



Sermon Outlines

from Steve Waller

A Study of the Holy Spirit...

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THE HOLY SPIRIT--Who Is He?

by Steve Waller

Introduction:

1. There is much confusion today on the subject of the Holy Spirit.
2. A study of the Holy Spirit is sometimes difficult, but so is a study of God, the Father and Jesus, the Christ.
3. A few years ago a preacher said that he did not preach or teach classes on the Holy Spirit for fear of confusing the people
 - Perhaps so far as that man was concerned that is true. Perhaps he was the one who was confused about the Holy Spirit.
 - The Bible is not confusing, but when men try to change the Scriptures, or fail use correct principles of hermeneutics, they confuse the matter.
4. This lesson is a discussion of the question: "Who Is The Holy Spirit?"

I. The Godhead:

- A. The Godhead is composed of three persons or personalities: God, the Father; God, the Word, (who became the Son Jesus Christ); and, God, the Holy Spirit.
- B. Some deny existence of Godhead or Trinity, so we need to read the Scriptures which show their existence:

- 1. These three persons or personalities were in the beginning, and existed before the beginning:
 - a. God and the Spirit of God (GEN. 1:1-2) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*
 - b. The Word: Christ (JOHN 1:1-3) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (COL. 1:16-17) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is*

before all things, and by him all things consist.

2. The three were present at Jesus' baptism (MATT. 3:16-17) *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

3. Jesus spoke of the three when He told of the Spirit's work in JOHN 14-17. (JOHN 15:26) *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

4. Paul's closing words to the Corinthians refers to all three (2 COR. 13:14) *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

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

C. In this lesson we will consider the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit --- We will show that He is a person, not a mere influence or impersonal force.

II. The Works Of The Holy Spirit Show His Personality:

- A. He speaks (1 TIM. 4:1) *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith...*

B. He witnesses or testifies (JOHN 15:26) *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

C. He would teach & remind the apostles (JOHN 14:26) *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.*

D. He guides (JOHN 16:12-13) *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

E. He leads & forbids (ACTS 16:6-7) *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*

III. The Holy Spirit Possesses The Characteristics Of A Person Or Personality:

- A. He has knowledge (1 COR. 2:10-11) *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*
- B. He has affection, love (ROM. 15:30) *Now I beseech you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; H*
- C. He exercises will (1 COR. 12:11) *but all these worketh the one and the same Spirit, dividing to each one severally even as he will.*
- D. He has goodness (NEH. 9:20) *Thou gavest also thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldst not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.*
- (All these are characteristics of a person, a being possessing intelligence.)

IV. The Holy Spirit Suffers Slights And Injuries Which Can Only Be Ascribed To A Personality:

- A. He can be grieved or vexed (EPH. 4:30) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
- B. He can be blasphemed (MATT. 12:31-32) *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*
- C. He can be despised (HEB. 10:29) *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*
- D. He can be lied unto & resisted (AC. 5:3; 7:51) *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*

- (A mere principle or influence cannot sustain any of these slights--Only a personality can be so treated.)

V. The Holy Spirit Possesses Attributes Of A Divine Personality:

- A. His connection with the Father and Son indicates His deity and He is called God (AC. 5:3-4) *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*
- B. He is omniscient--He knows all (1 COR. 2:10-11) *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*
- C. Omnipresent--He is everywhere at once (PSA. 139:7-10) *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*
- D. He is eternal (HEB. 9:14) *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

VI. The Works Of The Holy Spirit Reveal His Deity:

- A. He had a role in creation--He brought design & order to the universe (GEN. 1:2) *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (JOB 26:13) By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens;*
- B. He has a work in regeneration or conversion (JOHN 3:5) *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
 - 1. The word of God is the instrument used by the Holy Spirit to instruct man and produce faith in the heart of man (EPH. 6:17) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (ROM. 10:17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
 - 2. Salvation is brought about by the preaching of the word of God which was given by the

Holy Spirit. (1 COR. 1:21) *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

C. His work in performing miracles is seen (MATT. 12:28) *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you....* (1 COR. 12:4-11) *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

Conclusion:

1. We have demonstrated that the Holy Spirit is a divine being referred to in Bible as "He," not "it."
2. He is not merely some mysterious influence or impersonal power. He is Deity.
3. Christians walk in fellowship or communion with the Holy Spirit (2 COR. 13:14) *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*
4. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ as set forth in the Holy Spirit-inspired New Testament?

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THE HOLY SPIRIT -- Revelation Of The Word

by Steve Waller

Introduction:

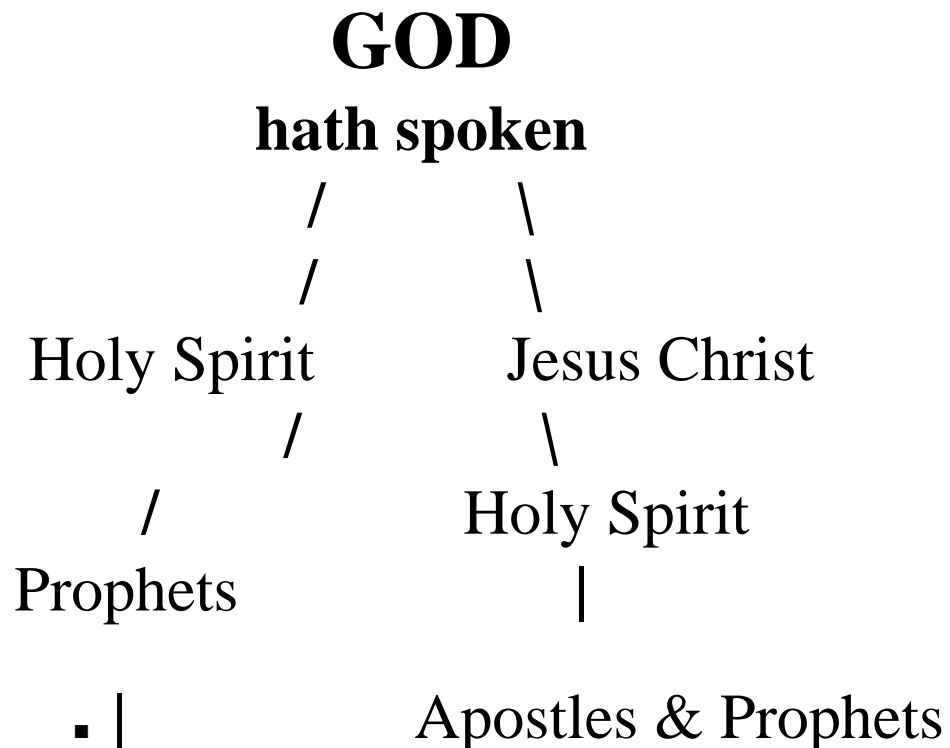
1. Our study is concerned with the role and work of the Holy Spirit in the revelation of the word of God to man.
2. We will consider how the word of God came in both the Old and New Testaments.

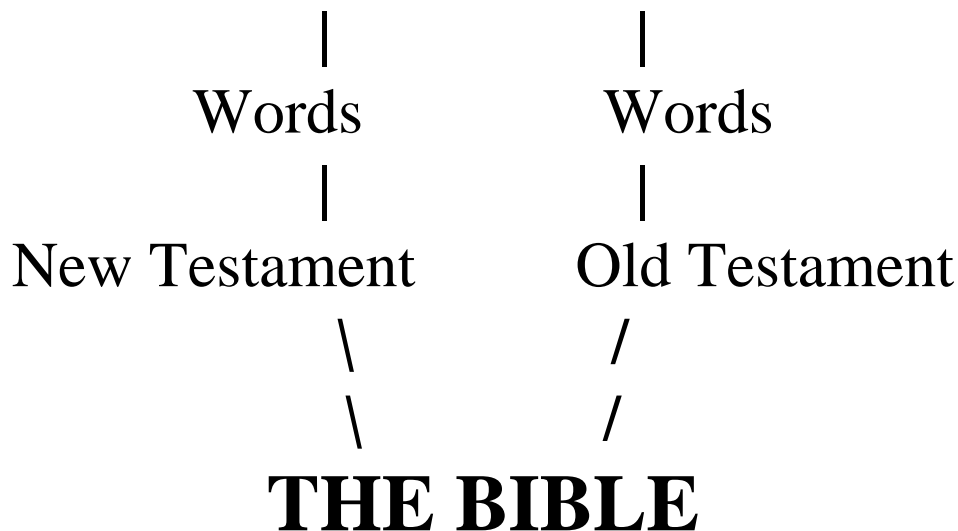
I. A Diagram Setting Forth How The Word Of God Came:

- A. All Scripture came from God (2 TIM. 3:16-17) *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*
 - 1. "Inspired" means "God-breathed"

2. The Bible is the "God-breathed" word.

B. God spoke and men wrote God's word (2 Peter 1:20-21) *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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. (HEB. 1:1) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets...*





II. God Spoke In Time Past (In Old Testament Days) By The Prophets:

- A. The prophets were moved (prompted) by the Holy Spirit -- They were told by the Holy Spirit what to write, and it was given in the personality and style of the particular writer (2 PETER 1:21)
 - 1. What those men wrote did not originate with them, but with God.
 - 2. The men (prophets) merely wrote what they were told by the Holy Spirit.

B. God's standard of a true prophet (DEUT. 18:18-22) *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

- (God was the originator of the words which He would speak through His servants, the prophets.)
- C. The Bible gives a Scriptural definition of a prophet:
 - 1. Aaron is called the prophet of Moses (EX. 7:1) *And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.*
 - 2. Aaron is called the spokesman and mouth of Moses (EX. 4:16) *And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.*

3. A prophet is God's mouth or spokesman--One who spoke as God directed (1 PETER 4:11) *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

D. A prophet was both a FORE-TELLER and a FORTH-TELLER:

- 1. Foreteller--- One who told of things that would happen in the future based upon what God had told him.

- 2. Forthteller --- A preacher or herald-- One who speaks or tells forth what God wants to have the people hear and know.

E. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets as they spoke (1 PET. 1:10-12) *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 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.*

- 1. They claimed that God spoke what they delivered:
 - a. David (2 SAM. 23:1-2) *Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.*

 - b. Isaiah (ISA. 1:1-2) *The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.*

 - c. Jeremiah (JER. 10:1-2) *Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

 - d. Ezekiel (EZE. 1:3) *The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel*

the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

2. God's message was always most important (ZECH. 7:12) *Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.*

3. The prophets did not understand many of the things they were told by the Holy Spirit to write. And, they sought diligently the meanings of some of things they wrote.

4. Even angels had a desire to know more about this "mystery" but were not told by God about it.

III. God Speaks Now Through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-3) *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

- A. He revealed the Father (JOHN 1:1-3, 14, 18) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

B. Jesus is the very image of God's substance (HEB. 1:3)

C. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (JOHN 14:9)

- 1. His attributes show us the nature of the Father in grace, love, and wrath.
- 2. He manifested God's glory and power in His miracles (JOHN 2:11; ISAIAH 7:14)

IV. The Holy Spirit Was Sent By Jesus From The Father And Gave The Completed Revelation:

- A. He was sent by Jesus to guide the apostles (JOHN 16:13; 14:16-17) *And I will pray the*

Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

- 1. He would not speak of Himself (JOHN 16:13) *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.*

- 2. He glorified Jesus (JOHN 16:14-15) *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

- 3. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost proved Jesus was glorified and seated on David's throne in heaven (AC. 2:33-36) *Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

B. The work of the Holy Spirit:

- 1. Teach you all things (JOHN 14:26) *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.*

- 2. Bring to the apostles a remembrance of all things Jesus had taught (JOHN 14:26)

- 3. Guide in all truth (JOHN 16:12-14) *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

- 4. Declare all things to come (JOHN 16:13)

- 5. Bear witness of Christ (JOHN 15:26-27) *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*

- 6. Convict the world of sin (JOHN 16:8-11) *And when he is come, he will reprove*

the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

V. The Apostles Were Given The Words Of The Spirit:

- A. When did they receive such power? (AC. 2:1-4) *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

B. The Holy Spirit combined spiritual things with spiritual words and taught them to the apostles (1 COR. 2:9-13) *but as it is written, Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, And which entered not into the heart of man, Whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him. But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? even so the things of God none knoweth, save the Spirit of God. But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words.*

C. Paul received the Gospel by revelation (GAL. 1:11-12) *But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

D. That which is revealed is plain enough to be understood by those who read --

- 1. What had, at one time, not been fully revealed, is now made known (EPH. 3:1-7) *For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation {administration} of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

2. What Paul refers to as a "mystery" was a mystery (or unknown) to men and

angels in the days of the Old Testament. But, now (in the first century) God has revealed it.

3. The former "mystery" was that the Gentiles could be fellow-heirs, members of the body of Christ, and enjoy the blessings and privileges in Christ through the gospel (Galatians 3:26-29) *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Conclusion:

1. The Bible is verbally inspired (given word for word)
2. It is perfect and complete (James 1:25) *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*
3. It has been delivered once for all to man (JUDE 3) *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*
4. Its' message has been confirmed and verified by the Lord (HEB. 2:3-4) *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*
5. Once the word of God was confirmed by miracles and signs, it had no further need for confirmation.
6. Revelation of the word of God and confirmation of the word of God went hand-in-hand --- When one ceased, so did the other. Revelation and confirmation ceased almost 2,000 years ago. We have the confirmed word today in the New Testament.
7. Have you obeyed this word and been saved by the Lord?

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THE HOLY SPIRIT-- Confirming The Word

by Steve Waller

(Hebrews 2:1-4)

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Introduction:

1. False teachers seek to corrupt those who hear them by persuading them that the word of God is not confirmed.
2. The false teacher knows that that which is confirmed needs no further confirmation.
3. There are various false religious groups and their representatives who claim that the word of God needs confirming today just as much as it did when God was first revealing it 2,000 years ago.
4. Some of these same people claim to be inspired of God, but in so doing they deny the word of God as we have it in the New Testament today, and in essence, they deny the inspiration of the Bible.
5. We have seen in a previous study how that the word of God came by revelation (1 COR. 2:6-13) *We speak wisdom, however, among them that are fullgrown: yet a wisdom not of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nought: but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto our glory: which none of the rulers of this world hath known: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory: but as it is written, Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, And which entered not into the heart of man, Whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him. But unto us God revealed them through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? even so the things of God none knoweth, save the Spirit of God. But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words (ASV).*
6. This lesson is designed to examine the design of the miraculous signs which have always accompanied

the revelation of God's word.

7. Further, we will show that such "signs" of confirmation have ceased because God has ceased new or additional revelations to man.

I. The Design Of Signs:

- A. The purpose of signs and miracles was to confirm God's word as it was being revealed to His apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit, and were never intended to be permanent.

- B. (HEB. 2:1-4) "confirm"--to establish, to make firm, to make sure, make stable

- C. A miracle was a seal of God's revelation of His word and a sign of His representatives:
 - 1. The apostles were special representatives of Christ (MARK 16:17) *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

 - 2. The signs of an apostle did exist (2 COR. 12:12) *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

 - 3. Some apostles believed not at first, but later repented and were certified by miracles they performed (MARK 16:12-20) *After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

 - 4. The apostles selected disciples to assist them and the powers these early Christians had were temporary (AC. 19:6) *And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (1 COR. 13:8-10) Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part*

shall be done away.

D. The New Testament was delivered to the apostles little by little, part by part. It was not all given to man in just one day. It took a number of years for the New Testament to be delivered by the Holy Spirit, word for word, to the inspired men who preached and wrote it.

E. When the inspired men preached by the power of the Holy Spirit there had to be some way of proving or confirming that the message they preached was indeed a revelation from God. Miracles performed by them through the power of the Holy Spirit were the signs, or credentials, of authenticity that the speaker was speaking the truth from God.

F. What has been once confirmed has no further need of confirmation. For example, one may purchase a book to read. The cover and the first few pages of the book reveal who the author and publisher are. One does not have to have the name of the author and publisher on every page of that book in order to prove over and over that it is indeed a product of the particular author and publisher. Putting that information on the first few pages once is sufficient. Just so, the newly revealed word once confirmed by miracles in the first century did not need and does not need further confirmation.

II. The Signs Of Moses:

- A. The miracles of Moses proved that God sent him to tell Israel he had been chosen by God as their leader -- He knew that Israel would not believe that he was their deliverer (EXO. 4:1-3) *And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.*

B. If Israel would not believe the first sign, Moses was to show a second sign (EXO. 4:4-8) *And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.*

C. The signs, including the plagues, convinced Israel that God had sent Moses.

D. If you could do the signs of Moses today, I would not believe that God sent Moses to deliver

Israel --- I would have to believe that He sent YOU to do it!

E. One today may preach Moses and not perform the signs of Moses (AC. 15:21-22) *For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day....*

F. The signs of Moses cannot be duplicated today.

III. The Signs Of Christ:

- A. The signs of Christ were done to prove that God sent Him (JOHN 3:2) *The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

B. Jesus performed miracles to prove He had the power to forgive sins (MATT. 9:6) *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

C. The signs of Christ showed their purpose, and they showed they cannot be duplicated today:

- 1. Jesus demonstrated power over disease (MATT. 8:2, 6) *And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean....And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

●

Oral Roberts went to Nigeria a few years ago and claimed that he healed people of such illnesses, but he did not!

●

- 2. Jesus showed His power over nature -- storm (MATT . 8:23-27)

3. He showed His power over the spirit world (MATT. 8:28-34)

4. Showed power over material things (MATT. 14:17) *And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.*

5. Proved His power over death when He raised Lazarus from the dead--- Lazarus had indeed been dead for he had been in the grave 4 days and had begun to "stink." (JOHN 11:)

D. Do present-day so-called miracle workers and "healers" do these things? No! Why not??

E. The signs of Christ cannot be duplicated today --

- 1. If they could, I would not believe that Jesus is the Christ.
 - 2. There would be no way to certify Him as the Son of God who is able to forgive sins if others can do what He did!

F. He even laid down His life and took it again -- Let's see a modern miracle worker do that! Die and raise himself up on the third day as Jesus did! (JOHN 10:17) *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*

IV. The Signs Of An Apostle:

A. The apostles were given special signs to prove Christ sent them.

B. The signs set forth by Jesus in Mark 16:17 were the signs of the Apostles and their Helpers. *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;* (MARK 16:17).

1. Tongues (foreign languages) were among the signs.
2. Snakes were among the signs.
3. Poison was among the signs.
4. No man can take the tongues and leave the snakes and poison-they go together!
5. Will a modern "miracle-worker" or "faith healer" drink poison?

C. The signs of apostles were many and varied:

1. Peter healed a lame man at the Temple (AC. 3:1-9)
2. Peter struck a man dead (AC. 5:1-6)
3. Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (AC. 10:36-42)
4. Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (AC. 20:7-12)
5. Paul struck a man blind (AC. 13:9-12)
6. Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake and lived. He did not even begin to swell (AC. 28:3-6).

D. If you could duplicate the signs of an apostle, I would not believe what the apostles said or wrote:

- 1. The signs of an apostle were for the apostles!

2. Signs were to prove their right to give us the New Testament.

3. Inspired disciples other than the apostles were men like Timothy and Luke, the evangelist, and certain elders and teachers in the early church.

4. The powers given these disciples were temporary (EPH. 4:7-8, 11-13) *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

5. God gave miraculous gifts "till" (EPH. 4:13). "Till" is a preposition of time. There would a time when the miraculous gifts would cease. When would that be? When the New Testament revelation had been completely given. That's when there would be the unity of the faith. The whole word of God would be complete. The New Testament is the "perfect law of liberty" (JAMES 1:25).

E. So-called miracle workers today believe that God continues to give new or additional revelations of His word.

F. They believe the Holy Spirit operates separate and apart from the word of God in some kind of weird, unusual manner that results in strange sounds and gyrations within and upon people today. (JOHN 6:44-45) *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

- 1. There is not one characteristic today which men claim are evidences of the operation of the Holy Spirit upon them that are in any way similar to how men conducted themselves in the first century when the Holy Spirit was given to them, or they were guided by Him.
- 2. In not even one New Testament passage did anyone who had the Holy Spirit go into "holy laughter," gyrate, fall on the floor, bark like a dog, fall out, jerk, shake, scream or mumble gibberish! Just read your New Testament from cover to cover and find even one incident of such silly conduct! It's not there!
- 3. They did, however, intelligently teach and preach God's word. What power they received from the Holy Spirit did not appeal to the base emotions, but to the intelligent mind of man.

G. There is not one person on earth today who can duplicate the signs and miracles of Moses, Christ, or the Apostles....WHY?

- 1. Because none of them are Moses, Christ, or the apostles, or those upon whom the apostles laid their hands to impart a miraculous gift!
- 2. Because God is not giving continuous revelations today! The following verses show that God's revelation is complete (JUDE 3) *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.* (JAMES 1:25) *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

Conclusion:

1. The signs of Moses may be preached today...; the signs of Christ may be preached today...; the signs of apostles may be preached today, but no one can duplicate them!
2. Moses and his signs were in the Old Testament; Christ and the Apostles and their signs are in the New Testament, and no man or woman can duplicate them.
3. Few, if any, so-called "miracle-workers" today will attempt to raise a dead person who has been in the grave four days. They cannot do it.
4. If today's so-called miracle-workers could really do as they claim, they would make believers out of the skeptical television news reporters of our day!
 - a. All they would have to do is call all the major news networks, and demonstrate the truthfulness of their claims.
 - b. If Oral Roberts will go to a cemetery and raise a person who has been dead four days, I will raise the next one!
 - c. Such would be the biggest news story since the resurrection of Jesus!
 - d. But, all that these characters have is their own word, mere human testimony, not divine.
 - e. All they do is get up and testify, which is the same thing as is done by witch doctors and sellers of patent medicines.
5. Remember: God's revelation of His word as it was being revealed needed the miracles and signs of confirmation at that time.
 - a. Revelation and confirmation went hand-in hand.
 - b. When one of them ceased, so did the other!
6. Man is called to Christ by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14) *Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the*

obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. The gospel of Christ is God's power to save (ROM. 1:16) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

8. Today, we have the product of the Holy Spirit's work: The Bible. Both the Old and New Testaments have been confirmed by signs and wonders and miracles.

9. Listen to and read the words of the Holy Spirit as you read and study your Bible--That's how the Holy Spirit speaks today!

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THE HOLY SPIRIT- His Work In Conversion Of The Sinner

(John 3:1-7)

Introduction:

1. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (ROMANS 10:17)
2. Every conversion since the church began until now has taken place as a result of the Holy Spirit's operation upon the sinner's heart
3. This lesson does not concern itself with the FACT of the operation of the Holy Spirit, but with the MANNER of His operation --- How does the Holy Spirit operate upon the heart of a sinner in conversion?
4. Does God operate directly upon the sinner's heart to make him a believer, or does God use His word as the instrument, agency, or means, thru which believers are made?

I. The Holy Spirit Operates Through His Instrument, The Word Of God:

A. Some Old Testament examples:

1. David spoke (2 SAM. 23:2) *The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.*
2. (NEH. 9:30) *Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets...*
3. (2 PETER 1:21) *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.*

B. New Testament examples:

1. Peter preached the gospel by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven (1 PETER 1:12) *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.*

2. The Holy Spirit revealed the mystery thru the apostles and New Testament prophets (EPH. 3:1-5) *For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...*

3. The word is the Spirit's instrument (EPH. 6:17) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

4. The gospel is God's power to save (ROM. 1:16) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

5. When John wrote the Holy Spirit was speaking (REV. 1:19) *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter...*

6. (REV. 3:6) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

II. There Is A Clear Relationship Between The Holy Spirit And The Word of God:

- A. A syllogism (logical argument) showing that what is attributed to the Holy Spirit in conversion is also attributed to the word of God.
 - 1. Major Premise: Whenever an action is attributed to a person and an instrument, it is a rule that the action was performed by the person with, or through, the instrument. (Bob hit the ball. The bat hit the ball. Therefore, Bob, using the bat, hit the ball. Thus, the premise.)
 - 2. Minor Premise: Whatever the Holy Spirit is said to do relative to the conversion of sinners is also ascribed to the word of God, the gospel of Christ.
 - 3. Conclusion: Therefore, the Holy Spirit in conversion of sinners exercises His influence with, thru, or by means of the word of God.
 - 4. Illustration: John cut down the tree. The axe cut down the tree. Therefore, John, by using the axe, cut down the tree.

B. To prove the Minor Premise: A Diagram:

HOLY SPIRIT	ACTION	WORD OF GOD
For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).	Guides Leads	Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105).
Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit (John 3:5-6, 8).	Born Begotten	Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as the grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you (1 Peter 1:22-25).
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:5).	Saves	Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21).
Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:13).	Power of God	For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).
And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).	Sanctified	Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17:17).

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Washed By

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word (Ephesians 5:26).

III. The Holy Spirit Makes Believers Through The Word Of God:

- A. (JOHN 17:20-21) *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

- B. Believers are made by reading the word (JOHN 20:30-31) *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

- C. The Gentiles were to hear the word of the gospel and believe (AC. 15:7) *And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.*

- D. (ROM. 10:17) *So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*

- E. The Gospel is God's power to save believers (ROM. 1:16)

- F. The day of Pentecost is a good example (ACTS 2)
 - 1. The Holy Spirit came with power upon apostles on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus (Verses 1-4). Through the power of the Holy Spirit the apostles were able to speak in the foreign languages native to the multitude of people who had come to Jerusalem from various parts of the world to worship.

 - 2. The word was preached (Verses 6-41). Peter declared that those who heard him and the other apostles preach on this occasion were guilty of crucifying the Son of God whom God had raised from the dead, and who was now in heaven at the right hand of God

 - 3. The people believed (Verses 36-37). As a result of the words spoken by Peter through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the people were deeply cut to the heart and desired to know what they must do to be saved. Note that it was not a direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon these people that brought them this understanding, but it was the result of the

word preached by Peter!

4. About 3,000 were added to them that day (Verses 38, 41) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* (Acts 2:38-41).

G. (ACTS 8) The Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch were taught by Philip, the evangelist.

- o 1. (Verses 4-6, 12) Philip did the preaching in Samaria.
- 2. (Verses 6, 12) The people heard what Philip spoke, and believed Philip as he preached Christ. As a result, they were baptized.
- 3. (Verses 26-40) An Angel spoke to Philip; The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip directly. But, NEVER did the Holy Spirit speak directly to the eunuch or the Samaritans, or act upon them, apart from the word taught by Philip.

H. (ACTS 9:1-22; 22:3-16; 26:1-20) Conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Saul was told by Jesus to go to Damascus and there he would be told what he must do. The Holy Spiroit did not act directly upon Saul, but Saul had to act upon the words of truth spoken to him by Ananias.

I. (ACTS 16:25-34) Conversion of Philippian jailer. The jailer and his household were saved only when they obeyed the teaching that was done by Paul and Silas, not through any direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon them.

J. (AC. 18:8) Conversion of the Corinthians. *And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.* Note, that these people first heard, then believed, then were baptized. Belief only comes by hearing the word of God and leads to further obedience (ROMANS 10:17).

K. In EVERY CASE of conversion in the book of ACTS, NEVER do we read of the Holy Spirit speaking directly to a sinner in any way, separate and apart from the word of God. Conversion of the sinner resulted from the sinner reading and being taught the word that was given by the Holy Spirit.

L. The Holy Spirit worked through the preacher and the preacher preached word (2 THESS. 2:13-14) *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and*

belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

M. One is drawn to God through an intelligent process of hearing, reading, and being taught God's word. It is not a matter of a mere feeling, emotional reaction, or some mystical or mysterious action of the Holy Spirit that is "better felt than told" (JOHN 6:44-45) *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

Conclusion:

1. The word saves, reconciles, gives life, converts, cleanses the soul, is the seed of the new life in Christ, sanctifies, and will be the standard of judgment (JOHN 12:48).
2. To contend for a direct operation of the Holy Spirit apart from the word in conversion is to deny that the word of God has this power (HEB. 4:12) *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
3. If the word of God does not have the great power which it declares that it does, then we do not need it all! And, if it does not have the power to save when one obeys the gospel from the heart (ROM. 6:17-18), then God is a liar!
4. The word of God is the Holy Spirit's instrument, or means, in the conversion of sinners.
5. The Holy Spirit, thru the word which He gave, teaches that you must Hear, Believe in Christ as God's Son, Repent of all sin in your life, Confess Christ, be Baptized (immersed) in water unto the remission of your sins (ROM. 10:17; JOHN 8:24; 2 PETER 3:9; ACTS 17:30-31; ROM. 10:9-10; ACTS 2:38; 22:16; 1 PETER 3:21).

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THE HOLY SPIRIT- How Many Baptisms? (Joel 2:28-31)

by Steve Waller

Introduction:

1. Thus far, we have seen in this series of lessons that: the Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Godhead; He is divine; His work in revealing the Scriptures, both the Old Testament and New Testament; and, His work in the conversion of sinners.
2. Many in religion believe that there are two baptisms today -- Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism.
3. Our study is concerned with just how many baptisms there are today.

I. God, Through Joel, Said He Would Pour Out His Spirit Upon All Flesh:

A. When did this begin? Pentecost (The first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus) (AC. 2:1-4, 14-18)

B. How long was it to continue? Until the last days of the Jewish System (MATT. 24:14) *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* (JOEL 2:30-31) *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.*

C. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit began on the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection in the form of Holy Spirit baptism upon the apostles (Jews) (AC. 1:4-5, 8) *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

D. ALL Flesh includes JEWS and GENTILES:

1. Apostles represented the Jews who received Holy Spirit baptism on Pentecost (ACTS 2:1-4)

2. The Gentiles received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit when Cornelius and his household heard Peter preach the gospel (AC. 10:43-47) *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*

II. How Many Baptisms Are There Today?

A. There were TWO baptisms on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus in about A.D. 30.

1. Holy Spirit baptism which came upon the apostles as promised by Jesus (AC. 1:5; 2:1-4)

2. Water baptism commanded by Peter to those who heard him preach (AC. 2:38)

B. In Caesarea at Cornelius' house, in about A.D. 41, there was a miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit (AC. 10:44), and Water baptism was commanded for Cornelius' household (AC. 10:47-48) -- This outpouring on the Gentiles was God's proof that the Gentiles were to receive the gospel as well as the Jews (ROM. 1:16) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

C. Yet, in about A.D. 62, when Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians, he declared there was only ONE baptism! (EPH. 4:4-6) *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

D. One of those baptisms ceased and is no longer in effect, and one **is still** in effect --- Which one?

E. I suggest that Holy Spirit baptism has ceased and water baptism is still in effect today --- There are very good, sound, logical reasons for that conclusion.

III. What is the ONE Baptism Of Which Paul Writes In Ephesians 4:5? Holy Ghost Baptism or Water Baptism?

A. Some characteristics of Holy Spirit Baptism:

1. It was a Promise (AC. 1:5) *For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*
2. It was Administered ONLY by Christ (MATT. 3:11) *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:*
3. It was NOT into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
4. It was NOT for remission of sins -- When apostles received Holy Ghost baptism, it was not for remission of sins (AC. 11:15) *And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.*
5. It was not required for entrance/admission into the Lord's church.

B. Some characteristics of Water Baptism:

1. It IS a Command (AC. 10:48) *And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*
2. It IS administered by men (MATT. 28:18-20) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
3. It IS into the name of the Father, Son & Holy Ghost (MATTHEW 28:19-20)
4. It IS for or in order to receive remission or forgiveness of sins (AC. 2:38) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
5. Water Baptism was to continue until the end of the world -- If that is the case, then the ONE baptism Paul wrote about in EPH. 4:5, MUST be WATER baptism and not Holy Ghost baptism! (MATT. 28:20)
6. Water baptism was required in order for Jesus to add one to His church (AC. 2:41, 47) *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.... Praising God, and having favor with all the*

people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

IV. Take A Closer Look At Ephesians 4:5

A. We can clearly understand Paul in these verses:

1. There is ONE LORD (Jesus); ONE FAITH (Christian System); ONE BAPTISM (Why the confusion over this?)
2. The ONE baptism is either WATER or HOLY SPIRIT baptism.

B. If the ONE baptism is Holy Ghost baptism, then...

1. NO Remission of sins comes thru it (AC. 2:38) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
2. NO Redemption comes thru it (COL. 1:13-14) *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*
3. NO Salvation is provided by it (1 PETER 3:21) *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*
4. NO Spiritual blessings come through it (EPH. 1:3) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (The only way into Christ is to be baptized into Him in water (ROM. 6:3) Know ye not, hat so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

Conclusion:

1. There Is Only One Baptism and It Is Water Baptism. There has been only water baptism since about A.D. 62.
2. Have you submitted to water baptism in order to be saved? (AC. 22:16) *And now why tarriest thou?*

arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

3. Water baptism represents the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus which we must imitate in order to be saved by Him (ROM. 6:17-18) *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

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THE HOLY SPIRIT- Cessation Of Miraculous Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. 13:8-13)

by Steve Waller

Introduction:

1. Many today are very confused over Holy Spirit baptism and Miraculous Spiritual Gifts.
2. Many believe and teach that miraculous manifestations still occur today.
3. A Scripture study of Holy Spirit baptism and Spiritual Gifts will help us understand the purpose of such miraculous manifestations and what has happened to them.

I. The Various Gifts of the Spirit:

- A. The Apostles received Holy Spirit baptism which was the full, complete power that Jesus had promised them (AC. 1:4-5, 8) *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence...But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
(AC. 2:1-4) *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- B. There were Signs of an apostle (2 COR. 12:12) *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*
(1 THESS. 1:5) *For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.*
 - 1. The apostles had all nine (9) spiritual gifts (1 COR. 12:4-11) *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same*

Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

2. The power given through Holy Spirit baptism enabled the apostles to strike people dead, strike them blind, raise dead, pick up poisonous snakes without being hurt, speak in foreign languages, and to confer, give or bestow spiritual gifts to others (MARK 16).

C. Example of Philip, the evangelist (AC. 6:1-7) *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

- 1. Philip was one of seven (7) men who was NOT an apostle, but was appointed as a special servant in the church in Jerusalem. He was a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost.
- 2. He received the Holy Ghost as a result of the apostles laying their hands on him.
- 3. (AC. 8:1) Great persecution came against church -- Apostles remained in Jerusalem while other disciples were scattered everywhere.
- 4. (AC. 8:4ff) Disciples were scattered and went preaching, including Philip:
 - a. How did they know what to preach? No New Testament had been written from which they could preach!
 - b. How could Philip prove his message was inspired of God?
 - c. What credentials did he have?

5. (Vs. 6) They heard him preach and multitudes saw the miracles he did:

- a. He cast out unclean spirits.
- b. He healed the lame and those who were paralyzed.
- c. The miracles, signs, and wonders were done by Philip; these were his credentials.

6. (Vs. 13) They believed his preaching -- The miracles and signs he did proved both he and his message were from God.

7. (Vs. 14) The imparting/bestowing of spiritual gifts was done by the apostles only:

- a. Philip could perform signs and miracles, but he did not have the power to give these gifts to others in order for them to do miracles and signs.
- b. (Vss. 15-18) It took Peter and John (apostles) coming down from Jerusalem to impart these spiritual gifts to those who had been converted by Philip.

II. What Was The Purpose of Miracles?

- A. They served as proofs of the Deity of Christ - That's why Jesus performed them (JOHN 5:36) *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*

(JOHN 10:25) *Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.*

B. They served as the means of confirming (proving, certifying) that the preaching done by inspired men was from God (ROM. 15:18-19) *For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

(HEB. 2:3-4) *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

C. To show that Christ had the power to forgive sins (MARK 2:10-11) *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.*

III. The Inspired Word Of God Today Does All This Now (JOHN 20:30-31) *And many other signs*

truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

- A. Tongues (foreign languages) were a SIGN (1 COR. 14:22) *Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

B. SIGNS confirmed the word (MARK 16:20) *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

C. Tongues were useful only when they were edifying (1 COR. 14:5) *I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

D. The WORD (the Bible) is sufficient for edifying today (2 TIM. 3:16-17) *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

E. Since the Word is sufficient for edifying, ALL Signs (including tongues and miracles) have ceased (1 COR. 13:8-13). That which has been confirmed or certified has no further need of confirmation or certification.

IV. When Did The Miraculous Gifts End? (1 COR. 13:8-13)

- A. Paul speaks of some things that are "in part" -- These may also be referred to as:
 - 1. The Temporary
 - 2. Childish
 - 3. The Less
 - 4. Things To Be Removed

B. Those "partial" things are in contrast to "the perfect" (complete) -- These things involve:

- 1. The Permanent
- 2. Spiritual Manhood
- 3. The Greater
- 4. Things That Were To Remain

C. The "Partial" things were the nine (9) gifts of the Holy Spirit -- These were going to cease, vanish away and fail -- They would be abolished:

- 1. Word of wisdom
- 2. Word of knowledge
- 3. Faith
- 4. Gifts of healing
- 5. Working of miracles
- 6. Prophecy
- 7. Discerning of spirits
- 8. Tongues
- 9. Interpretation of tongues

D. But, the "Perfect" or "complete" would involve things that would continue on and remain -- These were:

- 1. Faith
- 2. Hope
- 3. Love

E. WHEN did the miraculous gifts end? (1 COR. 13:10) *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

- 1. "Perfect" -- brought to completion, entire, as opposed to what is partial or limited.
- 2. The word for "Perfect" in Greek as found in 1 COR. 13:10 and in many other places in the New Testament is NEVER used to refer to the Second coming of Christ.
- 3. It does not refer to heaven, Second coming, or a so-called millennium.
- 4. It refers to the completely revealed & finished word of God which had been given only in small parts over a period of about 30 years (JAMES 1:25) *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*
- 5. The "perfect" does not refer to Christ and this can be seen from the sentence structure:

- a. It says: "When THAT Which is perfect is come..."
- b. Not, "When HE Who is perfect..."

6. God revealed the New Testament little by little through various men over a period of several years:

- a. As new revelation was given, it was confirmed by miracles and signs.
 - b. Those signs were a stamp or certification from God that the man and message were from Him.
 - c. When the word was once confirmed by a miracle/sign, there was no further need for additional miracles to re-confirm it.
 - d. The miracles and signs ceased when God ceased revealing His word or giving new revelation.
 - e. If a man today claims to do miracles, he must have a new revelation from God -- No man today has a new revelation bec. the Bible is complete (JUDE 3) *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*
(2 PETER 1:3) *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

7. Today, we must follow the confirmed word of God over the false claims of men who say they can perform miracles -- They cannot!

8. Signs are not needed today; their purpose has been fulfilled (JOHN 20:30-31)

9. The Signs today which help us to believe are WRITTEN, not Performed!

Conclusion:

1. There are only three (3) ways in which men have ever been directed by the Holy Spirit:

- a. As a result of Holy Spirit Baptism.

b. As a result of the Laying on of Apostles' hands.

c. Through the Word (Holy Scriptures) which the Holy Spirit gave -- That is how He directs us today!

2. Holy Spirit Baptism no longer takes place.

3. There are no 2,000 year old apostles on earth today to lay hands on others and bestow miraculous gifts; nor are there any new apostles today.

4. Those upon whom the apostles laid their hands to bestow miraculous spiritual gifts are all dead.

5. EPH. 4:11-13 teaches that God gave spiritual gifts only temporarily---They were to end when The Faith was finally and fully revealed--It has been revealed once for all (JUDE 3).

6. The Scriptures are complete and sufficient to supply today all that man needs (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

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