

Bible Study - Restored Truth #3 - The Holy Spirit
May 19, 2013

To begin this study, let us answer the following question. It is a familiar question Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong used to ask primarily at the Feast of Tabernacles and on other occasions as well. The question is: "Why are you here?" It is important to reflect on this question in connection with the Feast of Pentecost.

To begin answering this question look at Lev. 23:1. *And the Lord spoke to Moses saying (vs 2) Speak to the children of Israel and say to them...[This is God's instructions to Moses] the Feasts of the Eternal which you shall proclaim to be Holy convocations, these are my Feasts...[What God is communicating to Moses pertains to something God owns] (vs 4) These are the Feasts of the Eternal, Holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed times.*

The phrase 'appointed times' in the Hebrew means an appointment, a fixed time or season. It can refer specifically to a festival. Conventionally, it can mean a year. It can refer to an assembly convened for a definite purpose. It also can refer to the congregation. By extension it can refer to the meeting place and is also a signal as appointed beforehand. God's Feasts are fixed or appointed times in God's calendar, which have definite purposes.

Understand how the appointed time for the Feast of Pentecost is to be determined. These scriptures also provide an explanation for why this Feast is to be kept. Lev. 23:9 *And the Eternal spoke to Moses saying (vs 10) Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, when you come into the land which I give to you and reap its harvest then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest... [The sheaf is just a small portion of the first of the first-fruits. It does **not** represent the sum total of first-fruits] (vs 11) And he... [The priest] shall wave the sheaf before the Eternal, to be accepted on your behalf. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it...*

The Sabbath being spoken of is the regular weekly Sabbath within the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The day following the Sabbath is the first day of the week, or as understood by its pagan name, Sunday. The wave sheaf offering was to be offered on the first day of the week following the weekly Sabbath which occurs during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This is the starting point for calculating when the Feast of Pentecost must be kept. (vs 15) *You shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths shall be completed. (vs 16) Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Eternal.*

Starting with the first day of the week and counting seven weekly Sabbaths or seven complete weeks equals a total of 49 days. In verse 16 this count is to extend one more day for a total of fifty days.

Starting on the first day of the week following the weekly Sabbath within the Feast of Unleavened Bread and counting fifty days, brings one to the first day of the week following the observance of seven weekly Sabbaths.

Lev. 23:17 On that fiftieth day – *You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour. They shall be baked with leaven...* [This is a little bit different because God's Holy Days start off with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. These two loaves of bread are to be baked with leaven. Notice -] *They are the firstfruits of the Eternal...* [That's a very important piece of information. God continues in His instruction to Moses] (vs 21) *And you shall proclaim on the same day...* [On this same fiftieth day] *that it is a Holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work...* [That simply means no one is go out and perform their regular work responsibilities] *on this day. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.* This Holy Day like all of God's other Holy Days is to be kept forever. This is God's command for observance of the Feast of Pentecost.

There are some interesting things which need to be taken note of in Leviticus 23. First, in reading through this passage of scripture no specific name is given for this Holy Day. This is not the case for the other Holy Days mentioned. Notice some specific examples: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Notice also, no specific day of the month is appointed. Again, going through Leviticus 23, it specifically states when certain feast days are to be kept: the Passover on the 14th day of the first month, the first day of Unleavened Bread on the 15th day of the first month, the Feast of Trumpets on the 1st day of the seventh month, and the Day of Atonement on the 10th day of the seventh month.

When studying Leviticus 23 and the Feast of Pentecost, it is the only Feast day which must be calculated. While this Feast will always fall on the first day of the week after seven Sabbaths are complete, it will not always fall on the same day each year like God's other feasts. When one begins calculating on the first day after the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread and counts seven Sabbaths, plus one additional day, fifty days will always come to the first day of the week. Within God's calendar you will never come to a specific day like God's other Feast days.

To identify the name of this Feast God says must be calculated, turn to Deuteronomy 16.

Deut. 16:16 *Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the Eternal your God in a place which he chooses...*[Those three times are listed] *at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.* This particular Feast, which must be calculated in Leviticus 23 is called the Feast of Weeks. Why? Because seven weeks plus one day must be counted out to know when this feast must be observed. In the New Testament this Holy Day has another name.

This New Testament name is most commonly used to identify this Feast day and is found in Acts 2:1. *When the day of Pentecost had fully come they were all with one accord in one place.* The word Pentecost in the Greek means fiftieth. That is exactly the same calculation in Leviticus 23, which says to count fifty days. That is seven Sabbaths (weeks) and one day for a total of fifty days.

Lev. 23:15 *And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. (vs 16) Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath.* When the count of these fifty days begins on the first day of the week, it ends on the first day of the week, seven weeks plus one day later.

Initially in the Church of God, Mr. Armstrong thought the Feast of Pentecost needed to be kept on the day after the fiftieth day (Monday). He realized this was wrong and corrected it, which is an important quality of a minister of God. When a minister of God sees something is incorrect he fixes it. He doesn't perpetuate a misunderstanding or an incorrect teaching.

In Leviticus 23, the high priest waved the wave sheaf offering before God on the first day of the week after the weekly Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Fifty days later the two wave loaves were offered before God. Who does the high priest, wave sheaf and 2 wave loaves represent? It is important to understand each are symbolic representations in God's plan of salvation. To see who two of these symbols represent, turn to 1 Corinthians 15.

1 Cor. 15:1-2 Notice who the Apostle Paul is talking to. He says: *Moreover, brethren... [Paul is talking to the Church of God] I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, and in which you stand. (vs 2) By which also you are saved if you hold fast what I preached to you unless you have believed in vain.*

Notice Paul's use of the word "if" with the Corinthians is a conditional result based upon the spiritual decisions God's people make in holding fast to God's Truth. The knowledge God has given to His Church should always be appreciated and respected. When God's Truth is appreciated, God's people are going to hold fast to it, live by it and not let anyone or anything cause it to be taken away from them.

If God's people don't believe God's Truth, yet go along with it, they are mere hearers and not doers of God's Word. They are playing church and are actors. In other words these hearers are hypocrites. (vs 3) *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. (vs 4) And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

It is very important to make a clear distinction here. The word gospel is used in verse 1 when Paul says I declare unto you the gospel, or the good news. Remember, Paul is writing to God's Church in Corinth. The good news Paul is writing the Church about concerns Christ dying for their sins, being buried and resurrected three days later. Paul is not sharing this message with the world, but with the members of God's Church in Corinth. The gospel being spoken of here is not the gospel of the kingdom of God.

In the Church of God today there is a controversy about the gospel and what it means. Mr. Armstrong was very clear the gospel was the gospel of the kingdom of God. It was the good news of God's soon coming kingdom being established on this earth. This is the message he took to the world as a witness. With great power he proclaimed a soon-coming kingdom would be established on earth to solve all the problems in the world today. Yet within the Church of God there is a much more detailed message of good news. Right now, that detailed message does not apply to the world. The reason is because now is not the time for the world's salvation. This is a very important point for God's Church to keep in mind, but sadly many have forgotten.

1 Cor. 15:20 continuing to address the Church of God, Paul says. *But now Christ has risen from the dead and has become the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep...*[Or those who have died] (vs 21) *For since by man...*[Adam] *came death, by man...*[Christ] *also came the resurrection of the dead.* (vs 22) *For as in Adam all die...*[Every human being has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. It is appointed once for man to die and then the judgment] *even so in Christ all...*[All sinners] *shall be made alive...*[Notice] (vs 23) *But each in his own order...*[This means there is a time frame in which all human beings will be made alive. Christ is the first. He is the only one to currently be resurrected from the dead] *Afterward those who are Christ's at his coming.*

Paul provides an explanation in verses 20 and 23 for two of the three symbols found in Leviticus 23 connected to the Feast of Pentecost. This is new understanding revealed by God concerning the meaning of Pentecost since the death Mr. Armstrong. The first symbol represent a resurrected high priest in Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:14). After Christ's resurrection, He presented Himself before God the Father on the first day of the week during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (John 20:1, 16-17). The wave sheaf represents the very first, firstfruits of God, who will be resurrected at Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming (1 Cor. 15:23). As will be seen in Bible Study #6, the number of those resurrected, called first-fruits, totals 144,000 (Rev. 14:1, 4). It is important to understand the timing of when this resurrection of 144,000 first-fruits will occur.

1 Cor. 15:50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...*[That is why it is so foolish for this world's churches to teach the kingdom of God is here now on the earth. Everything on the earth, when it comes to human beings, is flesh and blood. Paul is very clear, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God] *nor does corruption...* [Nor do these physical bodies] *inherit incorruption...* [Spiritual bodies, were discussed in Restored Truth Bible Study #2] (vs 51) *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep...* [We shall not all remain dead] *but we shall all be changed...* [This is only speaking of that group of people who will be resurrected at Christ's Second Coming. Notice specifically when this resurrection takes place] (vs 52) *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump...* [The seventh trumpet] *for the trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.*

The last part of verse 52, refers to physical members of God's Church who have remained faithful to God's Truth and are alive when the seventh trumpet sounds. I Thes. 4:16-17 The vast majority in this resurrection are dead, awaiting the sound of the seventh trumpet. Mr. Armstrong is one of those individuals who will be part of this resurrection.

Acts 2:1 *When the day of Pentecost had fully come they were all with one accord in one place...* [This is not just speaking strictly of the twelve apostles; this refers to a group of 120 people who had gathered together] (vs 2) *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.* (vs 3) *Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire and one sat upon each of them.* (vs 4) *And they were all filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance...*

This is quite a miraculous event for individuals to receive God's Spirit and begin speaking and understanding different foreign languages. This ability enabled the apostles to take the gospel of the kingdom of God into other parts of the world during the 1st century. The phrase 'Holy Spirit' is two words in the Greek. The word Holy simply means sacred, pure, blameless or religious. Ceremonially it could mean consecrated. The word spirit refers to a current of air, a description of what God's Spirit is like. It could also refer to a breath, or blast or a breeze. Figuratively it could refer to a spirit [Some of the definition in Strong's contradicts what was covered concerning the make-up of man] the human or rational soul, which we know is incorrect. It can also refer to an angel, a demon, or a divine God, Christ's Spirit or the Holy Spirit. The actual definition of what the Holy Spirit is can be found in Luke 24.

Here is the Bible definition of the Holy Spirit. Christ is speaking to His disciples before He ascends back to the Father. Luke 24:49 *Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.* Acts 2 shows the group of 120 as the first members of God's Church to be given "power from on high." It came as the sound of a rushing mighty wind. It appeared as divided tongues of fire sitting down on the top of the head of each person present as a physical manifestation of God's Spirit. The word 'power' in the Greek means force, specifically miraculous power. It can also refer to a miracle itself. Christ describes the Holy Spirit as power from on high. This manifestation of God's Holy Spirit demonstrates power.

Acts 2:2 Notice it says: *and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.* The Holy Spirit is described as wind. It is something which can be heard, but it is not something which can be seen by the human eye.

The Holy Spirit is also described as water. This passage of scripture occurred on the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the 8th day of the Feast. John 7:37 *On the last day, that great day of the Feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying if anyone thirsts; let him come to me and drink.* (vs 38) *He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.* (vs 39) *But this he spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in him would receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Acts 2 shows the Holy Spirit being given. The phrase 'Jesus was not yet glorified' refers to Him not yet having presenting Himself to God the Father after being resurrected from the dead. Christ death and resurrection is what makes it possible for people to receive the Holy Spirit. There are some things that go along with receiving the Holy Spirit which need to be understood.

In John 14:17, John 15:26, and John 16:13 the Holy Spirit is described as the Spirit of Truth. In Luke 24, the Holy Spirit is described as power from on high. Turn to John 14 and we will find out where the location 'on high' is and who lives there.

In John 14:16, Christ is speaking His final words to His disciples before He is arrested and crucified. *I will pray the Father and he will give you another helper that it may abide with you forever.* The word 'helper' in the Greek, which is translated Comforter in the King James Version, is the parakletos and is simply an intercessor or consoler, something that intercedes for you. It is a go-between. A consoler typically carries the connotation of somebody being there with someone who is in trouble, providing emotional support during a period of grief or trouble. Certainly the Holy Spirit can do that, and does do that. But the Holy Spirit does much more; notice where the Holy Spirit comes from. It comes from God the Father. So now we know where 'on high' is. It is in the third heaven with God the Father because He is the one who gives it.

In John 14:25, Christ says: *These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. (vs 26) But the helper, the Holy Spirit...* [The Helper is defined here] *which the Father will send in my name...*The Holy Spirit comes from the Father. In reading Acts 2, realize the rushing mighty wind is the Holy Spirit coming from God the Father on high.

The final verse on where the Holy Spirit comes from is in John 15:26. Christ says: *When the helper comes...* [He is speaking of a future event. Acts 2 is the moment in time Christ is speaking of] *When the helper comes which I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, that one...*[That's the Greek meaning of the word used] *will testify of me.*

Clearly, the Holy Spirit, the power from on high, comes from God the Father. This power from the Father can be received by human beings. Once it is received, it dwells within the person who has received it. How is the Holy Spirit received? Acts 2 can be called a 'once in a lifetime' event, but typically when a person receives the Holy Spirit it is not that dramatic. Read on to learn how the Holy Spirit is normally received by human beings.

Notice an example of Paul running into some disciples of Apollos. Apollos was a disciple of John the Baptist. He taught what John the Baptist taught. When Apollos met Priscilla and Aquila, he learned additional knowledge pertaining to the Holy Spirit. They explained to Apollos the life and work of Jesus Christ, which he accepted and began teaching. Apollos was a very dynamic minister, but the world of Paul and Apollos operated at a much slower pace than the world we live in today. News and information traveled much more slowly. Acts 19:1 *It happened when*

Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus finding some disciples. (vs 2) He said to them, did you receive Holy Spirit when you believed? They said to him we have not so much as heard whether there is Holy Spirit. These people weren't even aware of the Holy Spirit.

The word 'receive' comes from the Greek word "lambano." It describes those who are taken to a place of protection versus those who are left to go through great tribulation. "Lambano" means to take or to get a hold of. When this meaning is understood, it adds a broader element to receiving the Holy Spirit. These disciples of Apollos had not heard of the Holy Spirit, which shows it must be received by human beings. Look at another example of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Philip had been teaching in Samaria, but Philip was a deacon. He could baptize but could not lay hands on people. So Peter and John had to make a trip to Samaria. Acts 8:14 *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. (vs 15) Who when they had come down prayed for them that they might receive Holy Spirit.* Again, the word receive is "lambano", so these people might get a hold of the Holy Spirit. It is important to understand a person must make a conscious decision to receive God's Spirit. It's not something God passes out like candy. A person has to make a conscious decision to want to get a hold of the Holy Spirit, to take of that Spirit. How can a person receive the Holy Spirit? Turn back to Acts again. These comments were made after Peter had delivered his initial sermon on the Day of Pentecost, 1982 years ago. God's people fail to appreciate they are part of something with a history that is over 1900 years in age, and is just the beginning of God's wonderful plan of salvation.

Notice how important it is for people to make a conscious decision to receive the Holy Spirit. Peter is at the end of his sermon. Acts 2:36 *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ. (vs 37) When they... [Referring to Peter's audience] heard this, they were cut to the heart... [They were moved by the words Peter had spoken] and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, men and brethren what shall we do? [They recognized their part and their responsibility in the crucifixion and the death of Jesus Christ. So they wanted to act] (vs 38) Then Peter said to them repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission... [Or for the forgiveness] of sins and you shall receive the gift of Holy Spirit. (vs 39) For the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call. (vs 40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them saying be saved from this perverse generation... [Or crooked generation. It was crooked in the first century and it is crooked today in the 21st century. Notice – this is dealing strictly with the Church] (vs 41) Then those who gladly received his word... [This phrase 'gladly received' consists of two Greek words which mean to take fully, or welcome, or approve with pleasure] were baptized and that day about three thousand souls... [Or 3000 people] were added to them. These people were added to the Church of God. The God's Church consists of people, it is not a building.*

Realize God does not force anyone to accept His truth. These people Peter was talking to voluntarily made the decision to become members of God's Church. These 3000 people voluntarily made their own decision to repent, to be baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit. God didn't force them to do it. God allows individuals to exercise their free moral agency on whether to accept His truth, or not. It is important to understand this aspect of God's character.

This is spoken of the people who were assembled on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit is something which fills a person. Think about this as an empty glass when water is poured into it to fill it up. As seen in Bible Study #2, there is a missing element in human beings prior to receiving the Holy Spirit. When the Bible says people are filled with the Holy Spirit, it shows the missing element being put into the human beings. When individuals repent, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit, the missing element human beings are born with, is filled in with God's Spirit. It is the responsibility of human beings to keep themselves filled with Holy Spirit.

There was a way that the disciples of Apollos had to receive that Holy Spirit. Acts 19:4 *Then Paul said...[Because these men had told Paul they were baptized with John's baptism (John the Baptist) and the message he brought] Paul said John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance saying to the people that they should believe on him who should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. (vs 5) When they heard this they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (vs 6) And when Paul had laid hands upon them the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.* Something very similar to what occurred in Acts 2 happens, minus the rushing mighty wind and the cloven tongues of fire. The point is Paul laid his hands on them. The laying on of hands is a symbolic part of baptism that allows the transfer of the Holy Spirit to a person through another person God is working through. It also pictures a person placing themselves under God's authority. Again, this same process can be seen in Acts 8 for people in Samaria.

Acts 8:16 *For as yet it... [Referring to the Holy Spirit] had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (vs 17) Then they laid hands on them and they received Holy Spirit.* Again, the laying on of hands by the ministry is necessary for receiving the Holy Spirit.

Below is another scripture which is very important for receiving God's Holy Spirit. It may explain why so many people fall away from God's Truth. This is also a condition for receiving the Holy Spirit. Acts 5:32 Peter says: *And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit which God has given to those that obey him.*

When people truly repent, are baptized and receive the laying on of hands, this equates to obedience to God. The Holy Spirit cannot be received any other way, unless those three conditions are met. Obedience also includes living by God's commandments after baptism. The only place on earth where the Holy Spirit dwells in people is in the True Church. These are the only people God is working with at this time.

A very important question in discussing the Holy Spirit is: How does the Holy Spirit work? God's Word provides the answer in John 14:16. Christ says: *And I will pray to the Father and he will give you another helper that it may abide with you forever...* [This is a very interesting thought. When a person receives the Holy Spirit it is meant to abide within that person forever] (vs 17) *And the Spirit of truth which the world cannot receive...* [Clearly this eliminates the vast majority of people in this world] *because it sees it not, neither knows it, but you know it for it dwells with you and will be in you...* [What does this mean, it dwells with you? The Holy Spirit dwelt with the disciples in Jesus Christ and how Christ lived His life. Look again-] (vs 25) *These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.* (vs 26) *But the helper, the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in my name...* [Notice-] *it will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I have said to you.* Here is how the Holy Spirit works in the human mind. It will teach people things and bring to people's minds things needing to be remembered. The word 'teach' in the Greek means to teach with the calculation of increasing the understanding and shaping the will of the pupil.

How does this work? First, it allows those who have the Holy Spirit to understand the Bible. Once individuals have repented of their sins, been baptized and received the laying on of hands, as they study the Bible, a deeper understanding of it is developed. Biblical topics not understood will be understood through the Holy Spirit working in the mind.

Notice also that, *'the Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all things that I have said'*. Christ specifically says the Holy Spirit works as a reminder. Human beings are human beings. Human beings forget things. The word remembrance in the Greek means to remind quietly, to suggest to one's own memory.

It would not be uncommon going through these 'restored truth bible studies' to find yourself saying: 'Oh, I remember that!' The mind can be flooded with a number of thoughts and scriptures in regard to various biblical truths which have not studied in a long time. The Holy Spirit is behind bringing these thoughts to remembrance. Biblical topics which have not been considered is also the work of the Holy Spirit. Christ said the Holy Spirit works to teach and bring to remembrance biblical truth to the minds of those who have the Holy Spirit abiding in them.

John 15:26 says; *But when the helper comes, which I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, that one will testify of me.* Testify means to be a witness, to testify, or give evidence. When the Holy Spirit is working in a person and God's truth is being followed, this evidence to others of the life, work and teaching of Jesus Christ. This cannot be done through a person without God's Holy Spirit being present.

These scriptures show the Holy Spirit works. John 16:13 *However when it, the Spirit of truth has come...*[Christ was speaking these words before being arrested. The Holy Spirit had not been given to the disciples yet] *it will guide you into all truth for it will not speak of its own authority but whatever it hears it will speak and it will tell you things to come. It will glorify me for it will take of what is mine and declare it to you...*

The Bible teaches a number of things about the Holy Spirit and how it works. First of all, it will guide, which simply means to show the way literally, or figuratively, to teach. It will guide into all truth, but it must be understood that to be guided into truth requires a willingness to be led. We must be willing to be shown the way. This occurs in conjunction with the study of God's Word. It will not speak of its own. It will absolutely not do anything that is wrong, or promote itself, or promote something that is not truth. Christ says: *It will speak and tell you things to come.*

The word 'speak' means to talk or utter words. The word 'tell' means to announce in detail. Does this automatically prove the Holy Spirit is a person? Does it mean when studying the Bible, a voice is going to whisper in the ear the meaning of the scriptures being studied? No, not at all. The Holy Spirit works to open the mind during the study of God's word, to bring understanding. It shows people things to come, or prophecies to unfold in the future. It is miraculous how this understanding happens. People can be studying a scripture that has been studied for many years and all the sudden say: 'Oh, I see that now. I understand that better.' Or in some cases: 'I have read this scripture for many, many years, and I never understood that before.' This is how the Holy Spirit works.

The Holy Spirit does not operate on its own. It operates as it is directed by God the Father and by Jesus Christ because it is what they are. The Holy Spirit is their power. They are spirit. They project that spirit to carry out their will and what they want done. In order for the Holy Spirit to teach and guide, bring things to remembrance and show things to come, requires a strong foundation in God's Word. 2 Tim. 3:16 Paul says to Timothy – *All scripture is given by inspiration of God...[How does God inspire? Through His Spirit] and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...[For what purpose?] (vs 17) That the man of God...[Of course, Paul is speaking to Timothy, minister to minister, but this also applies to each member of God's Church] that the man of God may be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work.* How is good work done? It is a combination of having God's Spirit, knowing what God's Word says and doing what God's Word says.

Notice what Paul says about the Holy Spirit in Rom. 8:13; *If you live according to the flesh you will die...*[What does living according to the flesh mean? Go to Galatians 5 and read about the works of the flesh, drunkenness, adultery, fornication, envy, greed. These behaviors all promote the self, serving the selfish desires of human beings, always at the expense of other people] *If you live according to the flesh you will die: but if you live by the spirit and you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live...* [This deals with overcoming] (vs 14) *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.*

The word 'led' means to lead, to bring. In other words, God's people have to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. This is not something for people to operate on our own and say: 'yes, this is what I am going to do, and that is what I am going to do.' God's people follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Think about it. Christ said the Holy Spirit will teach; the

Holy Spirit will guide; the Holy Spirit will tell of things to come. But if people are not tuned in to the lead, they are not going to be led; they are not going to be guided; and they are not going to be taught.

As individuals, being led by the Holy Spirit, instead of immediately jumping to justification of doing wrong, people with the Holy Spirit are going to take a step back and say: 'maybe there is something here I need to look at.' Ministers are human beings. They can be wrong, but imperfection doesn't disqualify them as God's ministers. A true minister, when he sees he is wrong, is going to correct his mistake. God didn't promise us an easy time in His Church.

If you have confronted ministers with the truth of a situation, and they tell you things you know contradict the scriptures, it doesn't change the truth; it doesn't change God's purpose; it doesn't change God's plan. You just need to know how to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit and go forward.

Paul sums up the internal conflict that takes place in the mind between the Spirit of God and the spirit of the flesh or the spirit of lust, or the spirit of carnality. In Gal. 5:16; *I say then, walk in the Spirit...*[The word 'walk' refers to how to live, how people are to conduct themselves, how to interact with other people based on the Bible] *Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (vs 17) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit. These are contrary to one another...* [The Spirit of God cannot be mixed with the spirit of carnality or the spirit of the flesh; these war against each other. The challenge before the members of the Church of God, is to eventually gain victory over carnality using the Spirit of God, which many times means doing things the human mind doesn't want to do, or doing things that are difficult to do in this world] *These are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish.* This conflict goes back to what Paul said in Romans 7: 'Those things I want to do I don't do. Those things I don't want to do, that I do.' This is the battle those with God's Spirit have living in Satan's world, combatting Satan's nature.

God's Spirit operates in the mind pointing the way God expects people to live. It provides necessary help in understanding vital information and prophetic events yet to come. It brings to the mind elements of God's Truth, which may have temporarily been forgotten. This makes it critical to pay attention to the direction the Holy Spirit is pointing out. The only way to know that direction is by knowing what God's Word says and doing what God's Word says.

It is important to know what the Holy Spirit is not. The Holy Spirit is not a person as Cardinal Gibbons said on page 1 of his book *Faith of Our Fathers*:

*In this One, God, there are three distinct **persons**: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, who are perfectly equal to each other.*

In the first Bible study of this series, you read there is an authority within the God family: God the Father, Jesus Christ, and it's through the power of the Holy Spirit they work.

In the catechism of the Catholic Church, section 244, it says:

*The eternal origin of the Holy Spirit is revealed in his mission in time. The Spirit is sent to the apostles and to the Church both by the Father in the name of the Son, and by the Son in person once he had returned to the Father. The sending of the **person** of the Spirit after Jesus' glorification reveals in its fullness the mystery of the Holy Trinity.*

Section 224 does not come close to the Bible in its explanation of the Holy Spirit.

Notice the Catholic Church describes the meaning of the day of Pentecost, in Section 731:

*On the day of Pentecost, when seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit manifested, given and communicated as a divine **person** in his fullness. Christ the Lord pours out the Spirit in abundance.*

In Section 3 of 732:

On that day (Referring to Pentecost.) the Holy Trinity is fully revealed. Since that day the kingdom announced by Christ has been open to those who believe in him. In the humility of the flesh and in faith they already share in the communion of the Holy Trinity. By his coming, which never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into the last days, the time of the Church, the kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated. We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We adore the indivisible Trinity who has saved us.

Finally, on page 65 notice what Cardinal Gibbons says concerning the Holy Spirit:

The church has authority from God to teach regarding faith and morals and in her teaching she is preserved from error by the special guidance of the Holy Ghost.

Is there any error in the teaching of these sections of the catechism as it relates to the Holy Spirit?

By examining all the epistles of Paul and his salutations to each group of people he was writing to, notice if he includes the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is a part of the Godhead, if it is perfectly equal with God, shouldn't the Apostle Paul have included in the salutation of each epistle? Start with the book of Romans.

Rom. 1:7 *To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Cor. 1:2 *To the Church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, both theirs and ours. (vs 3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Cor. 1:1 *To the Church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia. (vs 2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Gal. 1:2 *To the churches of Galatia. (vs 3) Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 4) Who gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil age according to the will of our God and Father.*

Eph. 1:1 *To the saints who are in Ephesus and faithful in Christ Jesus. (vs 2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*

Phil.1:1 *To all the saints in Christ who are in Philippi with the bishops and deacons. (vs 2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Col. 1:2 *To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colossae: Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 3) We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.*

1 Thes. 1:1 *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the Church of the Thessalonians who are in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 2) We give thanks to God always for you all making mention of you in our prayers.*

2 Thes. 1:1 *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 3) We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other*

1 Tim. 1:1 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ our Lord. (vs 2) To Timothy, my own son in the faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2 Tim. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus. (vs 2) *To Timothy, a beloved son, grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (vs 3) I thank God, whom I serve with pure conscience as my forefathers did that without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day.*

Titus 1:4 *To Titus, a true son in our common faith grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Phi. 1:1 *To Philemon our beloved and fellow-laborer. (vs 3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (vs 4) I thank my God making mention of you always in my prayers.*

If the Holy Spirit is part of the godhead, then the Apostle Paul showed great disrespect by not including the Holy Spirit in his salutations to the brethren of God's Church.

How was error about the Holy Spirit brought into the Church of God after the death of Mr. Armstrong? Here is an excerpt from a speech given by a leading Evangelist in the WCG and one of the telecast presenters following Mr. Armstrong's death. This speech was given in February 1991 during a seminar at Trinity Evangelical Divinity Seminary. Read carefully and note the subtlety of Satan the Devil's hand. This Evangelist stated in his speech:

What I will do is try to take you through some of the more important changes that have occurred in the last four or five years. I think sitting down and exploring some of these things in an open environment, which I certainly had the feeling yesterday we were in, is a very encouraging development.

So we are here for two reasons: to open a dialog with other major religious groups, and to hopefully clear up some of the misconceptions that exist.

Shortly after Herbert Armstrong's death Joseph Tkach organized the senior group of WCG ministers into a doctrinal review team. I sit on that panel along with a number of others and we have been extensively examining all of the major beliefs of the church. That's a process that will go on for many months to come.

The WCG has made all biblical truths an indispensable part of its teaching, including the teaching that God is one, but not the specific way God is one which is entirely a philosophical matter. It teaches the full divinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; but it does not argue whether God is an essential personal, or a super-personal being in the way these terms are used by theologians. The church highly respects the need for deeper theological work. It believes that a full and accurate statement on the nature of God would be a major achievement in the history of dogmatic; but in the meantime, it defers to experts whose task it is to dissect, analyze, and define what normally lies beyond the resources of the vast majority of believers.

In other words, this evangelist said the leadership of the WCG was going to defer to the scholars and not the Bible about the Godhead. What this Evangelist reveals in this speech is that Satan the devil wasted no time in infiltrating God's Church with false doctrine about who and what God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit are. 1986, five years before this speech was given was the year Mr. Armstrong died. What this reveals is the swiftness by which Satan the Devil infiltrated and began attacking the restored true doctrines God had put back into His Church through Mr. Armstrong. It also explains why this Evangelist viewed the Trinity as a peripheral issue. He even said so in his speech.

Here are some excerpts from an interview done by the late Dr. D. James Kennedy with Philip Arne concerning changes in the WCG in 1993. The text of this interview is as follows: (Again, these are excerpts.)

In our opinion the leadership of the WCG, or the Worldwide Church of God, is caught between a rock and a hard place. (They are going to be discussing the Trinity changes) Many of their top ministers are attending bible schools outside the church and are being exposed to orthodox theology. They are bringing these doctrines, these new doctrinal understandings, back into the church and actually changing church doctrine. The doctrine of Who God Is, the doctrine of Born Again, these have been changed to conform more with orthodox Christian thinking.

These were not really new doctrines brought into God's Church, were they? These doctrines were the same old false teachings people have been taught for thousands of years.

We applaud them for their research and their understanding, but at the same time to make such a drastic change, they are concerned they are going to lose a lot of members because these are 180° opposite of what they have always taught. So they are actually telling the members that they are not making any changes whatsoever but that they are just explaining old doctrines in a different way. Talking about the Holy Spirit they said that the Holy Spirit is divine, the Holy Spirit is divinity. Now when you say that, you paint yourself into a corner. There is no way of saying that the Holy Spirit is deity without saying at the same time that the Holy Spirit is everything that the Father is and everything that the Son is. (Which is exactly what Cardinal Gibbons says) So they have accepted the Trinity doctrine even though for the sake of their membership they will not actually use the term trinity. So it is a major doctrinal shift.

What do you think about that? Does this enlighten your eyes to how Satan works? Does it aggravate you to be attacked in this way? Does it make you mad these ministers are trying to deny you salvation? Well, it should!!! Do you realize a lot of these top ministers serving on this doctrinal committee, examining extensively the doctrinal teachings of God's Church, are now mixed in with all the splinter groups that came out of the WCG?

Do you know who your ministers are? Do you understand what they teach? Is their teaching consistent with God's Word? If not, why are you still in their congregation?

God's people have to be very certain about what they believe, why they believe it, and be capable to explain it at the drop of a hat. Can you do this? If not, you need to get busy studying so you can.

Every member of God's Church needs to be able to explain God's restored truths because each member has studied the Bible, knows what the Bible says, and can communicate the knowledge in the Bible. This is how well these restored truths need to be known. This is how well these truths need to be understood. This is how well you need to be able to explain these truths. You very well could find yourself in a situation where you don't have access to a Bible. What are you going to do then?

If you know your Bible, and thoroughly understand what your Bible says, then you cannot ever be deceived by slick-talking ministers, like the evangelist quoted earlier, and the rest of the cadre of ministers who came out of the WCG. Satan was effective in using them to lie and cover up his false narratives to God's people. Do you see the seriousness in knowing what your Bible says and following it? THIS is why God gives the Holy Spirit, so that you can understand, so that you can grow, so you can make change, so you can have confidence, so you can act with certainty, so you can be a begotten son of God now in this physical life and full member of the God family at the sound of 7th trumpet. You have to develop and take on these characteristics NOW!

When you have proven faithful to God's Truth by enduring to the end, when 7th trumpet is blown you will be changed and you will become spirit just like God and Jesus Christ are spirit. Then you will have the responsibility of teaching others God's Truth so they too can receive the Holy Spirit and become members of God's family. This also ties in with the meaning Feast of Pentecost, which pictures the pouring out of the Holy Spirit to people in the millennium (Joel 2:28-29). Peter talks about this during his first sermon in Acts 2.

Peter quoting Joel in Acts 2:16 says; *This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel. (vs 17) And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh... [Notice that – all flesh] Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall see dreams. (vs 18) And on my men-servants and on my maid-servants I will pour out my Spirit in those days and they shall prophesy.*

Mr. Armstrong was very clear in his understanding of the Holy Spirit, writing on page 133 of his book *The Incredible Human Potential*:

The Holy Spirit will open one's mind to understand God's instruction on how to live, but it will not force one to live God's way - it will not pull or push one. Each Christian must take his own initiative, though God's Spirit will give him help, faith and power. (You need have to take the initiative) But it is "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God".