

## **The Holy Spirit and the Believer** **Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Note:** The Holy Spirit and His place in the believer's redemption is central emphasis of the book of Ephesians and this lesson. The Holy Spirit **(1)** is the mark or seal of God's ownership **(vs.13)**; **(2)** is the first installment of the believer's inheritance **(vs.14)**; **(3)** is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation **(vs.17)**; **(4)** helps the believer when he or she draws near to God **(2:18)**; **(5)** builds the body of believers into a holy temple **(2:21-22)**; **(6)** reveals the mystery of Christ **(3:4-5)**; **(7)** strengthens the believer with power in the inner being **(3:16)**; **(8)** motivates unity in the Christian faith in full Christlikeness **(4:3,13-14)**; **(9)** grieves when there is sin in the life of the believer **(4:30)**; **(10)** desires to repeatedly fill and empower the believer **(5:18)**; **(11)** helps in prayer and spiritual warfare **(6:18)**.

**Lesson Aim/Objective:** To examine in scripture the importance of the Holy Spirit's active and ongoing ministry in the life of the believer in three major aspects of His operations.

**Background Scripture:** *If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you* [John 14:15-16;18].

### **The Necessity of the Holy Spirit/Ghost in the life of the believer-Sanctification** **[I Peter 1:2]**

**Note/Discussion: Sanctification (Gk hagniasmos)** means to make holy, to consecrate, to separate from the world, and to be set apart from sin so that we may have intimate fellowship with God and serve Him gladly. Such terms describe the operation of the Holy Spirit through salvation in Christ by which He delivers us from sin's bondage and power **(Romans 6:1-11)**, separates us from the sinful practices of this present world, renews our nature according to the image of Christ, produces in us the fruit of the Spirit, and enables us to live holy and victorious lives of dedication to God.

**[I Corinthians 6:17-18]:** The concept of separation from evil is fundamental to God's relationship with His people. According to the Bible, separation involves two dimensions- one negative and the other positive: **(a)** separating ourselves morally and spiritually from sin and from everything that is contrary to Jesus Christ, righteousness and God's Word; **(b)** drawing near to God in a close and intimate fellowship through prayer, worship, the Word and loving service. Separation in this twofold sense results in a relationship where God is our heavenly Father who lives with us and is our God, and we in turn are His sons and daughters **(II Corinthians 6:16-18)**.

## **The Operation of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer-Revelation [I Corinthians 1:6-16]**

**Note/Discussion:** (the mind of Christ): To have the mind of Christ means knowing His will and His redemptive plan and purpose (**vs.9-10**). It means appraising and seeing things the way God sees them, valuing things the way He values them, loving what He loves and hating what He hates (**vs.15; Hebrews 1:9**). It means understanding the holiness of God and the awfulness of sin. Thus, receiving the Spirit and following the Spirit (**vs.12**) cause the believer's values and worldview to become radically different from the ways and wisdom on this age (**Philippians 2:5-8**).

## **The Work of the Holy Spirit/Ghost in the life of the believer-Manifestation [I Corinthians 12:1-11]**

**Note/Discussion: [Spiritual Gifts]:** Are supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit/Ghost given to and through believers (**I Corinthians 12:7; 14:26**). These spiritual gifts are not the same as the gifts and ministries mentioned in (**Romans 12:6-8 and Ephesians 4:11**), whereby the believers receive the power and ability to minister/serve in a more permanent manner in the church. The list mentioned here in (**I Corinthians 12:8-10**) is not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations.

The manifestations of the Spirit are given according to the Spirit's will (**I Corinthians 12:11**) when the need arises and according to the believer's eager desire (**12:31; 14:1**). Some gifts or manifestations of the Spirit occur through some individuals on a regular basis, and a believer may have more than one gift to minister to others. The believer ought to desire "gifts" not just one gift (**I Corinthians 12:31; 14:1**).

It is unscriptural and unwise to assume that because someone exercises a spectacular gift, that person is more spiritual than one who characteristically operates in less spectacular gifts. Furthermore, possessing a gift does not mean that God approves of all a person does or teaches. Spiritual gifts must not be confused with the fruit of the Spirit, which relates more directly to Christian character and sanctification (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

**Final Thought:** *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.* [**Romans 8:5**].

**Note:** To live "after the Spirit" is to seek and submit to the Holy Spirit's direction and enablement, and to focus one's attention, thoughts, energy and values on the things of God.