* begotten and born of God? Heb. 1:6 and Col. 1:18.

3. What was the only reason God the Father resurrected the *human* Jesus to immortality? Was it because Christ had the Holy Spirit within Him *before* His death, that the Father raised Him? Rom. 8:9-11.

COMMENT: Rom. 8:10 tells us, "the *Spirit* is life because of *righteousness*"— that is, "the [Holy] Spirit is [eternal] life because of [*Spiritual*] *righteousness*." Christ, as we have seen, was begotten by the Father's Holy Spirit. Its power *dwelt* in Christ and kept Him spiritually clean—*sinless*—until the end. That is why the Father raised the mortal human Christ to eternal life!

COMMENT: CHRIST is the LEADER of our salvation—He SET the PATTERN for the way WE *MUST* FOLLOW. The indwelling of the *Holy Spirit* within us *now* is clearly as necessary as its presence was within Christ if we are to expect the Father to raise *us* to immortality! Without it we can have *no* hope of a *resurrection* to eternal life!!

4. Did Christ live His life in the apostle Paul? Gal. 2:20. Since He did, wasn't Paul's hope of a resurrection to immortality certain *as long as* Christ *continued* to dwell in him? II Tim. 4:7-8. Must all Christians also have the *mind* of Christ? Phil. 2:5.

COMMENT: Jesus Christ can also live His life within *you*. Here's how: It is through the *Holy Spirit* which can dwell in you as it did in Christ. Christ's mind—His perfect *Holy* Spiritual *attitude of obedience*—will thus be *in you. You* will be "in Christ," and *Christ* will be "in *you*" through the *common* indwelling of the *Father's* Holy Spirit within *both* of you. The FATHER, CHRIST, and YOU *can thus be* all of *ONE* SPIRIT—all of *one* mind—the *Holy* mind.

Therefore, you will be acceptable to God and be *ready* to be *changed* to immortality by the *power* of the Holy Spirit at Christ's coming.

First Arrival of the Holy Spirit

1. Did Jesus promise His human disciples they would RECEIVE POWER FROM HEAVEN after His resurrection? Luke 24:49. *Where* did He tell them to *wait* for this *promised power?* Same verse. Also Acts 1:4. Were they to be "baptized with"—that is, *receive*—the power of the *Holy Spirit* in Jerusalem? Verses 5 and 8.

2. What GREAT *DISPLAY* OF *POWER* did the Holy Spirit cause ON this, ITS FIRST ARRIVAL, as they were waiting at Jerusalem for its coming? Acts 2:2-4, 8, 11.

COMMENT: The Spirit of God CAME WITH A *SOUND* as a MIGHTY RUSHING WIND!! It came with the *APPEARANCE* of divided—*equally distributed*—TONGUES OF FIRE! And on this occasion it *FILLED ALL 120* of the DISCIPLES and *SPOKE* through them in such a manner that *every man there from every nation HEARD IN his OWN LANGUAGE!* The MIRACLE was in the *hearing*, as well as in the *speaking! It was a manifestation to all the earth of the arrival of the miraculous* POWER *of the Holy Spirit!*

3. What was the *name* of the day on which this great display of the Holy Spirit's power occurred? Acts 2:1.

COMMENT: The word "pentecost" is a *Greek* word meaning "fifty," or "count fifty." The Holy Spirit came on *Pentecost*, fifty days after the Sunday immediately following Jesus' resurrection.

4. What were the apostles to *do* by this *power* of the Holy Spirit after they received it? Acts 1:8. Had it been *foretold* by Christ that they would have supernatural power? Mark 16:15, 17. Note especially verse 17.

COMMENT: The sudden spectacular, awe-inspiring exhibit of divine power working within these men on the day of Pentecost heralded to the whole world the starting point of the time when all who *choose* to receive the Holy Spirit *can* receive it!

It MARKED the *BEGINNING OF* the *CLIMAXING ACT* OF GOD'S *SUPREME* CREATIVE WORK—the era foretold by God long ago when He said to His ancient nation Israel, and through it to the *whole world*, "The days come . . . that I will make a *NEW COVENANT* with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah . . . *I* [*not* man, but *God*] will put My *law in their inward parts*, and write it *in their hearts*" (Jer. 31:31, 33 and Heb. 8:8-10).

This mighty rushing of the Spirit down to our earth, which you here read about, marked the *ADVENT* OF THE *POWER* which GOD will USE TO ENGRAVE HIS LAW WITHIN the HEARTS of those of us who surrender ourselves to Him! It is the *Power* of His *Holy Spirit* which He offers to place within *us!!* That is *why* God made this such a spectacular and momentous event. It was of tremendous import to all mankind.

In this event we see God's notice to the world that He is ready, from that time forward, to *supernaturally strengthen* by His Holy Spirit those who may receive it, SO that Christ *CAN establish* the New Covenant with them at His soon coming. At that time He will ask those who are thus strengthened to BE His—CHRIST'S —COLLECTIVE "WIFE" FOR ALL ETERNITY in the Kingdom of God!

But the *world* is completely unconscious of the great *import* of the miracles which occurred at the advent of the Holy Spirit! How dull can a dull-minded world be? It's time to *wake up*—it's *later* than people think!

COMMENT: On that particular DAY of Pentecost occurred an experience *UNIQUE* in all history—*never again* to be repeated! What happened on that day was a *fulfillment* of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-29). As Peter explained, it was the *advent* of the *other Comforter*—the Holy Spirit—from *heaven.*

Yes, the HOLY SPIRIT came with *POWER* on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., and it *has BEEN HERE EVER SINCE!* But for nearly 2,000 years now, most of the world has *rejected* this power—the *only* means by which men could receive the happiness and blessings they *crave* so desperately!

Apostles Miraculously Strengthened!

The APOSTLES were mortal men, just as you and I. But they RECEIVED the great POWER OF the HOLY SPIRIT. That is why the Holy Spirit was sent—to strengthen *people.* Notice what other *manifestations* of *power* the apostles showed by reason of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them.

1. How SPIRITUALLY WEAK were the apostles BEFORE they RECEIVED the HOLY SPIRIT? Did they even slumber the night before Christ was crucified? Mat. 26:40-45.

2. How *spiritually weak* was PETER *before* the Holy Spirit came into him on the day of Pentecost? Mat. 26:69-70. How many times did Peter *deny* he knew Christ whom He actually knew so well? Verse 75. Was he *really converted* then? Luke 22:32.

COMMENT: Peter was so WEAK SPIRITUALLY *before* he received the Holy Spirit that he even denied three times that he knew Jesus.

The OTHER DISCIPLES were in the SAME condition. They didn't have the *spiritual strength* of character to stay awake as Jesus prayed before being taken by the Roman soldiers. Then when the soldiers came, they *forsook* Jesus and *fled* because of fear! (Mat. 26:56.)

3. BUT how did Peter become *AFTER* the HOLY SPIRIT CAME INTO him—*after* he was *converted?* Acts 2:14.

COMMENT: A *MIRACULOUS CHANGE* came over Peter! Note it! Peter spoke *boldly* to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem. *FULL OF POWER*, he and the other 119 disciples PREACHED Christ so *MIGHTILY* and *convincingly*, that 3,000 people repented of their sins and were baptized on that memorial day of Pentecost! (Acts 2:41.)

Peter's power, through the Spirit, became *so great* that EVEN those in his *SHADOW* were HEALED! (Acts 5:15, 16.)

4. What was Peter's first miracle? Acts 3:2, 4-8. Did Peter and John take any *personal credit* for this miracle? Acts 3:12-13, 16. Or did Peter ascribe it to the healing power of the *Holy Spirit?* Verse 12.

5. Did all the other apostles also become strong and possess *great power after* they received the Holy Spirit? Acts 4:31, 33.

6. Did PHILIP PERFORM MIRACLES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF CHRIST'S? Acts 8:5-7. And Stephen also? Acts 6:8.

7. Did Paul also perform Christ's works—miracles similar to Christ's? Acts 14:8-10, 3. Read also Acts 28:3, 5.

COMMENT: Shortly AFTER the apostle PAUL was MIRACULOUSLY struck down and converted by Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1-22), he began to be such a great *instrument* in God's hands, that he became a MIGHTY apostle of the New Testament! (Paul's name was originally Saul. Later it was changed to Paul.)

8. What are *some* of the *OTHER* MIRACLES the APOSTLES PERFORMED by the *power* of God? Read Acts 9:36-41; 13:6-11; and 5:12, 16.

COMMENT: The apostle Peter, Paul, and the other apostles were performing the very "signs" and *wonders* Jesus said they would do *after* they *received God's power!*

The *demand* on Paul's time became so great that he was unable to visit all the sick who lived at a distance. God therefore honored a *special means!* Paul ANOINTED and *prayed over pieces of CLOTH*—handkerchiefs and aprons—and sent them to those requesting prayer for healing—and *they* were *healed!* By the pieces of cloth which were a reminder? No! But by the very *power of God!* That *same* power works in the *same* manner today through the TRUE ministers of God!

COMMENT: The apostles of the New Testament truly did perform the *works* of Christ! They did the very *work* of God the *Father* which His Holy Spirit *began* in and through the *person* of Jesus in the human flesh. That work was continued then through the *collective* body of disciples which is the *body of Christ*—His true *Church of God!*

That Church continues to *exist today!* It is composed of God-called and *Spirit-empowered* Christians performing this *same* work! *We* are this Church!

9. During the time of God's SOON-COMING punishment on this sinful world, will His human *special* "TWO WITNESSES" perform even *greater* miracles than Christ did? John 14:12 and Rev. 11:3, 5-6.

Second Phase of Man's Creation

Man's creation in Eden was complete only in the *physical* sense. He was created a perfect *physical* specimen—but *NOT* a PERFECT *SPIRITUAL CREATION!* He was created *without* the divine *spiritual* power within him.

But *exactly* what is this spiritual creation God desires to produce in man? Let's be *sure* to understand!

1. Is GOD STILL IN the PROCESS of forming and MOLDING MAN as a potter works with clay? Isa. 64:8.

2. Did Job realize that God was forming a *special creation* in his life? Job 14:14-15.

COMMENT: Notice especially the latter part of Job 14:15. "*Thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.*" The "work" was *Job!* Job knew he was merely a piece of divine *workmanship* in the hands of the active Creator. Merely a piece of *PLIABLE CLAY* IN the hands of the MASTER POTTER!

3. Are converted *Spirit-led* Christians being fashioned for a *specific* purpose? Isa. 43:7 and Eph. 2:10.

COMMENT: The word "*we*" in New Testament language refers to *true* spirit-begotten *Christians. WE*, then, are God's *workmanship.* Yes, WE are "created"—*now BEING CREATED*—"UNTO GOOD WORKS"—unto a perfect *spiritual character* which can perform wonderful good works.

So what God is actually creating in Spirit-directed humans is the *supreme masterpiece* of all His works of creation! He is in the process of creating millions—yes, *billions*—of what will become *perfect, spirit* Sons of God at the resurrection!

God is creating His Supreme masterpiece by two distinct steps: Man, the *clay material creation* (Genesis 1), is only the *first* phase of what is to become God's finished *spiritual* creation. For man, the *clay model*, has to be fashioned and molded by *experience and with the aid of God's Holy Spirit*, into the finished *spiritual* creation masterpiece of all God's creation!

But before the second phase of man's creation—his spiritual growth—begins, God the Father must *first beget* us by placing His Holy Spirit *within* us. We are then *impregnated*, so to speak, by the "seed" or germ of eternal life. It is the *begettal* of the life of God within our minds! We then compare to a newly BEGOTTEN babe

in its mother's womb that *BEGINS TO GROW!*

4. What are we *called* when the Father begets us with His Spirit? I John 3:1 and Rom. 8:14-17.

COMMENT: We are called the (begotten) sons of God.

5. Do we *PARTAKE* of the *NATURE* and *characteristics* OF GOD when begotten? II Pet. 1:3-4.

6. What is the *basic* characteristic of God's nature? I John 4:16. Is this the *SAME* LOVE that will *enable* us to "fulfill"—to *obey*—God's laws? Rom. 13:10 and 5:5.

COMMENT: The Holy Spirit of God imparts God's Love to us. God's love aids to channel our human *will* to cause us to perform *works* —acts—*pleasing* in God's sight! Thus we fulfill God's Law of *Love! If you* have God's love, you will—by the *POWER* of God, and *not* by your own human strength—KEEP *ALL TEN* of His COMMANDMENTS! But YOU *MUST choose* to obey! This is *your part* in the strengthening of your *will* and *character.*

No one who *continues* to flagrantly break God's Law of Love has received the Spirit of God or has the *power* of God working in him!

But if we have God's Spirit in us, then God's *nature* which is His *love*, will tend to *naturally radiate* from us in obedience and good works.

7. If we are begotten by God's Spirit, can we EVENTUALLY ATTAIN to the VERY *LIKENESS* and stature—the very *composition*—OF GOD? Psalms 17:15 and I John 3:2.

COMMENT: *We are now the* (spiritually *begotten*) sons of God and we will be *like* Him when we are *born* of God's Spirit!

We Must Grow Spiritually

1. Must the lives of Spirit-begotten Christians be completely *changed* from their former *sinful way* of living? Rom. 12:2 and Eph. 4:23-24. Is this changing process producing the *new* "creation" in man? II Cor. 5:17.

COMMENT: Your *whole life*—your *attitude* of mind—MUST BE COMPLETELY CHANGED —*CONVERTED!* This *transformation* (not just *a reformation*) is a *tremendous undertaking.* It requires a *miracle!* Such a change would be impossible to bring about or account for except it were BY a *SUPERNATURAL ACT* OF Almighty GOD—your *begettal* by the Holy Spirit! The receiving and *INDWELLING* OF the HOLY SPIRIT is a *renewing of the mind.*

God stands pledged, upon one's *real* and *thorough* repentance, and faith in Christ (Acts 2:38), to begin the performance of this tremendous miracle by literally putting His Holy Spirit *within* you. BUT GOD CANNOT work this complete change in your life unless YOU are *willing to SURRENDER* yourself to Him AND *SUBMIT* TO THE PROCESS!

2. Do begotten Christians need to *grow spiritually?* II Pet. 3:18. Are we then compared to little children growing up again? I Pet. 2:2 and Mat. 18:2-3.

3. After whom are we to *pattern* our lives as we grow spiritually? Eph. 4:15. And to what *end result?* Eph. 4:13. Will Christ live *in* and *through* us? Col. 1:27; Gal. 2:20 and I John 4:2.

COMMENT: Your impregnation by the Holy Spirit—the very *Spirit* and *attitude* of God Himself—will plant within you the *seed* of the *divine nature* of God. It will *develop His character* in you!

Upon receiving His Spirit, you will begin to *think* as God thinks, *see* things as God does, and you will begin to *act* as He acts. YOUR WHOLE ATTITUDE WILL BEGIN TO *CHANGE.* You'll be more like God every day because you will have the *same mind* that Jesus Christ had when He also was only a Spirit-begotten human being!

And if, in this life, we *GROW SPIRITUALLY* and our thinking and ways have been *changed* UNTIL we really do become in character new creatures, *CONFORMED* TO GOD'S WILL; then that clay model, *worked over*, fashioned, and shaped into the *rough* Spiritual image of God, will suddenly be changed into the *FINISHED* SPIRITUAL CREATION—AT the *RESURRECTION!* We shall then be *born* of God—we shall then *be* God!

Power for the Asking!

1. How *READILY* will GOD GIVE us His Holy SPIRIT of Power today? Luke 11:10-13. But are there *prior conditions* to receiving it? Acts 2:38 and 5:32. These *conditions* are *extremely* important to *remember!*

COMMENT: If we repent, and are reconciled to God by the *death* of Christ, THEN God is more willing to give us His Spirit than we are to give bread to our children. But we must *want* to obey God and *give our strongest cooperation* to the Holy Spirit which will make it possible for us *to obey* God!

2. Do begotten children of God have *DIRECT ACCESS* TO the FATHER in heaven? Eph. 2:13, 18 and Heb. 10:19-20.

3. Did Jesus instruct us *how* to establish this contact? Mat. 6:6.

COMMENT: Ever since the Holy Spirit—the *power* of God — arrived on Pentecost, 31 A.D., man has had the opportunity to come *directly* TO THE VERY THRONE OF THE FATHER *in prayer* through Jesus Christ and the *Holy Spirit!* What a priceless privilege!

In the Old Testament *no one* prayed to the Father. *No one* addressed God as "*Father*" then. And only an *extremely few* could then address the God who was to become the *Son!* But the

Son, Jesus Christ, came to *declare to all* who the Father is (John 1:18)—to declare that all may now be begotten of Him and have *access* to Him through the Holy Spirit!

4. What *ADVANTAGES* may we have in this close relationship with our Heavenly Father? Mat. 21:22 and Heb. 4:16. *Why* may we receive what we ask? I John 3:22.

5. Why was Jesus *ALWAYS* HEARD and answered by the Father? Heb. 5:7.

COMMENT: Jesus was in *CONSTANT* CONTACT with the Father. He received *answers* to His prayers and performed mighty miracles through the *power* of God's Spirit in Him! We may *also* establish this very *same contact* and receive answers today as Jesus did! Don't pass this priceless opportunity by!

6. What are SOME OF THE *results or* "FRUITS" that are made manifest IN OUR LIVES *IF* we possess GOD'S SPIRIT? Gal. 5:22-23 and Rom. 15:13.

7. What *SPECIAL* "GIFTS" are bestowed by the power of the Holy Spirit? I Cor. 12:1, 4-11.

COMMENT: Just imagine! These are some of the *additional* things God gives those who surrender their lives to God so they may receive His Holy Spirit! God divides these special *gifts* among certain ones in His Church as *He* wills.

8. Which is the *greatest* attribute or characteristic God transmits to us by the Holy Spirit? Is it *love*—"charity"? I Cor. 13:13. Skim rapidly the whole chapter for its *general* thought.

9. How *much* of God's Spirit can we receive in this life? Eph. 1:13-14 and II Cor. 5:5.

COMMENT: An "earnest" is a "*token* or *pledge* of what is to come"—according to *Webster's Dictionary*. Therefore, the "EARNEST" OF GOD'S SPIRIT is a *SMALL PART* of the Spirit and power with which one is imbued at first. But after this initial imbuement, we *grow* spiritually, and at Christ's return, will *become* Spirit—become *completely composed* of Holy Spirit!

Paul received only a comparatively *small portion* of the Holy Spirit as compared to the *fulness* of the Spirit that Jesus received (John 3:34). Yet look what it did to Paul!! By Paul's life *we* know that we also may be *greatly strengthened.*

10. Do we receive all *at one time* enough of God's HOLY SPIRIT—His divine power—to last FOREVER? II Cor. 4:16 and Phil 1:19.

COMMENT: God does *not* put within us a sort of miracle-producing dynamo which *continually generates* this *power. WE* MUST CONTINUALLY BE RECEIVING THIS POWER. Remember, the HOLY SPIRIT is compared to water—it FLOWS. Jesus said the power of God shall *flow out* of our innermost being! (John 7:38.) God's power is *active—dynamic!* It is not static. It FLOWS *into* us, and *OUT through us* PERFORMING GOD'S WILL. The very *same* will we shall later perform as Sons of God—Gods in the very Kingdom of God.

You cannot receive a *supply* of God's Spirit and then bottle it up within you. It *circulates*—from God, *into* you—and then *out from* you in *love, obedience,* faith, joy, and patience—even in performing miracles—and then back to God! And it MUST BE *RENEWED* in us *DAILY*—THROUGH contact with God in *PRAYER! This is very* important *to remember!*

The Spiritual *power* available through the Holy Spirit is the power needed for *self-mastery,* for accomplishment, success, abundant *joy, peace of mind* and the *happiness* we all desire!

Do you begin to grasp how much *better* a life man could live if he were *really in contact* with His Creator? And just think! *All* this *is* available to YOU!

Spirit the Key to Glorious Immortality

Let's notice now how having the Holy Spirit within us is the *key* to receiving eternal life and glory.

1. Did Jesus CHRIST *DIE?* I Cor. 15:3. Was He *RAISED from the dead?* Verse 4.

2. Did God the Father raise Christ from death? Eph. 1:17, 19-20.

COMMENT: Note that verse 17 tells us that it is God the Father and Christ who are being discussed. Verse 20 says, "He [the Father] raised Him [Christ] from the dead, and set Him [Christ] at His [the Father's] own right hand in the heavenly places." So it was *GOD THE FATHER* who raised Christ from death to immortality.

3. Are there many *proofs* of Christ's resurrection from the dead? I Cor. 15:5-8.

4. Was CHRIST the *first* one of *many* to be resurrected to *eternal* life? Acts 26:23; Col. 1:18 and I Cor. 15:23.

COMMENT: Christ is the "FIRSTBORN OF MANY BRETHREN" (Rom. 8:29).

5. Does the Father promise spirit-begotten Christians He will also raise them to immortality if His Holy Spirit is within them, just as He resurrected Jesus? Rom. 8:11 and I Cor. 6:14. "The Lord" here is Christ.

6. *When* and *how quickly* will our "change" come? I Cor. 15:51-52.

7. When changed at the resurrection, will we become as Jesus Christ is *today?* Phil. 3:20-21 and I John 3:2. What *type* of body was Jesus changed into at His resurrection? I Cor. 15:44-45.

COMMENT: WE WILL also BE GIVEN A

BODY then LIKE CHRIST HAS NOW! The outstanding difference between the body we now have and the one we will be given is that while the one we now have is a *natural* or *mortal* body, the one we *shall* receive will be a *spiritual* body!

If we are *alive* at the time of the resurrection, our *mortal bodies* shall suddenly be changed. If we have *died,* our *character* will come forth *out of the dust* of the ground into A SPIRITUAL BODY which God will give us FROM HEAVEN! (II Cor. 5:2.)

8. Was Jesus, with His *spiritual* body, ABLE TO suddenly *APPEAR* and *DISAPPEAR?* Luke 24:36-37, 31. Did he *PASS THROUGH* barriers or WALLS? John 20:19.

COMMENT: When we become Spirit, we'll be able to perform these *same* miraculous feats! WE WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO *PHYSICAL LAWS* THEN for we will not be composed of matter, but of *Spirit*—the Spirit of *power!*

9. Will our spiritual bodies be CAPABLE of *traveling* through space at *TREMENDOUS SPEED?* John 20:17 and Mat. 28:9.

COMMENT: Notice that Christ had been able to travel to the Father in heaven and return to earth on the *same day*. Here again is the power of the Spirit *in action!*

10. When necessary, will we BE *ABLE TO* CHANGE into a BODY of *physical flesh* and bone so mortal eyes can *see* us? Luke 24:37-39.

COMMENT: A spirit is *composed* of spirit essence. It is not composed of *physical* flesh. Since man is in the *image* of God, both man and GOD have FORM AND SHAPE. But one is composed of flesh while the other is composed of *Spirit!*

11. Once made spirit, can we ever *die* again? Luke 20:35-36.

12. Was Jesus to be *"glorified" again* after His resurrection? John 17:4-5. How will Christ's *GLORIFIED BODY* appear to those who will be privileged to see Him as He is? Rev. 1:13-16.

COMMENT: As God, Christ had a glorious, resplendent, spiritual body before He took the human form. Now Christ is *glorified* again. Christ's *new body* is so *POWERFUL* that it even RADIATES LIGHT brighter than the sun!

13. Will God *glorify* His Spirit-begotten children at the resurrection by giving them this *same great power and glory?* Rom. 8:17 and Col. 3:4.

14. Did Jesus give us a *fleeting* glimpse of this *future glorified condition* when He was "transfigured"? Mat. 17:1-2. Note that this was a *vision* they saw concerning the future (verse 9).

COMMENT: This ULTIMATE *POWER* we shall receive at the resurrection will be *SO GREAT*, it will MAKE OUR SPIRIT BODIES *SHINE AS* THE *SUN* and our raiment will be as *dazzling as light!* All this can come later by having God's Spirit working within us *now!*

15. What other Scripture gives us a picture of our *glorified bodies?* Dan. 12:2-3. Wouldn't you also like to *possess* such a body someday?

SUMMARY

The astounding *truth* of the Bible is that God desires to place within mankind the great power of His HOLY SPIRIT as A *FREE GIFT!* By this power, man can keep God's perfect, holy, *spiritual* laws *more perfectly* so as to please God.

This is how God is now fulfilling *His* part of the New Covenant with those He has spiritually begotten. He is *now engraving His Royal Law in the hearts and minds* of *true* Christians through His Spirit.

God is completing His perfect *spiritual* creation in man—but only in those who have *yielded* to Him and have allowed His Spirit to enter and beget them as spiritual sons! Yes, God *is* the Potter and we *are* the clay!

This life is the training ground. We are here for the express purpose of learning how to rightly direct the vast powers God will give us when *we are* born as His sons—powers so *tremendous* the mind of man cannot now conceive!!

At the *resurrection* our spiritual creation will be *complete*. We will then have the *mind* of God *in full!*

We'll be *completely composed* of Spirit—Holy Spirit—and BE VERY *GODS IN GOD'S KINGDOM!* Christ will then *complete* His New Testament Covenant with us and we shall be able to *obey* His laws *perfectly—forever!* (I John 3:9.)

Few grasp how *great* and *all-powerful God is* and *His great kindness in making it possible for us to have His mind and great power!*

This knowledge has *now* reached *you*. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* ABOUT IT?

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