

# WHAT THE SPIRIT DOES

*"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."*

## 1. Initial Saving: Union and it's blessings

### a) Union with Christ<sup>1</sup>

- Christ in us: 2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realise this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" Cf. Romans 8:10; Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20.
- Us in Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:30; Romans 8:1.
- Marriage, vine, body, temple.
- Baptism in/with the Spirit:
  - By Jesus: Mark 1:8 "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit"
  - 1 Corinthians 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."
  - John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. because I live you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you".
  - Fellowship with the Father and the Son: 2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all". Cf. Philippians 2:1

### b) Blessings in Christ

- Born again: Titus 3:5 "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" Cf. John 3; Romans 8:15
- Makes alive: Galatians 5:25; 6:8; 2 Corinthians 3:6; John 6:63; Romans 8:11.
- Sanctification: 1 Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God". Cf. Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2.
- Justification: 1 Corinthians 6:11
- Washes us: 1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5
- Heart work: Romans 2:29 (circumcised); 2 Corinthians 3:3 (written on)
- Possesses us (seal + downpayment): Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5

### c) Communicates who God is for us in Christ: Romans 5:5 (and see below)

## 2. Growing Up Into Christ

- ### a) Transformation into Christ's image: 2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" cf. Romans 8:29

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:3 "Therefore I am informing you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit." cf. 1 John 4:2-6

- b) Killing sin:
  - Romans 8:13 "for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
  - Colossians 3:5 "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you"
- c) Living life:
  - Love Romans 15:30
  - Fruit generally Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
  - Joy 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (even in suffering)
- d) Growing up together
  - In unity: Ephesians 4:3
  - Into a temple: Ephesians 2:22
  - Establishing elders: Acts 20:28

### 3. Empowering

- a) Mission:
  - Boldness for witness:
    - Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
    - cf. Acts 4:31; Luke 24:49;
  - Words for witness: Matthew 10:20; Mark 13:11
  - Miracles for witness: Hebrews 2
  - Leads the church in mission (Acts 13:2)
  - Courage + joy in suffering: 1 Thessalonians 1:6
  - Filled with the Spirit: Acts
- b) Service
  - Giving gifts 1 Corinthians 12:
    - For others: 1 Corinthians 12:7
    - Given by the Spirit according to his will: 1 Corinthians 12:11
    - Empowered by the Spirit: 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:11; 2 Timothy 1:14 (guarding the gospel); 1 Peter 1:12 (preaching); Romans 15:19 (Paul's ministry)
    - For the glory of God (1 Peter 4:11)
    - Ubiquitous
    - Diverse
    - Speaking + Serving (1 Peter 4:10-11)
  - Prophecy in the broad Joel 2 sense: cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:18-20; 1 Corinthians 12
- c) Life of faith
  - Help: Philippians 1:19
  - Prayer: Romans 8:26-27
  - Thankfulness + praise: Ephesians 5:18
  - Hope: Romans 15:13

#### 4. Revelation: Instructing/revealing/teaching/rebuking/speaking

- a) Convicting/exposing/rebuking/testifying: John 16:8 (about the truth)
- b) Teaching: 1 Corinthians 2:10-12
- c) knowledge of the gospel
  - Ephesians 3:4-5
  - 1 Corinthians 1:10-14
  - Ephesians 1:16-19
  - Ephesians 3:14-19 cf. Galatians 3 "supplies the Spirit to you"; Luke 11:13
- d) knowledge of God's love: Romans 5:5
- e) empowering us to know Christ more deeply: Ephesians 3:14-21
- f) Producing scripture: 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Peter 1:21
- g) speaking through scripture now: Hebrews 3:7 (cf. 1 Timothy 4:1)
- h) bears witness to us through scripture: Hebrews 10:15
- i) through words of Jesus: Revelation 2:7
- j) Christ oriented: John 16:14 (glorifying) cf. 1 John 5:6; John 15:26 (testifying)
- k) Bears witness that we are God's children: Romans 8:16
- l) Communicates to us that we God dwells in us and we in God: 1 John 3:24-4:13

#### 5. Guidance

- a) Impression(?): Acts 15:28 "it seemed good to us and to the Holy Spirit"
- b) Directing: Acts 16:6-7 "And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they came up to Mysia, they attempted to go up to Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them".
- c) Direct speech - Acts 8:29 (Philip); 10:19; 11:12 (Peter); 13:2 (Church in Antioch)
- d) Quote: "does it seem likely that the only place that addresses..." J.D. Greear.
- e) The broad and the specific

## RECOGNISING THE SPIRIT

### 1. How is the Spirit Experienced: His Means

- f) Means in Revealing
  - Through scripture: Ephesians 6:17
    - inseparable op
    - distinction (the word is not the Spirit)
  - Through nature: Acts 17; Psalm 19; Romans 1
  - Through the body of Christ
    - preaching (1 Peter 1)
    - truth-ing in love (Colossians 3:16)
    - 'prophecy'
    - song
  - Through angels + dreams/visions
  - Through prayer: Philippians 1:19
  - General (moral)
    - Examples

- Common
- Clear
- Necessary
- Specific (a-moral)

SUMMARY: God is revealing himself, what he has done, is doing, and will for us in Christ, what he plans to do in the future and how he wants us to respond to all that. And we are listeners who are called to respond appropriately.

g) Gifting

- Immediately according to his will: 1 Corinthians 12

h) Empowering

- Instantaneous and direct: 1 Peter 4:11;
- The interior phenomena of transformation: Cf. Revealing.

## 2. How is the Spirit Experienced: Our Reception

a) In thoughts (engaged minds)

b) In Feelings or 'promptings' (engaged hearts)

- varying degrees of 'mystery'

- Intrinsic

- Joy (Galatians 5:22)
- Peace (Galatians 5:22)
- Encouragement (Philippians 2:1)
- Conviction
- Love (Galatians 5:22)

- Fallen

- aim for the obvious ones - surely it's wise to bank our lives on what is most sure.

- Shaped

- all 'prompting' not 'directly' effected by the written word must be checked against the written apostolic word.
- we mustn't equate the Spirit's work with the word, and we must not separate it from the word.

c) In actual decisions made (instantaneous and retrospective)

## 3. Guidelines for Accurate Recognition (diagram)

a) Scripture (objective and inspired): 1 John 4:6

b) Fruit (observable): 1 John 4:7-13; Galatians 5:22

c) Confession (observable): 1 John 4:2

d) Church (communal)

e) History (historical)

f) Inseparable operations (doctrinal)

g) Experiential

h) Tiers of authority: Galatians 1 "if an angel comes..."