

Behold  the Lamb
Publications

Another Comforter

“I will come to you.”

John 14:18

by Leroy Surface

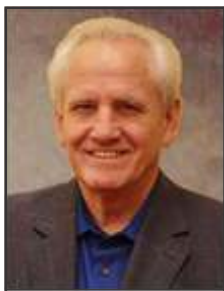
Another Comforter

Perhaps most of the modern church believes they receive the “Holy Ghost” at the moment they first repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ. This is an error that has robbed those who believe it from obtaining in this lifetime many of the precious things which God has prepared *“for those who love Him”* 1 Corinthians 2:9. The scripture is very clear about what we receive at the moment of faith in Jesus. The Apostle Paul said, *“Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”* Galatians 3:26, and *“because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”* Galatians 4:6. We need go no further to understand it is not the Holy Ghost we receive at salvation, but rather it is *“The Spirit of Christ.”*

“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Romans 8:9

“Christ in you” is *“the hope of glory”* Colossians 1:27. When Christ *“is our life”* Colossians 3:4, it is as Paul said, *“I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”* Galatians 2:20. Jesus Christ is the *“express image”* Hebrews 1:3, which means He is “the character” of His Father. When Christ lives in us, we have the character of God, even though we may have never been filled with the Holy Spirit of the Father. Those who believe they need the Holy Ghost to *“make them holy”* should examine themselves, as Paul said to the Corinthians, *“whether ye be in the faith”* II Corinthians 13:5. Jesus Christ shed His blood and died to make us holy. Only then are we a fit vessel, *“washed in the blood of the Lamb,”* to be filled with the Holy Ghost.

The “Holy Ghost” is “The Spirit of the Father,” who comes to do the work of the Father. Jesus gave two commands on the day of His ascension; First, He said, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* Mark 16:15. Second, He said, *“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...”* Acts 1:4-5. The



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Holy Ghost is the second of two comforters which Jesus promised would come to us. He said, *“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him”* John 14:23. We should keep in mind, “both” will come to a believer, but they will come *one at a time.*

Another Comforter

by: Leroy Surface

Introduction

*“Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: **for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.** The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and **all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**”* Isaiah 52:9-10

The promise of a “comforter” for the people of God was first given by the prophet Isaiah. While Isaiah mentioned this “comfort” several times in his prophecies, in every case it was connected with the grace of God that would come to us through the sufferings of Christ at Calvary I Peter 1:9-11. Notice in our text above, *“The LORD hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations...;”* this is a clear reference to *“Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”* I Corinthians 2:2. The only possible “comfort” for a world lost in sin and destined to eternal torment outside the presence of God, is salvation from sin, which is received *“by grace, through faith”* Ephesians 2:8 in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Traditionally the church has held a very narrow view of who or what *“the comforter”* is, with most believing it to be simply another title for the Holy Ghost. The prophet Isaiah was the first to speak of a *“comforter”* for the people. He foretold “the holy arm of God” which was *“made bare”* on the cross for our salvation. This, of course, was fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ when He died to *“take away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. I will show that *“the Spirit of Christ”* is the first comforter to dwell in a child of God, and that *“the Spirit of the Father”* Matthew 10:20, which is *“the Holy Ghost”* is the second *“comforter.”* Both the Father and the Son are comforters for the children of God,

which fulfills a promise Jesus gave; *“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him**”* John 14:23. Christ is the first to come when we receive Him by faith. Only after we have received *“the Spirit of Christ”* can we receive *“the Spirit of the Father”* Matthew 10:20, which is the Holy Ghost.

This message is written to those who *“hunger and thirst after righteousness”* Matthew 5:6. There is much confusion in the church of this generation concerning the relevance of both the Father and the Son in our full salvation. Perhaps most people, even those who profess to be Pentecostal, believe they receive the Holy Ghost at the moment of faith in Christ. Many believe *“the Spirit of Christ”* is just another name for the Holy Ghost. In times past, it was common for many to profess Christ and deny the Holy Ghost, but today it is different. We received an outpouring of the Holy Ghost at the beginning of the twentieth century, and for about sixty years we saw a time of great revivals. Sadly, with the entrance of what we called the “charismatic renewal” of the 1970’s and 1980’s, the emphasis was gradually placed on the Holy Ghost to the detriment of Christ and the cross. The result has been multitudes of people who seek signs and wonders, but cannot live their daily lives without sinning. Consider the thousands of churches who begin every service with a sinner’s prayer, because they believe *“we are all sinners, who must sin every day,”* yet in the same services they will *“pray in their prayer languages.”* According to the truth of the gospel, if they are sinners they do not have the Holy Ghost dwelling in them, because they do not have Christ. The only remedy to the current problem in the churches is to return to Christ and the cross. As I write these things, I remember the stern warning which was given by the Apostle John when he was near a hundred years of age;

*“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.** Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.”* I John 2:22-23

Another Comforter

*“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;”* John 14:16

When Jesus gave the promise of “*another comforter*,” it is obvious there is more than one who is called “*comforter*.” Jesus had been their comforter for the past three years, but now there would be “*another comforter*.” This is proven by the wording in the next verse.

*“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.**”* John 14:17

Jesus Christ had been a comforter to His disciples for the three years they walked with Him. He had exercised authority over sickness, disease, and unclean spirits. He was in command of every situation, and they felt safe and secure as long as they were with Him. He “...*went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him*” Acts 10:38. He commanded unclean spirits, and they obeyed Him Mark 1:27, and “...*even the winds and the sea obey him!*” Matthew 8:27. He fed the five thousand with five loaves and two little fishes Matthew 14:19; He opened the eyes of the blind, He cleansed the lepers, He caused the lame to walk and the dumb to talk. Oh, what a comfort Jesus was to all who trusted in Him, yet He spoke to His disciples of “*another comforter*.” Concerning this “other comforter,” Jesus said “...*ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you....*” Obviously, the one who dwelt “with them” was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. It was a great mystery and a cause of much confusion to the disciples how the one who dwelt “with them” would soon dwell “in them.”

It is the will of God that both the Father and the Son would dwell in His children. The scripture says, “*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying,*

Abba, Father” Galatians 4:6. The “*Spirit of God’s Son*” is the same as “*the Spirit of Christ*.” This is the first of two “comforters” to dwell in the children of God, the second being “*the Spirit of the Father*” Matthew 10:20, which is the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Paul said, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His*” Romans 8:9. To receive and possess “the Spirit of Christ” is the absolute necessity for salvation. Obviously, there is no contradiction when Jesus speaks of Himself as a comforter when He said, “*He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you*” John 14:17. It is the next verse, however, that brings the entire discourse together, and proves this great truth which many have been blinded to;

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” John 14:18

The Spirit of Christ

*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not **the Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.”* Romans 8:9

This verse speaks of both “*the Spirit of God*,” and “*the Spirit of Christ*.” These are not the same and should not be confused as the same. The “*Spirit of God*” is the Holy Ghost, but the “*Spirit of Christ*” is the Spirit of the Son of God. The modern churches, and even many Pentecostals who once knew better, believe we receive the Holy Ghost at the moment of faith in Jesus. This is absolutely not true. The Apostle Paul questioned the disciples at Ephesus, “*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*” Acts 19:2. It is in his question that we discover a great truth; it is not only possible, but necessary, to believe and be saved from sin before receiving the Holy Ghost. Paul confirmed this in his epistle to the Ephesians; “*In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed**, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...*” Ephesians 1:13.

Many people, including myself, received the Holy Ghost within moments of being saved. It was the same way on the Day of Pentecost. No one, however can receive the Holy Ghost before receiving the Spirit of Christ. Notice the scripture says, “...*if any man have not **the Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.*” This outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost fulfilled the words of Jesus in verse 23; “*If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we** will come unto him, and make **our** abode with him*” John 14:23. Both the Father and the Son will dwell in the believer, but they come one at a time; first, the Spirit of the Son (the Spirit of Christ), and second, the Spirit of the Father, which is the Holy Ghost Matthew 10:20.

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...” Ephesians 3:17

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26

We are saved “...*by grace, through faith...*” Ephesians 2:8. It is through saving faith in Christ that we are all the children of God.

*“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the **Spirit of his Son** into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* Galatians 4:6

It is our faith in Jesus Christ who died as the Lamb of God to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29 that has made us to be the children of God. Actually, the word “*trust*” better explains what saving faith truly is.

*“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first **trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted**, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:”* Ephesians 1:12-12

God’s response when we first trust in Christ is to send “*the Spirit of His Son*” into our hearts. This fulfills the words of Jesus; “*I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you***” John 14:18. The Spirit of the Son is not the Holy Ghost. It is extremely important that we discern the difference. The Spirit of Christ is the first “*comforter*” which is sent into our hearts by the Father. We will notice in the sixteenth chapter that the second comforter, which

is the Holy Ghost, is sent by Jesus Christ as He sits at the right hand of the Father John 16:7.

Christ Our Comforter

*“...the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of **the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”* Colossians 1:26-27

Oh what a comfort it is to have Christ dwelling in our hearts, and living His life in us. The Apostle Paul gave this confession; *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”* Galatians 2:20. His “confession” was also his “fact,” and so it is with everyone who is “born of God.” Consider the fact that multitudes begin every church service with a *“sinner’s prayer,”* because *“We are all sinners, who must sin every day, as long as we live **in the flesh.**”* This is their confession, and it is their reality. It does make a difference what we believe. The Apostle Paul believed he was crucified with Christ, and Christ lived in him. Did Christ make a difference in Paul? He continued to say, *“...the life which I now live **in the flesh** I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* Galatians 2:20.

Very often people have friends whom they consider to be their “comforters” in troubled times. These same people will sometimes join in a “pity party,” which can only make things worse. *“I feel so sorry for you...Nobody understands you...You are so mistreated...;”* These are words Christ our comforter will never speak to His people. I knew a lady years ago who spent a week in the hospital. She had very few visitors, and became very depressed. She said one day while she was crying, Jesus came into her room and said, *“I am the only one who loves you.”* It could not have been Jesus who spoke to her, because those were not words of comfort, but of destruction. We need to understand

the origin of the word “comfort” to better understand what Christ as our comforter is to us.

The Greek word which is translated “*comforter*” is “*parakletos*.” The theological definition normally given for *parakletos* is “advocate,” as in a defense lawyer, or “helper,” as though Christ and the Holy Ghost are both sent to “help us” in the things we seek to do. I have always taken the position that the apostles of Jesus did not speak theological Greek. The language they used was the same as the man on the street would use; it was everyday language which did not require a degree from a seminary to understand. That being said, the Greek word for comforter, which is “*parakletos*” was derived from two separate Greek words. The first is “*para*,” which simply means “*alongside*,” as in “parallel.” The second Greek word is “*kletos*,” which means “*called*.” It word “*kletos*” was used eleven times in the New Testament, and every time it was translated as “called” or “the called.” In every case “*kletos*” speaks of a special calling from God. The word “*kletos*,” combined with “*para*,” creates a word which in simple terms simply means “*called alongside*.”

The English word “comfort” is made up of two Latin words; the first is the prefix “*com*,” which means “*together*,” and the second is the Latin word “*fortis*,” which means “*strong*.” Our English words “fort” and “fortress” were derived from the same Latin word. In the New Covenant, both the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Ghost are our “*comforters*,” which means “*together strong*.” A child of God can bear up under any tribulation and come forth in victory when it is “*Christ who liveth in us*.” We may be weak, but Christ in us is strong; we are “together strong.” The scripture did not speak of “*Christ and you*” as “*the hope of glory*,” it is “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*.” We are “*together strong*.”

Christ our Sanctifier

I have watched a panel of men on television who are daily discussing the work of the Holy Ghost to sanctify a believer *“through the parameters of the cross.”* These men are good men, and sincere, and no doubt devout Christians, but they are also very confused concerning our sanctification, and who it is that sanctifies us. It has never been the work of the Holy Ghost to sanctify a believer. Only one verse is needed to destroy the philosophy of religion they are building, but there are many such scriptures.

*“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might **sanctify the people with his own blood**, suffered without the gate.”* Hebrews 13:12

The blood of Jesus Christ is the agent of our sanctification, and the sole purpose of His death on the cross. Jesus said, *“**I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me**”* John 6:38.

*“**By the which will we are sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”* Hebrews 10:10

It was the will of His Father that put Jesus Christ on the cross to die for our sins. It is through the will of the Father that *“**we are sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**.”* Notice the word *“sanctified”* is spoken in the past tense, while the words *“we are,”* speak of our present time. The words *“through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ...”* tell us when and where we were sanctified, and the phrase *“once for all”* tells us the one offering of the body and blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient for every person for all time who will believe and trust in Him.

Those who cannot believe the power of the gospel have changed the words *“we are sanctified”* to *“we are being sanctified,”* which locks the people in a lifetime struggle with sin. Only those who *“are sanctified”* are sanctified; those who *“are being*

sanctified” are never sanctified. The words “*once for all*” also indicate that our sanctification is a finished work which was accomplished through the death and shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Paul said to the Romans...

*“For in that he died, he died unto sin **once**: but in that he liveth, he (forever) liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead (once) indeed unto sin, but alive (forever) unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6:10-11

It is obvious that Jesus Christ is our sanctifier, and that He finished His work of sanctification through His sacrificial death on the cross. He has sanctified us “*with His own blood*” Hebrews 13:12...*through the offering of His body*” Hebrews 10:10.

*“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified **are all of one**: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren...”* Hebrews 2:11

This verse shows that Jesus Christ (he that sanctifieth), and the children of God (they who are sanctified), “*are all of one*,” which means they are all “*born of God*” and God is their Father. Upon the event of His resurrection, Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, “*Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God*” John 20:17. Those whom He has sanctified with His own blood are the brethren of Jesus Christ. He is “*the firstborn among many brethren*” Romans 8:29, and His Father is our Father. Matthew 6:9.

Christ, the Character of God

*“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.” Hebrews 1:1-3

I call your attention to the words “*the express image of His person*,” which declares the Son of God is the “*express image*” of His Father. These words were translated from the Greek word “*charaktēr*,” from which our English word “*character*” is derived. Simply stated, “*character*” is the mark we make on everything we come in contact with. It is a “character” on the key of a typewriter which leaves its special mark on the paper, the exact same mark every time. Jesus Christ was the character of His Father in flesh and blood, and left the mark of His Father in everything He did. This was the secret of His ministry, which He explained to His disciples on His last day with them.

*“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.** Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else **believe me for the very works' sake.**”* John 14:10-11

Everything Jesus did on earth was the mark of His Father who lived in Him, proving Jesus is “*the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matthew 16:16.

When the Apostle Paul professed to being “*crucified with Christ*,” he said “*nevertheless I live, yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me***” Galatians 2:20. The heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ is crucifixion with (in union with) Christ. This “crucifixion” cannot be accomplished after we are saved, because as Peter said, God has “*begotten us again unto a lively hope **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead***” I Peter 1:3. Crucifixion with Christ destroys the body of sin, freeing us from sin, and we are “*born again*” when we are “*quicken together with Christ*” Ephesians 2:5. All this is accomplished in us by faith when we believe the true report of the gospel of Christ. The Father sends the Spirit of His Son (the Spirit of Christ) into our hearts Galatians 4:6, and from that

point forward it is “*Christ who liveth*” in us. Peter said we have been made “*partakers of the divine nature*” II Peter 1:4. Those who receive Christ have “*the character of God*” abiding in them. His laws are written in their hearts Jeremiah 31:33, and they “*do by nature those things contained in the law*” Romans 2:14.

The Name of Jesus

*“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all **in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”* Colossians 3:17

The Greek word which was translated “*name*” is “*onoma*,” which means “*authority and character*.” Everything a child of God does in this life must be done in the character and the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please understand what I say! We can only have the “character” of God when Christ lives His life in us Colossians 3:4, because He alone is the “character” (express image) of His Father. We receive the “authority” of God when we receive the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of the Father Matthew 10:20) to work in us. Those who have both the “character” and “authority” of God live their lives “*in the name* (authority and character) *of the Lord Jesus*.” Everything they do is “*in the name of the Lord Jesus*.”

A believer may have the character of God (Christ) without the authority of God (the Holy Ghost), but no one can have the authority without the character. Those who seem to exercise great power while living sinful lives have received “*another spirit*” which Paul warned the Corinthians against II Corinthians 11:4. They preach “*another gospel*” about “*another Jesus*,” and deceive many to receive “*another spirit*.” Remember, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ* (the character of God), *he is none of His*” Romans 8:9.

“And what concord hath Christ with Belial?” II Corinthians 6:15

Many people in the modern church believe we have two natures when Christ comes into our hearts. They believe we still have a sin nature, and now we have a divine nature. They teach much about the continual inward conflict between these two natures. Perhaps a majority believe we receive the Holy Ghost at the moment we place faith in Jesus Christ. These believe the Holy Ghost comes to progressively sanctify us and eventually give us power over sin, not understanding the simple truth that our victory is not due to *“power over sin,”* but *“freedom from sin.”* Christ died as the Lamb of God to *“take away **the sin of the world**”* John 1:29. The *“sin of the world”* is the sin that entered *“into the world”* Romans 5:12 through the disobedience of Adam. We who are born of God do not have two natures, because it is the nature of sin which Christ shed His precious blood and died to *“take away.”* To have two natures would be what is called a “multiple personality disorder,” which is a mental sickness at best and demonic possession at worst.

Christ died to *“take away our sin”* I John 3:5. He comes into the heart of those who are, by faith, *“crucified with him”* Romans 6:6, to be their life. The Apostle Paul said to the Colossians, *“When Christ, **who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with (in union with) him in glory”* Colossians 3:4. In the previous verse, Paul had said to these same believers, *“**For ye are dead, and your life is hid** with (in union with) Christ in God”* verse 3. Are you “dead?” Have you found *“your life in union with Christ”* Is Christ your life? If so you will be found “in union with Him” at His appearing. This is what Paul called “glorified together” with (in union with) Christ Romans 8:17.

Not only is Christ *“our life,”* He is *“eternal life”* I John 1:2 to everyone who receives Him. He is the character and nature of God, living in us for all the world to see. Those who have not received the character of God can do nothing in the name of Jesus. There will be those who will protest at the judgment bar; *“Lord, have we not prophesied **in thy name?** and **in thy name** have cast*

out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” Matthew 7:22. Jesus said He will answer them, *“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* Matthew 7:23. They may have used the name of Jesus, just as the seven sons of Sceva tried Acts 19:13-16, but they could do nothing *“in the name of Jesus,”* because Christ was not their life, and He *“never knew them.”* Without the *“character of God,”* which Christ brings to all who receive Him, we can do nothing *“in His name.”*

It has been said that “character” is what we are, and personality is what people think we are. A good personality can be developed, but godly character can only be received from God in *“the Spirit of His Son”* Galatians 4:6. If Christ is indeed *“our life,”* we have the character of God. On the other hand, there are those very unscrupulous people who have developed wonderful personalities to attract multitudes of followers. Consider for a moment the history of scandals which have befallen the largest ministries in the world, the most recent being in Australia. How did an alcoholic healing evangelist of sixty years ago pack his tent with thousands of people? How did a man who hired prostitutes fill stadiums with 100,000 people only thirty-five years ago? Sadly, rather than repent, the first died intoxicated, but the second repented and later discovered the cross of Christ to be the answer for the sin problem. Even so, it has been proven repeatedly that personality attracts far more people than character, but without the “character of God,” which Christ is to all who possess Him, no one will be saved.

“We Will Come”

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come** unto him, and make our abode with him.”* John 14:23

In this fourteenth chapter of John, Jesus revealed many wonderful things during His last full day with His disciples. One of these was the secret of His ministry:

*“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father** that dwelleth in me, **he doeth the works.**”* John 14:10

Perhaps this verse explains “*the comforter*” as well as any. Remember the root definition of comforter, “*together strong,*” as well as the root definition of *parakletos*, which is “*called alongside.*” Jesus said of Himself, “*The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do...*” John 5:19, and “*I can of mine own self do nothing...*” John 5:30. The Father was to Jesus in His earthly ministry what both the Father and the Son are to us today as the children of God. Jesus could do nothing without His Father who dwelt in Him. They were “*together strong,*” but it was the Spirit of His Father dwelling in Him who did the mighty works.

Consider for a moment the words of Jesus to His disciples, “*I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come** to you*” John 14:18. Only five verses later He says, “*If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come** unto him, and make our abode with him*” John 14:23. Please keep in mind that they come one at a time, even though both may come in an instant of time. Remember that Paul said to the Romans, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His*” Romans 8:9. Recall that Paul distinguished between the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God (the Holy Ghost), in the next two verses; “*If Christ be in you...*” Romans 8:10, and “*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you...*” Romans 8:11. We must have “*Christ in you,*” verse 10, to be saved. We must have “*the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead,*” verse 11, to do the works of the Father. The first brings to us “*the character of God;*” the second brings “*the authority of God.*” Only now, with both the Father and the Son dwelling in us, can we do anything “*in the name of Jesus.*” Only now, with both the Father and the Son do we have the “*character and authority*” of God. Certainly, this fulfils the words of Jesus, “*We will come, and make our abode with you.*”

The Way to God

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

Many years ago, our church was located next door to a Pick-a-Pair shoe store in Houston Texas. One day, while our men were having a workday at the church, the manager of Pick-a-Pair came to me and said, *“I have been watching you and the people of this church for a long time. You have something other people don’t have, and I want it for myself.”* He was almost in tears as he spoke to me. I put my arm around his shoulder and told him to come inside with me, and he could receive salvation for himself. We walked up the aisle of the church to the altar where we both knelt. I explained as best I could how to be saved, and told him to simply ask God to forgive him and ask Jesus Christ to come into his heart. Suddenly everything changed. He looked at me and said, *“I don’t believe Jesus is the Son of God.”* I was dumb-founded! I grasped for words! I said *“If you don’t believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, I can’t help you.”* He said, *“But I want God to save me. Why can’t God save me?”* My only answer was heartbreaking, but true; *“Not even God can save you without Jesus Christ.”* The man was again broken and crying, but he could not believe. I suppose it was one of the hardest of times for my ministry when I had to walk out with a man who was desperate for salvation, but refused to trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus words were proven to be true; *“no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

Fifty years have passed, and I see a phenomenon in the church which is impossible to explain without facing this simple fact which Jesus gave; *“no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* Some actually have a great *“form of godliness, but deny the power thereof”* II Timothy 3:5. They would deny what I say because they mention the *“baptism with the Holy Spirit”* in almost every service. They believe we receive the *“Holy Spirit”* at the moment

of faith in Jesus. Many are not aware of what they have done. They have forsaken the necessity of “*Christ in you*,” which is not the Holy Ghost, but is rather “*the Spirit of God’s Son*” Galatians 4:6. They think the “*Holy Spirit*” will progressively sanctify us, and eventually give us power over sin, but in doing so, they “*have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof.*” The “*power thereof*” which they deny, is the power of the cross of Christ to crucify Romans 6:6, and the power of the blood of Jesus to sanctify Hebrews 13:12. To deny these is to deny Jesus Christ Himself, exactly as many have done.

Another Spirit

*“For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted....”* II Corinthians 11:4

There are three “others” in this verse which are to be avoided like a plague. This scenario begins when those come who preach “*another gospel*” than that which was preached by the first-generation apostles of Jesus Christ. I received a vision from the Lord in July, 1969, in which I saw another spirit come to the churches, pretending to be the Holy Ghost, and many would receive that “strange spirit.” Almost immediately millions of people began “learning how” to speak in tongues, to prophesy, and to do every other thing which only the Holy Ghost can do. It was “*another spirit*,” but it could not have come except for “*another gospel*” that was being preached. In what was called the “charismatic renewal” of the 1970’s, there was very little emphasis on the death and shed blood of Jesus on the cross, but an immediate emphasis on “receiving your prayer language.” Many thousands of people, many of whom had never been saved from sin, were now speaking in tongues. They were seeking the power and authority of God without first receiving Christ, “*the character of God.*”

About twenty years ago I allowed a man to preach both Sunday services in our church because he came highly recommended as one who had great success in seeing many filled with the Holy Ghost in his services. He was actually an official of the Assemblies of God Bible College in Waxahachie Texas. A survey had shown that less than 30% of their members were speaking with tongues, and his mission was to preach and minister the Spirit to them. At the close of the Sunday night service, he called everyone to stand at the altar of the church. He pointed to one young lady and asked her if she was saved. When she said “no,” he quickly led her in a sinner’s prayer, and immediately said, *“Now we’ve got to get you to speaking in tongues.”* I was both proud of our congregation and embarrassed for our guest at the same time when most of the people immediately turned and left the altar. Some were overheard to say *“That’s not the Holy Ghost Brother Surface preaches about,”* and they were correct. Had we received this man, we would have received *“another spirit,”* but because the people had trusted in the true gospel of Christ for salvation, they could not receive this man or the spirit he brought with him. Sadly, many ministers have turned from the truth of the gospel of Christ to another gospel, and continue to do phenomenal things through *“another spirit.”* King Saul of Old Testament Israel is a case study of those who once knew God but now minister with another spirit, perhaps *“an evil spirit from God”* I Samuel 16:14

*“...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* II Thessalonians 2:10-12

King Saul, the first king of Israel, was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel when he was *“little in his own sight”* I Samuel 15:17. The same day Samuel poured the anointing oil on his head, the Spirit of God came upon the young man Saul, and he was

“turned into another man” ^{I Samuel 10:6}, and *“prophesied among the prophets.”* In fact, King Saul prophesied so much that the people began to question, *“Is Saul also among the prophets”* ^{I Samuel 10:11}. As long as Saul was *“little in his own sight”* God was able to work through him to rightly govern the people, but after a time Saul became “big” in his own sight, and began to do things his own way without regard to the word of the LORD to him. God had rejected Saul as king several years before the day He sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint the young man David to be king in the place of Saul. It would be another fifteen years, however, before David would ascend to the throne after the death of Saul. Notice what happened to King Saul on the same day God anointed the shepherd lad David to be king;

*“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him (David) in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. But **the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.**”*

^{I Samuel 16:13-14}

When those who served the King saw that an evil spirit troubled him, they sought among the people for a *“cunning player on a harp”* ^{I Samuel 16:16} to live in the palace and play the harp to soothe the king from the evil spirit. How amazing is the working of our God, that the one anointed to take the throne from Saul was brought unknown into the palace to comfort Saul? In the war with the Philistines, it was David who killed Goliath with his sling, and became famous among the people of Israel. When Saul heard the people giving higher praises to David than to himself, he became extremely jealous. Notice what happened the next day;

*“And it came to pass on the morrow, that **the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied** in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And*

David avoided out of his presence twice. And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. ” 1 Samuel 18:10-12

Many have used the scripture which says, “*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance*” Romans 11:29, to explain why ungodly and immoral people can also be “*anointed by God*” to do miracles. They do not understand the scripture. God can repent of calling a man just as He repented of calling Saul. He even repented that He made man in the beginning before He destroyed them in the flood Genesis 6:7. It is those ministers whom God has anointed and sent who cannot change their mind. If a man or woman of God backslides into sin, and continues to do signs and wonders, it is not God working with them, but another spirit. When God withdraws His Spirit from a person, an “evil spirit” can continue doing what the Holy Spirit once did. The minister may be lost and reprobate, and under the control of demons, and perhaps gathering the largest crowds ever, but they are doing so without the Father or His Son.

The Holy Ghost

“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.” John 14:26

This verse introduces the second of two “comforters” to dwell in the children of God. The words “*the comforter which is the Holy Ghost*” do not indicate the Holy Ghost to be the only comforter, but rather they discern between the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of the Father, both of which are “comforters” to the children of God. The first, which is the Spirit of Christ, brings the character of God, and the second brings the authority of God. Jesus Christ in the days of His flesh was the “*comforter*” who was “*with them*” John 14:17, and soon would be “*in them.*” This is “*Christ in*

you, the hope of glory” Colossians 1:27. Now we come to the promise of “*the comforter which is the Holy Ghost.*”

*“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; **It is expedient for you that I go away:** for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come **unto you;** but if I depart, I will send him **unto you.** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment....”* John 16:7-8

The first mention of the “*Holy Ghost*” is in the second verse of the bible, which says, “*And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters*” Genesis 1:2. There is no indication in the scriptures that the Spirit of God has ever departed from the face of the earth at any time since the beginning. Jesus did not have to “go away” to send the comforter into the world, because the Holy Ghost has always been here. Jesus Christ “went away,” by way of the cross, through His own death and resurrection, to ascend to the right hand of His Father, to send the comforter “**unto you.**” Notice, He did not send the comforter “*into the world,*” but “*unto you,*” which were the hundred and twenty who received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost.

Waiting for the Promise

*“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that **waiteth for him.**”* Isaiah 64:4

*“...**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.”*

Acts 1:4-5

I received the baptism in the Holy Ghost the same day I was saved, but what if Jesus Christ, who is “*the baptizer with the Holy Ghost*” Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16 did not baptize me that day? For well over fifty years into the 20th century outpouring of the Holy Ghost, the believers “*waited for the promise of the Father.*”

During those years we saw God anoint His ministers “...with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with (them)” Acts 10:38. Raymond T. Richey saw thousands of cripples healed and walk again. Smith Wigglesworth saw the dead raised, while William Branham saw creative miracles. All these things happened before the 1960’s. At that early period in their ministries, Oral Roberts and T.L. Osbourne both reached many thousands of people with the gospel of Christ, which God confirmed with great healings and miracles. Something happened in the late 1960’s, however. For some reason, the Spirit of God seemed to lift from many who were once anointed by God. I remember hearing Oral Roberts in the early days say God told him “*Touch not the gold or the glory.*” Perhaps it was the gold and the glory that caused many to fall from the blessing of God into the heresy of the prosperity message, which is certainly an “abomination” that brought “desolation,” as the heavenly dove took His flight from the churches.

“*Waiting for the promise*” is not an excuse to live your life without regard to the “*promise of the Father.*” Those whose attitude says “*If God wants me to have it (the baptism with the Holy Ghost), He will give it to me,*” will never receive anything from God. For the hundred and twenty who received on the Day of Pentecost, “waiting” consisted of about 8 to 10 days, gathered with others in an “upper room” Acts 1:13 where “...these all continued **with one accord** in prayer and supplication” Acts 1:14.

“*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.*” Acts 2:1-4

After 8 to ten days of “waiting” in obedience to the command Jesus had given them, the “hundred and twenty” were still *“in one accord, in one place”* when “suddenly” the promise of the Father came upon them from heaven.

“Do it yourself” Pentecost

The “charismatic renewal” of the 1970’s was the first time I saw what I call “do it yourself Pentecost.” Many preachers began to teach the people “how to speak in tongues,” “how to prophesy,” and “how to” operate all the gifts of God. If you can learn how to do a thing, obviously it is a “do it yourself” project.” I have been preaching for fifty-eight years as I write this message, and I can honestly say I have never learned “how to preach.” In those fifty-eight years, I have seen blind eyes and deaf ears instantly opened, cancers instantly healed, and on two occasions, visible growths instantly disappeared, yet I have never “learned how” to heal the sick or to perform a miracle. I have also stood by helplessly while some of the dearest people to my heart died of cancer and other complications, because I did not “know how” to help them. Many years ago, I heard a tent evangelist remark in private, *“If God doesn’t heal the people, I will.”* This is what the Apostle Paul called *“...the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”* Ephesians 4:14. It is what I call *“do it yourself Pentecost.”*

One of the great errors that came in with the “charismatic renewal” movement almost sixty years ago, was the mistaken idea that a believer no longer had to “wait” for the promise of the Holy Ghost. But what is the alternative to *“waiting for Him?”* Isaiah 64:4. The only alternative is what I call a “do it yourself baptism.” They instruct the people to *“receive it (the Holy Ghost baptism) by faith,”* which is impossible. Only those things which Christ finished on the cross can be received by faith, and only by faith. We receive Christ by faith, and all things which pertain to Him are received by faith, but the baptism with the Holy Ghost is

the sovereign ministry of Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father. Jesus said, “*I will send Him unto you*” John 16:7. Notice His ministry was not to send the Holy Ghost “*into the world,*” but “*unto you.*” Each and every time a believer receives the Holy Ghost, this mighty baptism is initiated by Jesus Christ as He fulfills His sovereign ministry at the right hand of the Father. John the Baptist said, “*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*” Matthew 3:11.

Clothed with Miracles

“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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The word “*power*” in this verse was translated from the Greek word “*dunamis*,” which is defined by Strong’s Greek Concordance and Dictionary as “*force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself):*”

The baptism with the Holy Ghost is a gateway into a life of miracles. Jesus literally said, “*Ye shall receive miracles after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.*” Not everyone will be a worker of miracles, but their life on earth will be filled with miracles. The gospel of Luke records another commandment Jesus gave just before His ascension to heaven. He said, “*Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued (clothed) with power (miracles) from on high*” Luke 24:49. It is God’s will to so “*clothe*” His children with “*miracles from on high*” that the world around will take notice, as they did with Peter and John, “*that they had been with Jesus*” Acts 4:13. Life in the character and authority of Jesus Christ is the only sure proof that salvation is real. This is the “*witness*”

the disciples gave after the Holy Ghost came upon them, which proved beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ was risen from the dead.

“And with great power (miracles) gave the apostles witness (evidence) of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...” Acts 4:33

A good example of what it means to be *“clothed with miracles”* is found in the life and ministry of Moses. Moses was eighty years old, and had been herding sheep in the wilderness of Midian for the past forty years when God called him. God spoke to Moses out of a “burning bush,” and said to him, ***“I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians...”*** Exodus 3:7-8.

“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10

Notice, God said, *“I am come down to deliver them...,”* but *“I will send thee to bring them out.”* Moses first response to God was *“Who am I...?”* He was an eighty-year-old shepherd whose physical features must have reflected the decades of herding sheep in the harshness of the desert wilderness. He was *“not eloquent,”* but *“slow of speech, and of a slow tongue”* Exodus 4:10. The first time he went before Pharaoh, the entire court must have laughed, but it wasn’t long before Moses appeared as a God over Pharaoh to all the people of the land. God clothed Moses with miracles as he repeatedly stretched forth his shepherd’s staff to bring the ten plagues upon the land of Egypt. The land was destroyed, and the firstborn child of every family in Egypt was dead before Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt. The greatest miracle of all took place at the Red Sea when Moses stretched forth his staff, and the waters parted to make a way through the sea. When Pharaoh’s armies tried to cross, Moses

stretched forth his staff again, the waters returned and the army perished in the sea.

The full impact of Moses' being "clothed with miracles" was not realized until forty years later when the spies entered Jericho in the land of Canaan. The fear of the children of Israel had paralyzed the inhabitants of Jericho. Rahab the harlot confirmed this to the two men whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho;

"I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." Joshua 2:9-11

God promised the hundred and twenty who received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost, He would "clothe them with miracles." Perhaps the best example of this was Peter, whom God began to clothe at the "gate beautiful" of the temple where a man who had been crippled over forty years was miraculously healed "*in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth*" Acts 3:6-7. This was "*the beginning of miracles*" John 2:11 for Peter, whose fame became such that the sick were brought to Jerusalem and laid in the streets, that the shadow of Peter might pass over them, and "*they were healed every one*" Acts 5:14-16. Such it is when God clothes His ministers with miracles.

True miracles bring the fear of God to the church as well as to the world that is watching. David said, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*" Psalms 111:10. One of the immediate results of the Day of Pentecost was that "*fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles*" Acts 2:43.

When Ananias and his wife Sapphira both fell down dead for lying to the Holy Ghost, the scripture says...

*“And **great fear came upon all the church**, and upon as many as heard these things. And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And **believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.**) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: **and they were healed everyone.**”* Acts 5:11-16

Authority

*“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had **authority**, and not as the scribes.”* Mark 1:22

*“What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for **with authority** commandeth He even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him.”* Mark 1:27

*“And say unto him, **By what authority** doest thou these things? and **who gave thee this authority** to do these things?”*
Mark 11:28

*“But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that **even the winds and the sea obey Him!**”* Matthew 8:27

During the days of His earthly ministry, Jesus was “*under authority*” to His Father who had sent Him. His Father, God, was the source of Jesus’ authority over sickness, disease, and unclean spirits. He acknowledged that He could do nothing of Himself, but only that which He saw of the Father John 5:19.

“For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.” John 5:20

Jesus gave Himself to die on the cross, because it was the will of His Father who sent Him. Concerning His *“obedience to death, even the death of the cross”* Philippians 2:8, Paul said, *“Wherefore **God also hath highly exalted him**, and given him a name which is above every name: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* Philippians 2:9-11. Jesus confirmed this to His disciples on the same day He ascended to the Father. He said, *“All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye therefore...**”* Matthew 28:18-19.

Jesus had prayed the night before He died on the cross. While praying for His disciples, he said, *“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world”* John 17:18. Obviously He was not speaking of His incarnation, because His disciples were not “incarnated.” The Father sent Jesus into the world the same day the Holy Ghost came upon Him at John’s baptism service. The Father introduced His Son when He spoke from heaven, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* Matthew 3:17. Immediately He sent Him into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil for forty days and nights, during which time He fasted from food. He came out of the wilderness *“in the power of the Spirit”* Luke 4:14, and immediately began to exercise authority over every manner of sickness and disease, and over unclean spirits to cast them out. This is the same Jesus who sits at the right hand of God today, and sends His ministers into the world to do exactly what He did while in the world.

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And **whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do**, that the Father may be*

glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” John 14:12-14

The Authority of the Name of Jesus

According to John 5:43, Jesus said “*I am come in my Father’s name.*” Some seek to use this verse to say “Jesus” is the name of the Father, proving that Jesus is the Father. These may be sincere, but they are mistaken. Jesus came in “*the character and the authority*” of His Father, which is what the word “*name*” indicates. This entire message has been written to show we must receive and possess both “*the Spirit of Christ*” and “*the Spirit of the Father* (the Holy Ghost)” before we receive “*the authority of the name.*” The “*Spirit of Christ*” brings the “*character of God*” into all those in whom Christ is their life Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:4. The scripture says, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ* (the character of God), *he is none of His*” Romans 8:9. It follows that those who do not possess the character of God cannot possess the authority of the name.

The “*name of Jesus*” is not a “magic word” to be used by charlatans or magicians. The seven sons of Sceva tried using the name of Jesus to cast out a devil, and were beaten and driven out naked by the evil spirit Acts 19:14-16. Jesus said many who are “*workers of iniquity*” will stand at the judgment and say, “*Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*” Matthew 7:22. Jesus will answer them, “*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*” verse 23. These not only lived sinful lives, but even those things they thought they did “in the name of Jesus” were of an evil source.

Those who have been given the authority to use the name of Jesus are of necessity “*under authority*” to Christ who sent them. As Jesus said of Himself in the days of His flesh, they cannot do anything of themselves, but only what they see of the Father John 5:19. They cannot do anything of their own will. Anything they

initiate will fail. During the fifty-eight years since God sent me to minister, I have seen many great miracles, but I have never been able to do anything for God “just because I wanted to.” If there is to be “fire on the altar,” Christ must “strike the match;” if there is to be a miracle, God must “*stretch forth His hand*” Acts 4:30.

In That Day

Chapters thirteen through sixteen of John are a record of Jesus’ last day with His twelve chosen disciples before going to the cross. His disciples were in total disarray and confusion. In chapter thirteen He “celebrated” the Passover supper as His last supper with His disciples. During the supper, He revealed that one of the twelve would betray Him, to which Matthew records “*they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?*” Matthew 26:21-22. Most certainly every one of them had been tempted by Satan to betray Jesus. Their hearts were troubled. Jesus had been telling them of His impending sufferings and death Matthew 16:21, which only caused them to question in their hearts if Jesus truly was “the Messiah” which was to come. Consider the first verse of chapter fourteen;

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14:1

They had walked with Him for three years. They had seen His authority over unclean spirits and even over the winds and the sea. They were first hand witnesses of all His great healings and miracles, yet today, His last day with His chosen disciples, He is pleading with them to believe. Both Thomas and Philip were vocal in their doubts. To Thomas, He said, “*If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also...*” John 14:7. To Philip, He questioned, “*Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?*” verse 9. His “plea” to Philip continues, “*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that*

I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake” John 14:10-11.

It seems there was nothing Jesus could say to comfort their troubled hearts, nor to remove their doubts about who He is. Later in this same discourse He says to them, *“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”* John 14:18. He had been their “comforter” for over three years as they walked with Him, but now He promised not to leave them “*comfortless*,” saying *“I will come to you.”* When “*the Spirit of Christ*” comes into our hearts, He has fulfilled His promise.

*“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also.**”* John 14:19

Christ is our life! Colossians 3:4. The Apostle Paul said, *“I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”* Galatians 2:20. Jesus, referring to that future day when He would return in Spirit to live in them, said to His disciples, *“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you”* John 14:18-20. Those things they could not understand before Jesus’ departure, they would understand perfectly “*in that day*” when the Spirit of Christ lived in them.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” John 16:7

The “*Day of Pentecost*” was the dawning of a “new day” for the disciples of Jesus. It was the birth of the church of Jesus Christ. It was the beginning of an everlasting “day” of which Jesus repeatedly said, *“In that Day.”* For those who believe the truth of Christ, every day is a “Day of Pentecost.” Jesus had promised, *“Ye shall receive power (miracles) after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you”* Acts 1:8. This was the day the promise Jesus gave was fulfilled; *“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him**”* John 14:23.

*“And **in that day** ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever** ye shall ask the Father **in my name**, he will give it you.”* John 16:23

*“**At that day ye shall ask in my name:** and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.”* John 16:26-27

Sons of God

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

I John 3:2

The whole purpose of God in redemption is that He would have His *“eternal purpose, which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”* Ephesians 3:11. His *“eternal purpose”* is what God predestined when He first made man. The Apostle Paul said, *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren”* Romans 8:29. Paul went so far in his teaching the Ephesians to say, *“...that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God”* Ephesians 3:19. This is exactly what Paul said of Jesus to the Colossians; *“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”* Colossians 2:9. This is fulfilled in us when we receive both *“the Spirit of Christ”* (the character of God), and *“the Spirit of the Father”* (the Holy Ghost and authority of God). As the Apostle asked of himself, *“Who is sufficient for these things”* II Corinthians 2:16. *“Our sufficiency is of God”* II Corinthians 3:5.

Who Does God Dwell With?

God said, *“I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit...”* Isaiah 57:15. Again, He said, *“To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word”* Isaiah 66:2. Jesus said, *“For*

whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" Luke 14:11. Peter said, "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time*" I Peter 5:6. The reality of all I have written in this message is a very humbling experience for those who do, in fact, receive both the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. The greatest men of God are always also "meek and lowly" followers of the "meek and lowly" Jesus Matthew 11:28-29. Those who seek to exalt themselves will be rejected.

Self-exaltation was the original sin of Lucifer, when he said in his heart, "*I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...*" Isaiah 14:13. Perhaps the first evidence that a person has received a "wrong spirit" is the tendency to exalt themselves before the people. Jesus Christ was the "Lord and Master" of His disciples, yet He washed their feet John 13:14. The Apostle Paul was most certainly the greatest among all the apostles of Christ, yet he said of himself, "***I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God***" I Corinthians 15:9. He said to the Ephesians, "***Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ***" Ephesians 3:8. Those who are truly "great" in Christ Jesus are never aware of their greatness. They will certainly be aware of the great things God has done through them, but do not seek the glory or the praise. They have, as the Apostle Paul before them, a "disclaimer" which says, "*yet not I.*" Paul said, "***I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.***" Concerning his works, he said, "***I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me***" I Corinthians 15:10. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you who believe the truth and trust in Jesus Christ.

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