

Revision of Chapters 1-3 (Continued).

John is on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. He receives the Revelation of Jesus Christ as he is *in the Spirit on the Lords Day*. The Lord's Day here means literally the first day of the week, the day that the Lord rose from the dead.

What does it mean to be *in the Spirit*?

Galatians 5 v 16-17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Paul points out that we should all live by the Spirit or walk by the Spirit so that we will not carry out the desires of the sinful nature. The flesh sets itself against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, so that there is a continuous battle going on in our minds and in our feelings. Whoever or whatever it is that we obey is the one that we serve.

Romans 6 v 16

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

God brings His revelation to the Holy Spirit in us because our natural mind is unable to receive or understand the things of the Holy Spirit. All spiritual truth is discerned by and through the Holy Spirit in us.

1 Corinthians 2 v 9-12

...but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

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*SCF- Stevenage Christian Fellowship where Dennis Marshall was Pastor

Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...

Paul explains that the basic problem we have is in trying to understand spiritual things with our natural minds. He goes on to tell us that as we are led by the Spirit, we are not under the law. By this he meant the law of the religious spirits within the Sadducees and Pharisees. Like all of God's gifts, they are only productive as we use them. All the gifts in the New Testament are available to the church if we will use them.

Romans 12 v 6-13

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith, if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

1 Corinthians 12 v 8-11

For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

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Ephesians 4 v 1-12

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men." (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...

It's rather like having a bank account, you cannot pay your bills if you do not have the money in the account, or if you do have the money then you have to write out the appropriate cheque to rid yourself of the debt. Many Christians have the deposit of the Holy Spirit but do not use it!

Acts 19 v 1-7

It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. There were in all about twelve men.

Of course we all know the Holy Spirit, don't we? The question is, do we walk in the Spirit in an increasing way?

John 16 v 7-15

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Why do we have the Holy Spirit?

- He is our helper, to assist us to live out our Christian lives
- He convicts the world of sin and to the saints He gives conscience and a solution if they do sin
- He convicts the world of righteousness
- He convicts the world of judgement
- He leads Christians into all truth, both in the scriptures and directly from heaven, in the same way that John received revelation
- He provides the saints with weapons of war

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Both individually and as a church we are only as effective for God as we walk in the Holy Spirit. We have available to us all the tools in and through the Holy Spirit to overcome the influences of the natural, sinful nature inside us and to destroy the works of the devil around about us.

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