

9
The Power of
the Baptism
in the Holy Spirit

**NOW WE HAVE RECEIVED,
 NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD,
 BUT THE SPIRIT WHO IS FROM GOD,
 THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS
 THAT HAVE BEEN FREELY GIVEN TO US BY GOD.**

1 Corinthians 2:12

In the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we receive the Holy Spirit and the power thereof. In this baptism we are immersed in the Holy Spirit, just as we are immersed in water in the baptism of water. It is this power from the baptism in the Holy Spirit that leads us to live and walk a victorious life in Jesus Christ and be an overcomer by the Teacher (M't.23:8-10;1Jo.2:27)

**I indeed baptized you with water,
 But He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**

M'k.1:8

To proceed with deliverance the baptism in the Holy Spirit is desirable. It is the Holy Spirit that will reveal to you the unclean spirits, the iniquities, and the sins from which you are seeking deliverance.

**For God did not call us to uncleanness,
 But in holiness.**

**Therefore he who rejects this
 Does not reject man, but God,
 who has also given us His Holy Spirit.**

1Th.4:7,8

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

First you need to understand what it is. Then you must fulfill the requirements given in Scripture. Then you may ask for the Holy Spirit and receive Him. The “filling” of the Holy Spirit and the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” may be received simultaneously or separately (Jo.20:22).

A man named Simon, in an example given in the book of Acts, did not fulfill the requirements given for receiving the Holy Spirit. He wanted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit to use for his own purposes. He had no intention of seeking the Lord’s will. His heart was not right. Therefore, he could not receive it.

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (John’s water baptism). Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!” Acts 8:14-20

We must first believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have faith in order to receive the Holy Spirit.

**That the blessing of Abraham
might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus,
that we might receive the promise
of the Spirit through faith.**

Ga.3:14

The Holy Spirit is not earned or received by merit or works. It does not come through our own efforts or our own abilities. The Holy Spirit is a gift. It comes by the Spirit of God through faith in Jesus Christ (the Word).

**If therefore God gave them the same gift (the Holy Spirit) as He gave us
when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could
withstand God?**

Ac.11:17

When we ask for the Holy Spirit, we pray in faith that we will receive it. We believe that God will give it to those who ask and believe.

**For everyone who asks receives,
And he who seeks finds,
And to him who knocks it will be opened.**

**If you then, being evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**

Lu.11:10,13

When we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, it is always manifested by speaking in tongues and praising God in a new, unlearned heavenly language. This language (tongue) originates in your spirit, not in your mind as does a learned language.

**He who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but he who does not believe will be condemned.
And these signs will follow those who believe:
In My name they will cast out demons;
They will speak with new tongues:**

M'k.16:16,17

This outward sign was clearly evident throughout the early church in every instance of the baptism. And Paul indicated that he prayed often in tongues (1Co.14:18).

**Now when the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house where they were sitting.
Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire,
and one sat upon each of them.**

**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak with other tongues,
as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

Ac.2:1-4

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Ac.10:44-46

**And when Paul had laid hands on them,
the Holy Spirit came upon them,
and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.**

Ac.19:6

Today, it is still true that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is manifested with speaking in a new tongue. And those of this day who receive it pray in this new tongue and know that God hears them.

When you receive the baptism, you receive a tongue that you have neither heard nor learned before. At first, this unknown tongue may be only a few words. It could even be only one word. It does not come from your mind, but from your heart. As it comes from your heart, you must speak it out. You must by faith begin to speak out in prayer. It is similar to the way a baby makes its first sounds. You must supply the utterance, just as a baby makes its first utterance. If you continue praying by faith in this new tongue, it will mature into a full and beautiful language. This becomes your “prayer language”. It is called “praying in the spirit” (Eph.6:18; 1Co.14:14). But remember tongues are a gift and for a sign. They are not the salvation.

WHY PRAY IN TONGUES?

When we pray in tongues, we are praying God’s perfect prayer. When we pray with our own human understanding our prayer is not perfect. By our own understanding we may ask things that oppose God’s perfect will and His perfect work in our lives. We may ask things that would bring us worldly and human happiness. Yet it is God’s desire to give us greater things than that.

Romans 12:2

GOD’S WILL

Acceptable will

Be saved and obey His commandments.

Good will

Be filled with the Spirit (be a believer),
Walk as sons and daughters.

Perfect will

Be like Jesus – a king, priest, lord, or bride.
(Know and do Jesus’ Commandments also)

**You ask and do not receive,
because you ask amiss,
that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

Jas.4:3

When we pray contrary to God's perfect will, our prayers may become like a curse rather than a blessing. With our own mind we do not always know what is best to pray. But when we pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is praying through us with a perfect prayer. In this way, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

**Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.
For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought,
but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us
with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

**Now He who searches the hearts (the Holy Spirit)
knows what the mind of the Spirit is,
because He makes intercession for the saints
according to the will of God.**

Ro.8:26,27

Thus our prayer language enables us to yield, even in our prayers, to the Spirit of God. When we are praying in the Spirit, our self-will and desires, and our own understanding of right and wrong yields to the Holy Spirit's will and the Holy Spirit's understanding. It is a prayer that God hears. It is our best communication channel with the Lord. He answers these prayers with works in our lives that bring us closer to Him. He brings changes and cleansing for which we would not know how to ask.

**And do not be conformed to this world,
But be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
That you may prove what is that
(1) good
and (2) acceptable
and (3) perfect will of God.**

Ro.12:2

If you pray in this language on faith, God will witness to you of its effectiveness. The Spirit bears witness to the things of God (1Jo.5:6). How long you must pray and how He will witness are things only God knows. You may one day pray and hear the meaning of your prayers as you pray. Or someone may tell you that God revealed to them that you were praying for them. Or He may speak to you with a message as you pray. He may speak to you audibly. He may put a glow in your heart. He may reveal to you a Scripture. He may give you a

vision. He may heal you. His means are limitless. But if you continue praying on faith you will eventually know by His witness that He receives your prayers and they have meaning and effect.

“PRAYING THROUGH TO VICTORY”

Praying through to victory is something that can be done for a special or serious situation. When you “pray through”, you declare to God, “Lord, I will not cease praying until I know You have received my prayer, or until I die.” It’s a life or death stand. And God knows your heart and whether or not you mean it. Then you enter your room alone with just a jug of water, and you close the door, and you begin praying on your face in your prayer language. And you do not stop praying until you know that you know that you know that you have received an answer from the Lord---that the Lord has heard your supplication (De.9:9,10,12,18,19,25;Ne.1:4-11). Then you will have great rejoicing. You will know then that you have a victory. It may take 3 hours, 3 days, a week, or forty days and forty nights—that depends on you and the problem. (The first time it usually takes 8 hours to 3 days.) During this time you need fast and be prostrate before God, praying day and night in your prayer language. You must “seek ye first the kingdom of God” and God will take care of everything else. He will give you grace in the things you leave undone. If you cannot let go of your worldly obligations, you cannot pray through to victory. Praying through is truly a wonderful thing to have with the Lord.

Praying in the Spirit is an important part of deliverance. In deliverance we must “be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” This requires the whole armor of God as listed in Ephesians, chapter 6. Praying in the Spirit is listed seventh, as the completion of that armor. Thus without it, we are still susceptible to Satan and the powers of darkness.

**praying always
with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
being watchful to this end with all perseverance
and supplication for all the saints--**

Eph.6:18

**But you, beloved,
building yourselves up on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Spirit...**

Jude 20

WHERE CAN YOU GET THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Scripture gives several ways the baptism was received among the followers of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles by the Spirit Himself, sent by God to the upper room (power from on high – Ac.1:8) on the Day of Pentecost.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Ac.2:2-4

Those anointed by the Spirit of God could give the baptism by laying on hands.

**And when Paul had laid hands on them,
the Holy Spirit came upon them,
and they spoke with tongues and prophesied** Ac.19:6

There were other instances beside the Day of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was received through the Spirit alone (see Ac.2:14).

**And when they had prayed,
the place where they were assembled together was shaken;
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
and they spoke the word of God with boldness.** Ac.4:31

Today the baptism in the Holy Spirit is still received in several ways. Most often it is received through one anointed by the Lord to lay on hands and administer this baptism. But this anointing must be by the Spirit of the Lord, and not just ordained by man (Remember the example of Simon who wanted this anointing, but couldn't have it. –Acts 8). If you want the baptism in the Holy Spirit, then pray for it. If you truly want it from your heart, and you understand what it is, and you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you love the Lord your God, then He will hear you and send you the baptism in the way He desires in order to humble you.

Scriptures to read before receiving the Holy Spirit:

1. Matt.3:11 (&13-16); Mark 1:4,8; Luke 3:3,16; John 1:26,33
2. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit: John 20:22
3. Wait in the House of God (spiritually) for the Promise of the Holy Spirit: Acts 1:4,5
4. "Power upon" by the Holy Spirit: Acts 1:8
5. You must speak out: Acts 2:1-4
6. Are you called?" Acts 2:38,39
7. Examples of receiving the Holy Spirit: Acts 8:13-18; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-6
8. Ask for the Holy Spirit. In no wise would God allow you to receive a "fake": Luke 11:9-11. When you ask and lay-on hands, expect Jesus to perform.

In Acts chapter 10, the example is given of a Roman centurion who was praying devoutly, fasting, and giving alms, even though he was a Gentile. His prayers finally came before the Lord and Peter was sent to him by the Holy Spirit. Then the Roman centurion and his entire household received the Holy Spirit.

Some receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit alone, as a result of their prayers. When the baptism falls upon them, they receive a prayer language in a new tongue and experience a turning in their life and receive the joy of the Holy Spirit. God's way of giving the baptism is unlimited.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is One with God. There is God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (Jo.14:17). He is also called the Helper, or the Comforter, sent in the name of Jesus Christ (Jo.14:26; 15:26). He is our teacher and will bring to our remembrance those things we need (Jo.14:26; 1Jo.2:27). The Holy Spirit prepares and cleanses us for the habitation of God (Eph.2:22; 2Th.2:13; Tit.3:5,6). In the Holy Spirit is the righteousness, peace, and joy, of the kingdom of God (Ro.14:17).

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO IN DELIVERANCE?

The Holy Spirit searches our hearts and reveals to us what is truly there for deliverance. Without the Holy Spirit of truth, we cannot discover the true depths of our deception and guile.

Now He (the Spirit of truth)

Who searches the hearts...

Ro.8:27

The Holy Spirit will judge us, and convict us of our sins. We must have that conviction before we can follow through with deliverance. For how could we be delivered of an evil spirit except we see that we have it? How could we repent and confess and seek forgiveness except we know in our heart that we have done something wrong?

And when He has come, (the Holy Spirit)

**He will convict the world of sin,
and of righteousness,
and of judgment:**

Jo.16:8

The Holy Spirit has many ways of bringing about this conviction. The Holy Spirit may speak directly to us in our heart, in our understanding, or even in a manner that is audible. The Spirit may also speak to us through situations in our life. Things may come against us in an area until we relent and change our ways (see Pr.27:6,21). Or a circumstance may speak to us in a way that enables us to see our own evil (see the ten plagues that came on Pharaoh, the example of Nebuchadnezzar, Hezekiah, Saul, David, Job, Peter, Paul, etc.). This is all the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will also speak to us by dreams that reveal the iniquity in our hearts, the demons we live with, and what we look like in God's sight.

But in all these your faith is required in order to see the truth. If you do not desire to see your error, if you do not want to be corrected, if you cannot admit you are wrong, then you will never know what is in your heart.

**...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit
through faith.**

Ga.3:14

**For we through the Spirit eagerly wait
for the hope of righteousness by faith.**

Ga. 5:5

In the beginning it is a work of faith to heed the corrections of the Holy Spirit in your life. But if you hearken to the truth revealed in your life, the truth will be with you in greater measure. And if you seek the audible voice of the Spirit, persevere in the way of wisdom:

**The ear that hears the reproof of life
Will abide among the wise.**

**He who disdains instruction despises his own soul,
But he who heeds reproof gets understanding.** Pr.15:31

**Turn at my (wisdom) reproof;
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words (truth) known to you.** Pr.1:23

**Harsh correction is for him who forsakes the way,
And he who hates reproof will die.** Pr. 15:10

**Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it,
But the correction of fools is folly.** Pr. 16:22

**He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them
will have mercy.** Pr. 28:13

**He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.** Pr.28:26

**My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
nor detest His correction;
For whom the LORD loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son in whom he delights.** Pr.3:11

We see then that it is possible not to hear what the Holy Spirit is telling us because we do not want to hear it. In the Scriptures we find warnings not to “resist” (Ac.7:51), “quench” (1Th.5:19), “blaspheme” (M’t.12:32), “disobey” (1Pe.1:22), or “lie to” (Ac.5:3-5) the Holy Spirit. When we do these things, the Holy Spirit may depart from us. If we oppose the Holy Spirit, He will not over-ride our will. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and if we do not want the truth, the Lord will allow us to believe and live in a lie.

...because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

**And for this reason God will send them strong delusion,
that they should believe the lie,**

2Th.2:10,11

The more we seek after the revelation of the truth in our heart, the greater the Holy Spirit will be poured out in our life. The more we “hear” the Holy Spirit, the more our faith will be increased (Ro.10:17). And the greater our faith, the more we will hear the Holy Spirit. It is an accelerating process that has no end. We yield up our heart at greater and greater depths. The more we yield and submit, the more we receive of the Spirit of the Lord, expanding evermore deeply into eternity and infinity. Therefore, it is wise to pray as David did:

**Examine me, O LORD, and prove me;
Try my mind and my heart,
For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,
And I have walked in Your truth.**

Ps.26:2,3

**Who can understand his errors?
Cleanse me from secret faults.**

Ps. 19:12

All we can do is submit and yield. The Holy Spirit will do the rest. It is not necessary that we have understanding with our mind. When we have an area that we want to change we must commit it to the Lord, and He will bring it to pass. It is hopeless in ourselves to truly change our heart. You cannot work your way into the kingdom of God. All you can do is submit and yield and truly repent and thus allow Him to change you.

**The Helpless commits himself to You;
You are the helper of the fatherless.**

Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man: (David is speaking of the wicked and evil man within himself; this is the “old man” referred to in Romans 6:6.)

Seek out his wickedness until you find none.

Ps.10:14,15

This is part of the judgment of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit judges, He puts to death the wicked man inside, the old man, the flesh.

**The ungodly are not so,
But are like the chaff (M't.3:12) which the wind drives away.
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment.**

Ps.1:4,5

Awake for me that judgment You have commanded!

Ps.7:6

**The LORD shall judge the peoples;
Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness,
And according to my integrity within me.**

**Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked
Come to an end, (within oneself)
But establish the just; (within oneself)**

**For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds
My defense is of God,
Who saves the upright in heart.**

Ps. 7:8-10

It says in John 16:8 that it is the Holy Spirit that brings judgment. But if we are to stand in the judgment and not be like the ungodly which are driven away like the chaff, then we must be willing to see the truth. We must ALWAYS be willing to see the truth. And to see the truth, we must seek constantly after it. This is a work of faith (Jas.2:26; Jas.1:22-24).

**And I (Jesus) say to you,
ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.**

Lu.11:9

If you seek cleansing unto perfection, the revelation of the secrets of your heart is basic to your deliverance (Pr.25:2). The more you seek the revealing of your heart, and the more you yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit of truth, the greater blessing you will receive in this revelation. It all depends on your willingness to accept the truth. Truth is almost always contrary to what we think or want to believe. Thus, not all are willing to accept the truth.

**Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness,
in the lust of their hearts,
to dishonor their bodies among themselves,
who exchanged the truth of God for the lie...**

Ro.1:24,25

We exchange the truth for a lie because we would rather serve the desires of our flesh and the lusts of our heart than serve a Holy God. We would rather serve our self than serve our Creator.

Let us look at some examples of how we “resist” the Holy Spirit in order to serve ourself:

1. The Holy Spirit places a warning in our heart about doing something. We over-ride it or ignore it because it was our personal will to do otherwise. Though we do not have that perfect peace in our heart, we lie to ourself and say that feeling is not really there. We are double-minded (Jas.4:8).
2. We have a thought that keeps returning. We keep pushing it out, not accepting or noticing that it is from our heart, and that the Spirit is telling us we need to do something about it.
3. We reject the Spirit through doubt. We doubt that it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us because it does not match our desires. Or we doubt it because it does not match our personal notions of right and wrong.
4. We receive a dream about someone else. We know that person is representing something ungodly, but because of our pride we do not accept that the Lord is showing us ourself through someone else.
5. The Lord shows us something in a dream that is so opposed to our own doctrine and the doctrines of men that we reject it, saying that dreams are not from God, or that this dream was from Satan, etc. However, God is the source of all dreams that occur in deep sleep.
6. We do not do what the Holy Spirit is telling us in our spirit, even though we know it is there because we do not want to give up our carnal thinking, our control, our pride, our possessions, our time, etc.
7. We make excuses or explanations. For example, we say that others have done us wrong, or that the other person is the one that needs correcting, or that it is too hard, etc. An excuse is a lie, so we lie to the Holy Spirit when we make excuses.
8. We blame God or Satan for our problems instead of ourselves.,
9. We reject the gifts of the Spirit in the churches. We do not submit our church to the leading of the Spirit. Instead we serve the creature.
10. We reject the Spirit's leading because we fear the things of the flesh will hurt or shame us.

**You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!
 You always resist the Holy Spirit;
 As your fathers did, so do you.**

Ac.7:51

You resist the Holy Spirit in order to serve your flesh. But if you submit, the Holy Spirit will begin to do a work in you. The Holy Spirit of truth will expose the lies that you have been telling yourself, and the unrealities that you live

in. The Spirit will shine light in the areas you have hidden away in your heart. The Spirit will uncover some sore spots that maybe you thought you had been able to forget, cover-over, or run away from. The Spirit will reveal precisely that point of opposition where you do not want to change and break. It will pull out from your heart that place where you have said deep inside, "I WON'T SUBMIT! I'D RATHER DIE THAN SUBMIT!"

To be an overcomer at a crossroads like this, you will need knowledge of the word and the power of the Holy Spirit. You cannot do it by your own strength, by our own thinking, or by your own will power. But, by the Holy Spirit it can be done.

**For if you live according to the flesh
you will die;**

**But if by the Spirit
you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.**

Ro.8:13

The deeds of the flesh and self are put to death by declaring the Scriptures and standing on the word, by confessing the iniquity, by casting out the demon, by godly sorrow unto repentance, by obedience to the Holy Spirit, by sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise. As you do these things, the Holy Spirit will break you and the areas of wickedness inside will die away.

But, if you break yourself, and humble yourself, you will do it the easy way. The flesh and mind will seduce and beguile you into believing you have changed while preserving your basic core intact. There is a final element in the flesh that will not destroy itself. No matter how much you visibly change by your own breaking and humbling, the flesh will find a path that keeps its elemental nature preserved. The flesh can transmute the expression of its desires into countless forms beyond human and self detection. Pride can hide in humbleness and self-sacrifice so convincingly that only the Spirit of truth can discern it. Violence can be latent in the sweetest, most gentle person. Lying can be disguised by the most impressive human wisdom. The blackest wolf can be hidden inside the whitest sheep.

Because the flesh deceives itself, it cannot become godly by its own designing. Fruits put on with the most careful strategy of the mind will be found artificial fruits in a true test. When your very, very first reaction in a test is righteous, then you have true fruits.

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

When the deeds of the flesh are put to death, then we begin to grow the true fruits of the Spirit.

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law.**

**And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh
with its passions and desires.**

**If we live in the Spirit,
Let us also walk in the Spirit.**

Ga.5:22-25

These fruits of the Spirit become our attributes in the most basic core of our being and will not be taken away during our life or upon physical death. They grow as we obey the Spirit in opposition to the flesh. This is the furnace in which the flesh dies. If we obey the Spirit, we reap the rewards of the Spirit. If we obey the flesh (mind), we reap the rewards of the flesh.

For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

**For he who sows to his flesh
Will of the flesh reap corruption,
But he who sows to the Spirit
Will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.**

Ga.6:7,8

The reward of the Spirit is the true fruits. The reward of the flesh is a full stomach, a night's rest, a pleasure of the mind, a sensual pleasure, the release of anger, the consolation of self-pity, a feeling of importance, self-justification, etc. The fruits of the Spirit never die, but the rewards of the flesh pass with the flesh.

A fruit does not mature until the evil desires of the flesh in that area are overcome and destroyed. The power of the Living Word is necessary to accomplish this.

**For the word of God is living and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing even to the division
of soul (flesh) and spirit,**

Heb.4:12

THE WORD REVEALED

The word revealed by the Spirit of truth is the means of our deliverance. The word spoken under that anointing of the Holy Spirit is our power in deliverance.

**But you shall receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** Ac.1:8

Without the Holy Spirit to reveal the word, man cannot understand it (Jo.7:36,37; M't.11:25-27; 2Pe.1:20).

**Now we have received,
not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who is from God,
that we might know the things
that have been freely given to us by God.**

**These things we also speak,
not in words which man's wisdom teaches
but which the Holy Spirit teaches,
comparing spiritual things with spiritual.** 1Co.2:12-14

Man's wisdom is sought and taught in nearly all churches today.

With the revelation of the word by the Holy Spirit of truth we are not deceived and led astray by our own thinking, by our own doctrines, by our own human understanding, and by our own knowledge of good and evil.

**Not that we are sufficient of ourselves
To think of anything as being from ourselves,
But our sufficiency is from God,**

**Who also made us sufficient
As ministers of the new covenant,
Not of the letter but of the Spirit;**

**For the letter kills,
But the Spirit gives life.** 2Co.3:5,6

The tree of life in the Garden of Eden is the word of God revealed by the Spirit.

Under the new covenant coming with Jesus Christ we do not interpret the word and the letter and the law for ourself,

but the Spirit reveals it to us. We do not decide in our mind, by the law, what is good and evil, what is right and wrong, for this is the eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Instead, we are led by the Spirit of God written in our hearts.

You are manifestly an epistle of Christ...

Written not with ink

But by the Spirit of the living God,

Not on tablets of stone

But on tablets...of the heart.

2Co.3:3

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they fell under a curse. With Jesus Christ came the Holy Spirit redeeming us from the curse. As we are led by the Spirit we need not decide right and wrong by our own interpretation of the word. (Was Abraham, when he went to sacrifice Isaac, led by the Spirit, or by the law?) The Holy Spirit will lead us in paths of righteousness, and if we are truly led by the Spirit, then “the law” will be fulfilled by the Spirit. For only God can live and truly fulfill the law in every way at all times.

**But if you are led by the Spirit,
you are not under the law.**

Ga.5:18

**Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law,
having become a curse for us
(for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)
that the blessing of Abraham
might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus,
that we might receive the promise of the Spirit
through faith.**

Ga.3:13,14

The Pharisees knew the law and the Scriptures thoroughly and followed them as perfectly as any religious man can. Yet their righteousness was not sufficient for salvation (M't.5:20). (They were under the law because they lived by “the letter” and did not know the Spirit.) They had their own understanding of what the Scriptures meant and rejected Jesus’ true revelation of the Scriptures by the Spirit. The same situation prevails in this day. The worldly religious denominations reject the Spirit of Truth, just as the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians rejected the Spirit of Christ. The situation has not changed except that it may be even worse today than it was in Jesus’ day.

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “The just shall live by faith.” Ga.3:10,11

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Many people, even though they have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, think they automatically have the Holy Spirit because they believe in Jesus Christ in their minds. But Jesus said, “Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” The fruits come from the Holy Spirit. They believe they have the Holy Spirit, but they have none of the signs of the Spirit, none of the fruits of the Spirit, none of the gifts of the Spirit, and none of the revelations of the Spirit. They are lost, confused, lonely, unhappy, deceived, angry, frustrated, or irritated, with bodies filled with sickness and suffering, and hearts filled with guile, envy, and sorrows. They have none of God’s works, and none of God’s promise, and none of God’s Spirits in their lives, and yet they still think that they know the way, and adhere to doctrines and legalistic opinion.

**These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.**

**And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**
(the works of the law).

M’t.15:8,9

The verse above is the exact picture of the worldly religious denominations today, especially the “so called” Christian denominations.

The Bible tells us about the true “One” and only Almighty God who cannot be found nor interpreted by men nor religions, but may be known only by total yielding and submission unto the teacher, the Holy Spirit, even the Spirit of truth (1Jo.2:27).

**“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD,**

**“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”**

Isa.55:8,9

God reveals Himself to His sons and daughters through the word, in His time, at His election (Ro.11:5-8). But the true word can neither be found nor understood without the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit (see M't.11:25-27; Jo.7:36,37; 14:26 15:26).

But as it is written:

**“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared
For those who love Him.”**

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

**For the Spirit searches all thing,
yes, the deep things of God.**

**For what man knows the things of a man
except the spirit of the man which is in him?**

**Even so no one knows the things of God
except the Spirit of God.**

1Co.2:9-11

Everything we need is within the word. All the mysteries of God, all the workings of God, all the glories of God, all the creations, and families, and eternities of God are hidden in the seed of the word of God. God the Father is the nucleus of the word. But only the Holy Spirit can open it up (M't.11:25-30; Jo.16:13-15). The churches of today have the word in their mind, but not in their heart. They are living by the letter and by the law, and it is killing them just as Scripture said it would. They eat continually of the “forbidden fruit” of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “the letter of the law”.

**Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God
for Israel (house of God, the “called”)
is that they may be saved.**

**For I bear them witness
that they have a zeal for God,
but not according to knowledge.**

**For they being ignorant of God's righteousness,
and seeking to establish their own righteousness,
have not submitted to the righteousness of God.**

**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness
to everyone who believes.**

Ro.10:1-4

In the Book of Lamentations is the mourning of God's prophets over the apostasy in the house of God (Jerusalem) by the churches of today.

**Your prophets (preachers) have seen for you
False and deceptive visions;
They have not uncovered your iniquity,
To bring back your captives,
But have envisioned for you
false prophecies and delusions.**

La.2:14