

TEST LESSON THREE, ANSWERS

- 1, Word of God**
- 2, God**
- 3, Son, Jesus Christ**
- 4, Jesus Christ**
- 5, A perfect sacrifice**
- 6, follow him with their whole heart**
- 7, Change**
- 8, A broken repentant heart**
- 9, Get you to give up and fall away**
- 10, Stay in Jesus**
- 11, The very reason for living**
- 12, Jesus Christ**
- 13, Iniquities of us all**
- 14, Death**
- 15, Kingdom of God**
- 16, Water and of the Spirit**
- 17, Wind**
- 18, Pureth it, that it may bring forth more fruit**
- 19, Bringeth forth mush fruit**
- 20, He is cast forth, as a branch and is withered**

SECTION # 1

BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY

LESSON # 4

HOLY GHOST

In this chapter of the Bible Study, we are going to study about the HOLY GHOST. The HOLY GHOST is the most wonderful person you are going to meet outside of JESUS CHRIST and the FATHER (LORD GOD JEHOVAH). He has a very meek, timid personality. I like to refer to him as a person, because you can have such an intimate relationship with him.

Now there are certain things that the HOLY GHOST likes and certain things that he does not like, and you can hurt him, or you can make him happy, or you can grieve him or please him.

The first thing that we need to find out, is who he is. Let us establish that he is a real deity. He is part of the Trinity Godhead, which consists of the Father, the Son (The Word), and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

1 John 5-7 "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

The scripture clearly illustrates that there are three separate deities in heaven.

Now, there are some that teach that there is only one, and this is true to a certain extent, but it is not the total truth. I am part of a family, and that family is operational as one, we agree as one, but we are still totally different individuals. My family consists of myself, my wife, and my children. We three are one, as we belong to one family. But we are still individuals, with individual strengths and jobs in our household. The same is true in heaven, one, yet three. GOD the Father, GOD the Son, GOD the HOLY GHOST.

We want to establish what the job of the HOLY GHOST is. Open your bibles to

Genesis 1: 1-2; "In the beginning God created the heaven and earth. And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

If you notice verse 2, it says that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Every time the Father spoke words of creation, it put the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) into action. The Holy Ghost came to carry out God's words, to take action according to his commands. In Genesis 1:3, it says that in the beginning, God commanded that there be light, and the Holy Ghost went into action and there was light. The Holy Ghost is the one who carries out the commands of God; or according to the Word, is the executor of the Power of God.

As we look back into the Old Testament, anytime the anointing is mentioned as coming upon someone, the Word was talking about the Holy Ghost. In the book of

We read a story about a man by the name of Gideon. This man was the least among his brethren, but when the Spirit of God came upon him, he rose up and was used to bring a great victory to God's people. Then in

We read of a man by the name of Samson, who when the Spirit of God came upon him, gained the strength of many men.

Judges 15:14-15; "And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith."

How did these men accomplish these great deeds? They did it by the power of the HOLY GHOST.

All through the Old Testament there are examples of the HOLY GHOST in the lives of men and women that served GOD. He is the executor of the power of GOD!

Let's look at some of the examples of the works of the HOLY GHOST in the New Testament.

Acts 4: 31-33; "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken there they were (assembled together) and they were all filled with the HOLY GHOST, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with

great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."

We learn from these scriptures that when the Holy Ghost comes, he will shake us, give us boldness, bring unity, give us power to witness to others, and bring grace.

The Holy Ghost has a job that is so important to God, that God said through his Son that every sin would be forgiven, except blaspheming the Holy Ghost.

We need to give him reverence. Open your bible to
Acts 5: 1-11; "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie, to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

See how powerful the Holy Spirit is. Note that in the scripture it first said Satan filled their hearts to lie to the Holy Spirit, but then later in verse 4, it said they had not lied to men, but unto God. This is another clear indication of how the Holy Ghost and God are separate. Now we know that God is sitting on the throne in heaven, so when these people lied, in reality what they did was blasphemy the Holy Ghost.

To understand what blaspheming the Holy Ghost means let us look at

Matthew 12:30-32 'He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. 31. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

The scripture clearly gives the meaning of the word blasphemy, in verse 32 it says to speak against the Holy Ghost. Now, look at verse 30, to speak against, along with the act or intent of tearing down the work that the Holy Ghost is doing is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. So when somebody comes against the work that the Holy Ghost is doing, with intent to tear down or destroy that work, he hath blasphemed the Holy Ghost.

The reason that Ananias and Sapphira were killed was not only because they had lied, but also because they blasphemed the Holy Ghost. If we study the previous chapter in Acts, you can see what the will of the Holy Ghost was. The move of the Holy Ghost in those days was to establish the new church, and to establish the principles of the new church. In the Old Testament, the people would give offerings to the church, offerings such as livestock, vegetables, grains and fruits, to meet the needs of the priest. But now that the Holy Spirit was establishing the new church, not only did the priest have needs, but also many people did too. Jesus had taught the people to love others as themselves. So as the church began to grow, there were many needs among the people. The move of the Spirit was to meet these needs, the elderly, the widowers, the orphans, and many others who had come to know Christ had needs. Their only means of support was through the church. The move of the spirit was for those who had abundance to bring and give to the church, so that the needs of the people could be met.

So when Ananias and Sapphira held back part of the money and lied about it, in reality, they were coming against the move of the Holy Ghost. Even though they may not have spoken against the Holy Ghost, in their hearts they had blasphemed the Holy Ghost. Blaspheming the Holy Ghost is an action of the heart. It is when someone despises God in their heart. Then their deeds and word shows this! Only God know when someone has come to that place, because he knows the heart! The Holy Ghost is the executor of the power of God, he can bring life or death.

So God gave permission to the Holy Ghost to kill these people for coming against the anointing. People need to be aware that when they come against the Holy Ghost, the move of the Spirit, or against God's anointed men or women, they are coming against God. The bible clearly says in,

1 Chronicles 16:22; "...touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." Jesus said in

Luke 10:16; "He that heareth you heareth me, and he that despiseth you despiseth me, and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me."

He that despises God is walking on dangerous ground.

Hebrews 10: 29-30; "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, where with he was sanctified, and unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord."

Now I must bring to your attention one of the weapons that the enemy uses against many people. We have been talking about blaspheming the Holy Ghost when the Spirit of God is drawing someone to come to Christ. The Devil will tell them that they cannot be saved, because they have blasphemed the Holy Ghost, or that their sins are too many, or too bad. This is a lie, if a person has blasphemed the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit will not draw that person to Christ. John 6:44 No man can come unto me except the Father which hath sent me draw him.)

If a person has blasphemed the Holy Ghost there will be no tugging at their heart, they will have no desire for the things of God. The Spirit of God will not draw them, but just the opposite, he will turn them over to the enemy to be destroyed.

The Holy Ghost is not someone to play with, but is someone to fear and reverence.

Let us now study the life of Jesus Christ, Jesus was just an ordinary man like any other, he lived the life of a carpenter. He did no miracles until after he received the Holy Ghost. We read the account of Jesus receiving the Holy Ghost in

Matt 3:16-17; "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straight way out of the water. And lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

As soon as Jesus was filled, a change took place in his life, he was no longer an ordinary carpenter

The Spirit began to immediately lead him and teach him.

Matt 4:1-2; "Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered."

The first thing that the Spirit began to teach him was to be led by the Spirit. The second thing that the Spirit began to teach him was to crucify and deny self. The third thing was to resist temptation and stand in faith. Jesus had received power over the desires of his flesh, and also the power to resist temptation. Jesus was in the wilderness fasting and praying for forty days, and he learned a very valuable lesson in the desert. He learned how to walk in total obedience to the leadership of the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 5: 8; "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." He thus gave the Holy Ghost total control of his life.

The only way we can walk in the fullness of the power of the Holy Ghost, is to learn to be totally obedient to his leading. What the Holy Ghost leads you to do is God's will for your life. When we are disobedient to the leading of the Holy Ghost, we are being disobedient to God.

Romans 8:14; "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

We must learn to be obedient to the leadership of the Holy Ghost, or we will never accomplish what God wants us to.

Look at the results of what happened to Jesus when he learned this valuable lesson. (Note that it only took Jesus forty days to learn total obedience.)

When he returned to Galilee, he had been transformed into a devil stomping, blind eyes opening, leper cleansing, gospel-preaching powerhouse for God!

Luke 4:14; "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit."

Luke 4:40-41; "Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ."

When you get full of the Holy Ghost, the executor of the power of God comes to live in you.

You have the most powerful source of power in the universe living within you. You have the ability to bring life, or to destroy. You have the power to tear down the devil's kingdom in you. God told his prophet in

Jeremiah 1:10; "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant."

This is the ability that God gives us when we get full of the Holy Ghost and do things according to the leadership of the spirit.

Another example of how God will use us is found in

Luke 4:18-19; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captive, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

The Holy Ghost will give you the ability to accomplish what God has called you to do

Just before Jesus descended into heaven he gave this command,

Mark 16:15-18; "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Before they could accomplish these commands, something had to happen in them.

Luke 24:49; "And, behold I send the promise (Holy Ghost) of my father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:8; "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:"

When you receive the Holy Ghost you receive the power to go forth and to bring life to many, power to destroy the works of the devil. The executor of the power of God lives in you.

Let us now look at another characteristic of the Holy Ghost's personality, not only is he the executor of God's power, but he is also the comforter.

He has a very meek, timid, loving and caring personality. When Jesus was here on the earth he saw the struggles that man faced. He had seen the trials, tribulations, and the temptations that we face every day. Jesus himself faced temptations and hardships, and he saw that we needed assurance, encouragement and comfort. Jesus was the comforter when he was here but he knew that he would be leaving to go back to the Father. So Jesus made plans to give us another comforter, the Holy Ghost.

John 14:16-18; "And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that may abide with you forever. 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. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."

So the Holy Ghost comes to live in us so he can help and comfort us when we have trials and tribulations. He has been sent to help us, when we are hurting he will comfort us, encourage us, and strengthen us. What a wonderful thought, that he will never leave us, but will be with us through everything. You can go to God, when nobody understands, and God will comfort you through the Holy Ghost.

Another thing that I want to point out, is what the Word says in John 14:17. It says that the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of truth. Now we know that there is great error in the world because the prince of this world, (Satan), is the spirit of error. I heard

somewhere that there are over five thousand different religions beside Christianity. Many people are deceived by the devil. Look at

2 Timothy 3:13; "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

The reason why so many people are so deceived and being deceived is because they don't have the Spirit of Truth abiding in them. It says in

John 16:13; "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:"

The Holy Ghost will protect you from being deceived.

You can trust the Spirit of truth to keep you from error, because God has given us the Holy Ghost to keep us on the path of truth. So when you hear or see something that is not of God, something that is false and does not line up with the Word or the will of God, the Spirit of truth will be there to quicken to you what the truth or will of God is. You will get a check in your Spirit, which the bible also refers to as an auction of the Spirit. If you will pay attention to what the Holy Ghost is teaching and telling you, you will not be deceived. Another way the Spirit of truth helps to keep us from deception is he teaches us and gives us revelation of Gods Word.

John 2:27; "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." John 14:26; "He shall teach you all things."

And when the Holy Ghost teaches you, there is no error. The Spirit of truth shall give you wisdom and knowledge concerning the things of God. He will also reveal the Spiritual things of God to you.

Revealing the deep things of God to us,

Isaiah 28:9-10; "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

When knowledge and wisdom is taught to you by the Spirit of truth, confidence, assurance and peace comes.

John 14:27; "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:"

When the Holy Ghost comes into your life and you gain knowledge and wisdom, revelation of God and of God's Word. Faith comes alive in you, and the assurance that God has everything under control in your life brings peace.

Let us now look at another area of Christ's ministry.

John 15:26; "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"

The Holy Ghost has such a humble personality, that he will never seek to be exalted, but he will always lift up, testify, exalt and speak the words that Jesus says. Have you ever noticed that when the Holy Spirit is moving in a church service, that the one thing that you feel like doing more than anything else is to worship God? You want to give glory to God, and lift up Jesus.

I mentioned this earlier, the Holy Ghost has been sent to teach us God's Word.

John 14:26; "...he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

When you have trials, the Holy Ghost will keep you by bringing back to your remembrance what he has taught you. He will quicken to your mind the words to guide you so that you will know what choices to make. We will all face times when we will have to make decisions, and the Holy Spirit will be with you to help you make the right decisions. He will bring back to your remembrance the Word, and by doing so, guides your footsteps.

Romans 8:14; "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

He is the one that will give you direction in your life, and we must allow him to guide us and lead us. Another way that the Holy Spirit guides us or keeps us is to put our feet on the right path, by reproofing us of things in our lives

When we first come to Christ, there are many things in our lives that are not pleasing to him, but Jesus will pick us up and put us in him. He will pick us up with all of our filth, uncleanness and habits, and then he will begin to work on us to mold us into his image. This consists of him reproofing and correcting us by the Holy Ghost. This does not always feel good.

Hebrews 12:5-6; "...My son, despise not thou the chastening, (the correcting) of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

The Holy Ghost is always gentle in his dealings with us, as he deals with us about things in our lives that are hindering him from flowing through us. Many times there will be circumstances and situations where we will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He will guide you by a feeling, or by unction, or sometimes he will speak to you in a still small voice, and warn us to get away.

Something may come on television, and the Spirit of God will give you a feeling that it is not right for you to view. This is the Spirit guiding you. Or you may start to do something, and the Spirit will reprove you. Always pay attention to the leading of the Spirit. Look now at

John 16:8-11; "And when he is come, he (the Holy Ghost) will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more. Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

The Holy Ghost will reprove us of doubt and unbelief, and of all the sin in our lives.

He will reprove us of righteousness. What the scripture is saying, is that Jesus came and lived a holy righteous life, then he ascended into heaven were the Father is, proving to us that we can also live a holy life. We have no excuse why we can not serve God in holiness and righteousness, if Jesus did it, so can we.

Of judgment, Satan knows his doom, he knows that there will come a day that he will be cast into the lake of fire. And people are without excuses, because they have heard the gospel.

The Bible says that people are ignorant of the fact that the Gospel is the Word of God, and those people know that there is a heaven and a hell.

The love of God has appeared unto all men, therefore they are without excuse. Don't make excuses as to why you cannot live a holy life, if you step out of line he will reprove you. Jesus sent us a helper to keep us.

Proverbs 2:8; "He keepeth the paths of judgment, preserveth the way of his saints."

The way he often does that is by correcting us sometimes.

I mentioned earlier in the chapter that there were some things that grieve or hurt the Holy Ghost, and there are some things that please him. You must always remember he is a gentle dove, he is timid, meek, and kind. When Jesus was baptized,

God chose to picture the Holy Ghost as a dove, a dove that came to light upon Jesus. The reason the Holy Ghost came and lit on Jesus, was because he was worthy. God proved this when he made the statement:

"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

How do we walk worthy, what pleases the Holy Ghost? Lets look at

Ephesians 4:1-3; "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

It is very clear that what pleases the Spirit is walking in meekness, humility, and love, one to another. Also in *verse 12; "...edifying of the body, building up of the body"*, not walking in craftiness or deceit. Speaking the truth, putting off the old conversation, which is corrupt. To please him you must learn to walk in the Spirit, and not in the flesh, you must be obedient to the leading of the Spirit, which is reaching out to others in the love of Jesus.

Let us quickly review; lying, wrath, giving place to the devil, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness and unforgiveness, anger, clamour and arguing, evil speaking against others, malice and wickedness all grieve the Holy Ghost. If you notice that most of these are things that we do toward other people, and God is very concerned how we treat other people. We must always walk in love.

When we do things to hurt or harm others, or walk in disobedience to Gods commandment, or are rebellious to the leading of the Spirit, this grieves the Holy Spirit.

Also, when we reject the Holy Ghost, and we push him away and don't let him do what he wants to, when we partake of the sinful things of the world and do things that we are not supposed to, these grieve him too. Not resisting evil or temptations, yielding to the devil, watching filth on the television, looking at magazines you're not supposed to, all grieves the Holy Spirit. On the other hand yielding your self to God and helping others pleases him.

So let us learn to walk in humility and love, not seeking to please ourselves, but seeking to please God in everything we do. When we are kind one to another and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, this pleases the Holy Ghost.

Now we come to a question that many people have asked, who may receive the Holy Ghost, may I receive it? The answer to these questions is found in

Acts 2: 38-39; "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

So then, who may receive the Holy Ghost, those that have obtained salvation? Once you come to Jesus and repent of your sins, you may receive the Holy Ghost. Jesus said in

Matthew 5:6; "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteous: for they shall be filled."

To receive the Holy Ghost you must get hungry and thirsty, desirous of knowledge, longing for it more than anything else.

Luke 24:49; "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

So we learn from the scriptures that it is the will of God for all believers to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Faith is believing that God will fulfill his promises to you. And God has promised to fill you, so we must believe that he will fill us if we ask him to.

But receiving the Holy Ghost is a little bit more than that, yes we have to believe, yes we have to have faith that God wants to fill us, but to receive the Holy Ghost, you must yield yourself to him. I asked the Lord when I was studying, what would be a good example of being filled with the Holy Ghost? I saw in a vision a sponge placed into water, it soaked up the water until it was completely saturated. This is the way we must become to obtain what God wants to give us. We must become so thirsty that we are like that dry sponges, longing for the things of God. We must wait patiently, persistently, and God will fill you! There is a river flowing from the throne of God out to his people, the bible says, whosoever will, let him come and drink of the waters of life. God wants to fill you!

There is certain evidence of being filled with the Holy Ghost, when the Holy Ghost comes into you certain characteristics will be evident. One of them is the ability to live a godly life.

Romans 8:11-13; "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are not

debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

The word mortify in verse 13 means to change, to control, to bring into captivity. We through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the flesh. We through the Holy Ghost control fleshly desires and lusts.

Before you came to Christ you were controlled by the desires and lusts of your flesh, but now that you have been filled, you are controlled and governed by the Spirit of God. The Holy Ghost gives you the strength to resist the devil, temptations and the desires of the flesh. How are you strengthened to live a godly life, through the Holy Ghost. When you receive the Holy Ghost and he comes to live inside of you, he brings with him the nature of God, we obtain God's characteristics. Then the attributes of God will become evident in our lives. This means that the way God is, will become the way we will be. The Bible calls these "Fruits of the Spirit", which is evidence of being filled with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23; "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:" These fruits or characteristics of the Spirit will help us to deal with other people. When the enemy comes against you, the nature of God will help you to resist temptation.

We must realize that without God being in us, we would not have the ability to stand for him. Jesus said without me you can do nothing. So God has given us his Spirit so we can be strong!

Ephesians 3:16; "To be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man:" Also in ***James 4:7; "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."***

So why are some people so weak spiritually? Because they are not abiding in the Holy Ghost, they are not in fellowship with him.

They aren't submitting themselves to God. We do not stand in our own strength, the only way you can live a godly life is to abide in him.

Another characteristic that the Holy Ghost gives us is boldness. I mentioned this earlier in the chapter, when you get full of the Holy Ghost you will have no problem testifying and witnessing to others about Jesus.

Acts 1:8; "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me unto the uttermost part of the earth."

You will have a boldness you never thought possible, and you will speak with power. You will have the ability to speak the Word of God with convicting power, reproving, correcting, encouraging, and comforting others.

As you speak the truth of God's Word, it will flow from you, because the Spirit of Truth is living in you. The Apostle Peter denied Jesus, but once he was filled with the Holy Ghost, he stood up and preached the Word of God with boldness, and three thousand came to Christ.

I have had many people tell me that they do not know what God's will is for their lives.

This is a part of the Holy Ghost's job, to reveal God's will for our lives. God does not want us to walk around in darkness, because we are the children of light. How can we know how to please God if we don't know what he wants us to do. Look at

Isaiah 45:11; "Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons..." Psalm 23:3; "...he leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

The Holy Ghost will lead and guide you if you will yield yourself to him, he will reveal to you what God's will is for your life.

Zeal is also a characteristic you will receive when you are filled with the Holy Ghost.

God gives you the ambition, and the determination to accomplish what he leads us to do.

Daniel 11:32; "...but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."

They will do great things for God, and they won't become discouraged in the midst of opposition. The zeal of God will drive them to achieve great things for him.

When you get filled with the Holy Ghost, you also enter into a Supernatural rest you rest in God, for you know that you are in his hand.

Isaiah 28:11-12; "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing:"

The closer you get to God, the deeper you move into the Spirit, and the more you realize what an awesome powerful God he really is. You realize that he is able to take care of you no matter what. When you move into the Spirit, problems disappear, and those problems don't stress you out.

That is why we can rest because we are in him, and we cast all our cares on him. The Holy Ghost gives God's people rest, when you move into the deep things of the Spirit, your weary soul will be refreshed.

Now we are going to address one of the controversial issues that is in the church today. Do all that are filled with the Holy Ghost speak in tongues? We are going to look at four different people in the Bible.

First the mother of Jesus, the angel Gabriel spoke and told her,

Luke 1:35 "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:"

This is a good description of being filled with the Holy Ghost. This was evident when Mary went to see her cousin Elisabeth, the moment she greeted her, Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost flowed through Mary and into Elisabeth, so we have Mary and Elisabeth filled with the Holy Ghost.

We also have the husband of Elisabeth, Zacharias becoming filled with the Holy Ghost.

Luke 1: 67; "Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied."

Then we have the example of Jesus, who was also filled with Holy Ghost. In all four of these examples, not one time was it mentioned that they spoke in tongues. Let us look now at

Mark 16: 17; "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"

Many have taken this scripture and used it to refer to speaking in the Holy Ghost, (tongues). They say that all who believe and who are filled with the Holy Ghost will speak in these new tongues.

Because of a misunderstanding of this scripture, the enemy has used it as a stumbling block to many people. People, who as they sought to be filled with the Holy Ghost, who didn't speak in other tongues right away, the enemy brought doubt and unbelief into their hearts. He told them because they did not speak in other tongues, that they did not get filled, thus discouraging them.

This scripture means that a person will have a change in their conversation. In other words, where they use filthy and vile language, they would no longer talk that way.

Now there is evidence that when we are filled with the Holy Ghost, we can speak in tongues as the spirit gives utterance.

Acts 2: 1-4; "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."

So we have evidence of some that were filled with the Holy Ghost, who did not speak in tongues, and some who did! The difference is that not all receives the gift of tongues. Paul asked in

1 Corinthians 12: 28-31; "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."

We all do not have the same calling, nor do we all have the same job.

1 Corinthians 12:4; "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."

To another divers kinds of tongues. In verse 11;

"Spirit dividing to every man severally as he will."

To sum this up, I believe that everyone who is filled with the Holy Ghost can speak in tongues. Not everyone will, because you have to yield yourself to the Holy Ghost and not everyone has learned how to yield their members to the Spirit of God. If you are seeking the Holy Ghost, get hungry and thirsty for it more than anything else and you will receive.

There is something I have noticed about speaking in tongues, I generally cannot think in tongues, and the only time I can speak in tongues is when the Holy Ghost comes upon me. You must remember when you are speaking and praying in tongues, it is your spirit that is praying to God. Your natural man is without understanding,

1 Corinthians 14:14; "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."

Often times when you are praying in the Spirit, the Spirit begins to intercede through you for others.

Romans 8:26-27; "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

So tongues are a way that we release inner burdens to God, also a way that the Holy Ghost channels the power of God through us to others. Praying in the Spirit is also a way that Holy Ghost edifies us.

Jude 20; "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."

The bible says in the last days that there would be signs and wonders, and tongues are a sign.

1 Corinthians 14: 21-22; "In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them, which believe."

God through the Holy Ghost, by tongues and interpretation, speaks to his people to encourage and lifts up to edify. Also speaking in the Holy Ghost is a sign of the Glory of God is in the midst of his people. I pray that this study of the Holy Ghost has caused a hunger for God, and more of a hunger for the Holy Ghost to be birthed into your heart. There is so much more on the subject of the Holy Ghost. We have just scratched the surface, dig deep into the things of God.

The answers to the self-test is contained in the lesson or the homework scriptures. Write the answers below the question and where the answers are found in the scriptures.

Homework

Judges Chapter 6-7

Judges Chapter 13-14

Acts 2:41-47

Acts 4:32-37

Ephesians 4:25-31

Luke 1:5-67

Read and memorize these scriptures

Luke 10:16

John 6:44

Romans 8:14

Acts 1:8

John 2:27

James 4:7

TEST LESSON FOUR

1, The Holy Ghost is the executor of the?

2, Every sin will be forgiven except this one?

3, How does a person blaspheme the Holy Ghost?

4, We must learn to be obedient to the?

5, The Holy Ghost is also the?

6, The Holy Ghost will protect us from?

7, The Holy Ghost will reprove us of?

8, What grieves the Holy Ghost?

9, The Holy Ghost will reveal Gods?

10, The Holy Ghost will cause you to have great?

11, Gideon was called a mighty?

12, When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, he had?

13, The first church continued steadfast in these four things?

14, The first churches hearts were filled with?

15, The multitude of them that believed were of?

16, With great power gave the apostles witness of the?

17, Don't allow this to proceed out of your mouth?

18, This happened to Zechariah when he didn't believe?

19, When Elizabeth heard Mary's salutation the baby?

20, When Zechariah was filled with the Holy Ghost he?
