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P.M.

INFLUENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 3:8

The Bible teaches us to put our trust in God. In the Old Testament, the emphasis is upon one God. The people had dealings with God and God had dealings with them. In The Gospels the attention is focused on Jesus Christ. In the book of Acts, and the Epistles, attention is focused upon the Holy Spirit. Over the entire Bible we think of God, The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit. Throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus, reference is made to the coming of the Spirit, that he had not yet come but he was the promise as the Old Testament. He had ^{said} not been poured out. John 7:39.

The Holy Spirit in the hearts of the Disciples was considered so important by Jesus, he said it is expedient for you that I go away. John 16:7. It would simply be a good thing for his body to be taken out of the world, to make possible for the Holy Spirit to come ^{to} in their hearts. This would be a greater benefit after the cross than for him to remain in the body. When we have the Spirit in our hearts we have an advantage over the Disciples. To be sure they saw Jesus, heard what he said, but when the Spirit enters our hearts - he thinks the thoughts of God for us. And they had Jesus for 3 years and they were taught by Him.

He is the third person. When we think of the Holy Spirit as God, He is thought of as a person. Now I admit this is not easy to grasp. When you try to understand about God in Heaven - even though I have not seen God, I can somehow think of Him when I think about Jesus Christ in human form. When I hear that Jesus was raised from the dead, I am amazed. And I am told that his resurrection body was taken to Heaven and I am deeply impressed. And when you are told that the Holy Spirit is in us, this too, is not easy.

We could think of the Holy Spirit as being way off in Heaven, but to think that he is here in the church, not this building, but in the people - in the believer, that is hard to get in mind. The Bible tells us the Spirit shall not speak of himself. John 16:13. While the Spirit does his work, he shows men the things of Christ. When he works in the heart of the Christian, he fills his mind with the thoughts of Jesus. V.14

The Holy Spirit is not actually a name. The word Spirit is sometimes used for ghost. The words ghost and spirit in the English are interchangeable. Now we think of a ghost as something we do not believe in. The word Spirit is preferred by us - God is Spirit, the angels are a Spirit, Satan is a Spirit. There are good Spirits and bad Spirits.

This one is called the Holy Spirit - but God is holy. There is Holy Angels. The Holy Spirit, we mean, the third person of the Godhood - as we say, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is actually un-named as he is unseen. He personally wants to be unnoticed, because he wants to show us the things of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we say that the Holy Spirit is person, we consider God as a person who could think, feel and live. It is natural for me to think the person has a body. But a person does not have to have a body. God does not have a body but his men have. But he is a person. Satan does not have a body as men have. The angel who talked to Mary did not have a body. The archangel who wrestled with Satan over the body of Moses is a person, but does not have a body such as men have.

The Bible states that the Spirit can think. Acts 16:17. Paul was forbidden by the Spirit to go to Asia. Acts 13:2. in a meeting of the church, the Spirit

said, separate me Saul and Barnabas unto the work I have called them. Various other places the Spirit is referred too as being able to think.

The Spirit can also feel - Eph. 4:30. Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God.

The Spirit has a will. He gives gifts to the church by selecting and giving certain abilities to serve as he sees fit. When he forbade Paul to go to Asia, he told him what he must do and what he must not do. The Spirit decided what Paul would do. And the Spirit told the early church to set aside missionaries, he was deciding who should go and where, and what in the Lord's service.

The Holy Spirit then comes and ~~can~~ give a man joy in his heart. And God in this way is with us at all times.

Second, the Old Testament, The Spirit is often mentioned. The time of creation of the world. He moved upon the face of the waters. Brooded his outstretched wings. These may be thought of as a hen spreads out over eggs which she might be hatching. The idea is the Holy Spirit is moving over the face of the waters.

The same function ^{AS} performed in the creation of the world - is performed in the recreation of a sinner. The regeneration. The Spirit moved over the world. It was still dark. And the center soul is without form, void, empty - and the Spirit moves over him and says, let there be light. Now the entrance of Thy word gives light.

The Old Testament relates instances - judges and prophets guided by the Holy Spirit.

Judges 6:34 - The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. He was clothed in self with Gideon. That means that God took him, worked in Him, used him as an instrument to lead his people.

It is important to note that in the Old Testament the Spirit is spoken of as coming upon individuals. In the New Testament, it is spoken of as dwelling individuals and working through the believer.

In the book of Acts 1:16, he spoke by the mouth of David. The Prophets in the Old Testament were moved and used when the Spirit came upon them. This is what Peter means, holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, 2 Peter 1:21.

In the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the idea is brought out that God would do a new thing in the world. Until that time, God's way of dealing with the world had been to show forth his promises, and his law, and call on men to trust in Him and walk in His way. Now, being sinful, their human nature did not have the disposition to walk in the way of God.

And God begins to reveal to his people that he is going to save them and bless them and put His Spirit within them, Isa. 32:15. The Spirit will be poured out upon us from on high. These promises were the new covenant.

Joel 2:28 - it is clear, God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.

Ez. 11:19 - I will give them one heart. I will put a new Spirit within them. I will take the stoney heart out of their flesh.

Another way in which the Bible says that God would put the Spirit within, Jer. 31:33 - he will write his law upon their hearts. In the Old Testament times

the law of God was put on tables of stone. The person who wanted to walk with God could see the commandments. And then in his own heart decide. Man's performance was not always adequate. The human heart does not have a mind to walk in the ways of God. Therefore the law would be put in the heart.

In the New Testament there would be this inward impulse of the Spirit working within. We want to do the will of God. Then we will really obey him.

In the Old Testament God's Spirit would come upon a man and completely dominate him. It would be said that a man was filled with the Spirit of God.

This is the event of John the Baptist as told in the New Testament. The Lord Jesus had not yet lived. John lived and died before Pentecost and he never saw what would happen when God would come to dwell in hearts of people. Yet John was filled with the Spirit from his birth. Luke 1:15. John the Baptist was like the Old Testament Prophet, dominated by the Spirit of God. He was really a good man and a Godly man and yet he predicted that one mightier than he would come and baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Luke 3:16. Now John's baptism symbolized the truth that God would bless individuals. As the rains from Heaven caused the earth to bud, so Jesus was going to come. And fire in the Bible is used for judgment.

Now when Jesus was baptised, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove, in John 1:32. John saw the Spirit come into Jesus. Now so far as other people were concerned, while the Lord Jesus was alive here on this earth. He, himself, promised that the Holy Spirit would be given after he was gone into Heaven.

Third, Pentecost. Now everyone is acquainted that the Spirit came at Pentecost. The word means 50 days. It is used to refer to the Jews harvest time. They allowed 50 days from the time harvest began - and they brought in their first fruits until they would celebrate harvest home. And the whole period was called Pentecost. But the last day was the day of Pentecost.

This is the idea in mind when the Bible says, and when the day of Pentecost was fully come. Acts 2:1. Beginning with the resurrection of Jesus as the first fruits of God's work of salvation and counting the 40 days in which he showed himself alive by many infallible proofs, and the 10 days of prayer meeting in the Upper Room - it was the full 50 days of the harvest period of Pentecost when the incident of the coming of the Holy Spirit took place.

This use of the word brings to our minds the idea of harvest. As if the Holy Spirit coming into our hearts of the believers is the completion of the work of God which he does in saving souls through Jesus Christ. It would seem that having the Holy Spirit within our hearts is a fulfillment of what Christ Jesus came to do.

There are strange & various winds blowing today - But we must be conscious that the wind of the living God is also blowing.

Now the story that happened in Acts 2 without any intention of taking away from this account, I have always thought about this wind. Just being practical minded, you can see a mighty rushing wind in a house with the doors shut. I do not know how long, but there was a sound. As of a mighty rushing wind. Now it was not that a mighty rushing wind was coming, but a sound which they heard, that affected them.

2:3-4 I used to be troubled about the tongues of fire. But the story tells us they were not the tongues of fire, but they were tongues like as of fire. They are sometimes called firey tongues.

You have seen flashes from a trolley wheel - that is not fire but it looks like fire. Nothing is burning. However it was like a fire the account tells us. That the sound was like a mighty wind and the tongues like a fire. These outward signs impress everyone who was there.

Now there were events in the Scripture similiar. In the Old Testament the tabernacle was the place where God dwelt with his people. When everything had been built, the sacrifice had been offered, and the blood had been sprinkled, a glorious light filled the tabernacle so that no one could go in. It was called the shekinah glory of God. It was the outward, visible, manifestation of God giving his approval.

Later in history when the temple was built in Jerusalem, everything complete, the Bible record, I Kings 8:10-11 - the cloud filled the house of the Lord so the priest could not stand to minister before the cloud. For the Glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. This was an outward showing of God's approval. That he had come to live with them and be in their midst.

Now the tabernacle and the temple were the dwelling place of God in those days where he met his people.

Acts 18:24 - he no longer dwells in tents, he dwells not in temples made with man's hands. Now the tabernacle and temple are usually symbols of what Christians are. The early church, the disciples, were the habitation of God. It can be thought as the Lord Jesus called his Disciples. He brought them together as David collected the materials and Solomon built the temple. After he had brought them together and shaped them for two years, so that each would have his place in the fellowship, then the sacrifice was offered, he went to the cross and his blood was shed. Having done these things, he spent 40 days to teach the Disciples the things

of the Kingdom. The Disciples spent 10 days in prayer. Waited before God. And everything was done as he commanded. And then the sudden manifestation of his presence in Glory and that was Pentecost., the Glory of God, in the real temple of God. The Holy Spirit filling the soul of man and God is going to dwell there.

Fourth (receiving) the Holy Spirit. It is wonderful that the Spirit can be received in a human heart. The Bible teaches that every Christian can have the Spirit in his or her heart.

It is a strange incident which Paul describes in Acts 19:1-7. We must remember this strange group ¹² who did not know about the Holy Spirit, had been baptized at John's Baptism. He had preached sin, that men should repent. I think they were feeling their sinfulness and wished that they were better in the sight of God. And when a man comes to his own personal weakness, he is

half way home. He realizes that he is a sinner. Heb. 7:25. Bapt. in Name of Lord Jesus. *None of them had receive the Spirit, therefore none of them had been Born again. Regeneration is Baptism of the Spirit.*

Gal. 4:6. Because ye are sons - God has sent forth the Spirit of his son into your heart. This gives us the understanding. God gives the Holy Spirit to the person who is a believer, in Jesus Christ. Now does that mean that every believer has the Holy Spirit in the fullness and his function and etc. Now God sent his Son to redeem men. Is everyone redeemed. God sent his Son to save sinners. Are all sinners saved. No. Which ones are saved.

As many as receive him - these are saved. Now God sent his Son to die for all men. But as many as receive him have the benefit of that death. God sends his Spirit into the hearts of his children., in the same way, as many as receive him will be the ones to receive the blessing of the Spirit. His coming into our

hearts is God's work. But my receiving him is my personal response to his coming. We must believe that sinners who believe in him, God makes the Holy Spirit available to everyone who believes in him, and in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now as we think back to those people ^{questioned} ~~of then~~, have you received the Holy Spirit? We have not so much as heard in our own present day. A person may go to Bible Study, but if he does not hear about the Spirit, then he can live without the blessing of the Spirit. Paul further asked them, unto what then were ye baptized. And they said John's Baptism. Now this was alright so far as it went. But John, told himself and the Disciples, that Jesus was going to do more for them. Now Paul told them about the Lord Jesus Christ and baptised them in his name, and then they will receive the Holy Spirit. There is something men can do about receiving the Spirit.

They must be conscious of his presence. They must appreciate what he is.

He must make the Holy Spirit at home in his heart. He must literally understand that God has come to be with him.

In the next place, bringing men to Christ. He works in the human hearts. And the Spirit works through all kind of trouble and difficulties, to turn men to God. The Scriptures show, that the Spirit works, in the heart, the mind, the conscience. They must be aware that they have a responsibility to Him. They must understand that they have done wrong in God's sight. They must come to a reality of God. People must be conscious of the Judgement - coming face to face with God.

He not only blesses natural events that lead, and remind men of God. But he leads Christians, to witness to other people. Philip leading the Eunuch. The Spirit told him to go to the desert. Put the idea in his heart.

Peter was led to the Gantiles. To Cornelius by the Spirit.

In the next place, his work in believers. We must learn that Christ gives us daily guidance and intercedes through the Spirit. By the influence of the Spirit, we are made to feel his leadership. He opens the eyes of the blind. And he makes us conscious of the things we need to do. I Peter 5:7 - casting all your cares upon him for he careth for you.

It is possible to wait upon the Lord even in the state of confusion. To look for new ideas.

The spirit will make your heart aware of the love of God -- the cross.

He will give you guidance to speak to certain people. You will feel led to visit the sick. And to meet Spiritual needs.

Isa. 30:21 - he will give you guidance in your daily life.

He will bless you with your prayer life from time to time.

He will work against the carnal things in your life.

In the next place in the church. The Spirit works in the world, in the believer, but he also works in the church - in the congregation. He puts it in the hearts of people to be willing to serve.

The (Sunday School) must have officers. Someone must undertake the responsibility and the work. This job will take time and thought. And the Spirit puts

this in the heart of people who will take the task.

He will help in the Christian Education work in the church.

The Sunday School Teacher cannot be sure that pupils will come. If they come, the teacher cannot be sure they will listen. But a new lesson will be prepared week by week and it is not easy to get people to work. And some will have strange ideas. And parents will not always co-operate in the interest of the Sunday School. The beach, the lake, something else will take them away.

The man who takes the responsibility as a Deacon in the church will have many things to discourage him. There will be the Spirit to support him. There are some who have quit. They figure if the church members are not more interested in the church work, he doesn't have to be interested either. Now such a frame of mind is understood, from a human point of view. But the Spirit will move the man to do the best he can. Whether he is a deacon, elder, steward in his church.

The Spirit will empower people to do specific work in the church. There are some jobs that no one wants in the church. And all people - this means are acting like human beings. Now human beings do not want to do anything in the church. For they have too much to do already. The average person has more to do than he can do. The average woman has more to do than her hands can hold. Now when the church comes along - and there is something else for her to do, she feels she cannot do it. She hasn't been able to do even the extra things. And it is the same thing with men. You asked them to do a certain job in the church - they cannot keep up with their own business. They are worn out. They need to go home and they need rest. And there ^{are} reasons for not coming to church on Sunday, they are worn out by Saturday and if they go back and hold their jobs on Monday, they have to lay out on Sunday. And that is just what they need to do. Now the chances are, they

have told the truth. By Saturday they are worn out and they don't feel like anything else. For some of them, it will be even later than Monday, before they feel like doing anything. They do not think they can take time on Sunday to go to church. All of this is because they are human beings. Even if they are invited to a big party, a game, a fishing trip, they would be too tired. It is true some would go and once they get home and get their shoes off, they don't need any extra things. Now how will they ever care about spreading the Gospel. How will those people ever care about the church.

Now the Holy Spirit can move that kind of people actually to undertake the work of the church. The truth of the matter is, when any of them take time to care, they are often stronger for the rest of the week. However, it takes faith to believe that. It does not appear that way unless the heart is moved, by the Holy Spirit, to start to follow those things of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit moves the church to worship God. When everyone wants to sing in the congregation, it means that their hearts are full of praise and joy. Now there are some who feel that the choir ought to do all the singing. Now such people just stand through the service and wait until it is finished. They do not feel like praising God. They have not been moved by the Spirit. Now when the Prayer Meeting is announced, some people will say at once, just count me out. I won't be there. Humanly speaking, I could never be interested in praying - but Spiritually speaking, I find I am. I wish I could pray more. The Holy Spirit works in my heart and moves me to be willing to worship the Lord and to do the Lord's work. I find myself willing to take part in the Lord's work. Willing to follow others who are doing His work. Willing to give my money to his work. When the congregation does not want to sing and give - the Spirit is not working in them.

The Generation That Forsakes The Bible is depriving itself
of indispensable resources for The Battle of Life.
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In the last place, what are the fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23. The Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance. Now these will be found in the life of every Christian.

When the Spirit works in the heart, it shows what Christ has done. It reminds me that Christ died for me. And reminds me that God has accepted me through Jesus Christ. Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Rom. 5:5.

The first fruit of the Spirit that is mentioned is love.

Not only toward God but toward our fellowman. You know the lawyer that came to Jesus and said who is my neighbor. Luke 10:30-37. Jesus told him about love.

Another fruit is joy. Rejoicing.

The third fruit is peace. That's the condition of mind. There is no conflict. No strife. But there is peace with Jesus Christ. I actually have Him and the Spirit to bring to my attention these things of Almighty God.