

**FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**PART 4**

This morning we are continuing our study on the Holy Spirit in our series on Foundation of Faith! And we have looked at what the Scriptures tell us of the Holy Spirit, that He is a person and not some kind of force like electricity or wind. We have seen clearly that the Scriptures teach us that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity!

And this morning we are going to continue looking at the three-fold work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and specifically we will look at the second of this three-fold work of the Holy Spirit in the world today. As we saw last time, two of these are given to us in John 14:16-17, where Jesus said, “**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**”

In our last study we looked at this first aspect and we saw that the Holy Spirit comes alongside us to draw us to Christ. Remember that Jesus said that “**He dwells with you**” and He is speaking of this work that the Holy Spirit is doing, drawing out a bride for Jesus, bringing people to Jesus!

As a person hears of Jesus, as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts and eyes to see Jesus and they receive the love of Christ in their lives, as they accept Him as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit then comes in them. In John 14:17 Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit “**will be in you**” and Jesus used the Greek preposition, EN when He spoke of the Holy Spirit being “**in**” us.

Now when Jesus was speaking with his disciples, why did He say that the Holy Spirit “**will be in you**”, speaking of a future time? Were they not saved at this point? Keep in mind that this was spoken prior to Jesus going to the cross and paying the penalty for our sins and rising from the grave that third day. Thus, the disciples at this point were Old Testament saints or believers; it will not be until after Jesus has paid in full the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave that the disciples will become New Testament saints with the Holy Spirit indwelling them!

A good example of this is found in Psalm 51:10-12 were David cried out,  
**“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”**

You see, in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit never indwelt a believer but came upon them to empower them for service. But now the Holy Spirit indwells believers and what could be taken away in the Old Testament, that power of the Holy Spirit, the indwelling of God’s Spirit can not be taken away!

You see, once you come to Christ and the Holy Spirit comes in you, you are saved and you will never lose that salvation. You can grieve the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, you can hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, you can quench the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, but you can never have the Holy Spirit taken away from you because you have been saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and that free gift can never be taken away. Thus, if the gift can't be taken away neither can the Holy Spirit!

So now that the work is finished, now that Jesus has gone to the cross of Calvary and paid in full the penalty for our sins and rose the third day from the grave, the Holy Spirit indwells believers, you and me! Yes, Jesus was going away but He was going to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit to help us, to guide us, He was not going to leave us as orphans! Jesus told them in John 16:7, **“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”**

And thus, as I have said, the disciples of Jesus were Old Testament saints at this point because the Holy Spirit would not come in them until after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do we see the Scriptures speak of this event, of them getting saved and becoming New Testament saints? Absolutely we do. Listen carefully to what we are told in John 20:19-22, **“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’”** Keep in mind that this was prior to the day of Pentecost when the believers were empowered by God to do the work of the ministry. What we see here when Jesus said this is that the Holy Spirit indwelt these disciples and they became New Testament saints!

Today, once you accept Christ as your Savior, once He is in your life, as you receive the work of the Holy Spirit, you then come into the second relationship of the Holy Spirit, where the Holy Spirit comes *IN* you! It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 6:19, **“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”**

What is the mark of a believer today? The mark of every believer is that the Holy Spirit indwells them. If the Holy Spirit is not in you, then you are not a believer. Paul makes this point very clear in Romans 8:9-11, when he said, **“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”**

Without the life that the Spirit of God gives you, you are not born again, as Jesus said in John 6:63, **“It is the Spirit who gives life . . .”**

Thus, the identifying mark of a believer, as I have said, is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and as the Holy Spirit indwells us the characteristics of Jesus will flow through us; like love, compassion, joy, forgiveness, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and-so-on. What is controlling your life?

And here’s the thing. As we come into this relationship with Jesus by His Spirit, our lives should be radically changed. Of this D. L. Moody tells us of his conversion experience: “I was in a new world. The next morning the sun shone brighter and the birds sang sweeter. . . . The old elms waved their branches for joy, and all nature was at peace.” You see, we truly look at life differently through the eyes of Jesus and the new life He has give to us. May we not lose sight of that and return to the old ways, the old view of life for Jesus truly enriches our life through the power of the Holy Spirit! In knowing that, let’s take some time to look at the various workings of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer as the Holy Spirit indwells us.

Let me share this with you and then we will look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. This writing is from A. B. Simpson, and just listen to what he had to say regarding the Holy Spirit in our lives, what we should do. He wrote,

As long as your flesh is indulged and suffered to remain, there is no way for you to enter into the Holiest of all. You cannot see it. The old nature hinders your seeing the glory of God. But when self dies, the veil is torn in two, the glory of God is revealed, and the voice of the Spirit says: "Having therefore . . . boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh . . . let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:19-20, 22 [KJV]).

Everything, therefore, that helps you to die to self helps you to live for Him and is the opening up of the glory of God to you. If you can say, "I am dead with Christ," and, "I am risen with Christ," you can understand something of the apostle's language when he prays "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye . . . my be able to comprehend . . . the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19 [KJV]).

Has the veil been rent in twain for you by the death of self? If so, your heart is a holy Tabernacle, and there is no barrier between you and the throne of God.

- A. B. Simpson

You see, I believe that we do desire to live lives that are pleasing to God but when we try to do it on our own, when self gets in the way, it will never work, it will never be accomplished. It is as Andrew Murray said, “True revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life.”

But for this to take place the Holy Spirit needs to be more than just a guest in our lives, He needs to be master over all! And this morning, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are going to look at what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives as believers so that we may surrender all to Him so that the love of Christ may flow not only in us but through us and touch the lives of others! And so let’s begin looking at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer!

### **1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER – JOHN 16:7**

As we come to Christ one of the things that the Holy Spirit does in our lives is that He comforts us. We are told of this in John 16:7 as Jesus said, “**Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**” The word, “**Helper**” is the Greek word, PARAKLEETOS and it can also mean comforter.

First of all, why was it better that Jesus went away, why was it to their advantage? Well, there is the aspect that Jesus came into this world to die for our sins and as the work was finished He was taken back into glory and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Without that work being finished, we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins. So this was one of the advantages that He went away.

The second is that Jesus could only be with them in one place at one time; in His Incarnation He could not be everywhere. But when He was taken up into Heaven, the Helper, the Holy Spirit was sent and He can be everywhere at the same time. That is why Jesus says this is better because now the Holy Spirit indwells us and is with us wherever we go!

Let me give you an example to show you that it was to our advantage for Jesus to die and rise the third day, to go away and that He would send to us the Helper, the Holy Spirit. When you look at the disciples of Jesus before He left they were confused, stubborn, thick headed, afraid, selfish and self-centered. But when you see them after the death and resurrection of Jesus, after the Holy Spirit was sent, we see them as wise, as surrendered, as bold, as others-centered, they freely gave of themselves and their resources! Apart from the Holy Spirit coming to help them, they were unable to do these things!

Now when it speaks of a helper or comforter what does that mean? The idea here is one who has come alongside to help and truly that is what the Holy Spirit does in our life. This is, in a sense, a broad idea of what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives, helping us in every aspect of our lives. We will be looking at more specific things that the Holy Spirit is doing, but we first need to understand that the Holy Spirit is our helper in all things in our lives and what a comfort that should bring to us.



Let me give you an example of what I mean from the life of D. L. Moody. And then we will look at more specific things that the Holy Spirit does in our life. Moody tells us the following story,

A lady once came to Mr. Moody and said, "Mr. Moody, I do not like you."

He asked, "Why not?"

She said, "Because you are too narrow."

"Narrow! I did not know that I was narrow."

"Yes, you are too narrow. You don't believe in the theater; you don't believe in cards; you don't believe in dancing."

"How do you know I don't believe in the theater?" he asked.

"Oh," she said, "I know you don't."

Mr. Moody replied, "I go to the theater whenever I want to."

"What," cried the woman, "you go to the theater whenever you want to?"

"Yes, I go to the theater whenever I want to."

"Oh," she said, "Mr. Moody, you are a much broader man than I thought you were. I am so glad to hear you say it, that you go to the theater whenever you want to."

"Yes, I go to the theater whenever I want to. I don't want to." replied Mr. Moody!

- Dwight L. Moody

Thus, as the Holy Spirit indwells believers, He guides us in the things we should and shouldn't do. He helps us. And if God has placed that upon your heart not to do something then don't do it. Don't resist the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in your life. You see, the Holy Spirit is our helper and as He helps us in our daily lives, it brings comfort to all of us because He is our PARAKLEETOS our helper, our comforter!

## 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR TEACHER – I CORINTHIANS 2:10-14

Have you ever spoken to someone and as you were sharing the Scriptures with them, something that is so clear and easy to understand a child can understand it, and they don't see it, they don't get it? I am sure you have. Have you ever wonder how unsaved people, and even saved people can read the Scriptures and come up with the most weird ideas about what the Scriptures are saying? Why does that happen? Did you ever think about that? We tend to think that if they could only read what the Scriptures are saying they would see what you see, but they won't and they don't! How come?

The answer is simple. It is as easy as this. When you are talking about Scriptural things, when you are talking about spiritual matters you have to understand that these things are not within our reach by human intelligence or human experience. We can't know them on our own. Then how can we know them? I will tell you in a minute but first, let me share with you what an unbeliever has to say regarding what Jesus said in John 14:16-17 regarding the Holy Spirit.

These verses say, **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”** Pretty straight forward, Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Helper as we have just seen. But listen to what Isaac Asimov wrote in his book, Asimov's Guide To The Bible regarding these verses here in John chapter 14. He wrote,

This is usually interpreted as meaning that Christians would be guided by the Holy Spirit once Jesus was taken away from them and that this Spirit would comfort them and guide them aright.

Nevertheless, there were not lacking those among the early Christians who personified the Comforter (or “Paraclete” as the word is in the Greek). It seemed to them that Jesus was promising a new and still later Messiah who would take on human appearance, just as Moses was considered to have prophesied Jesus in reference to a Prophet.

- Isaac Asimov, *Asimov’s Guide To The Bible*, p. 988

This is interesting to me because he starts out by saying that this is the way that it is usually interpreted, that Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit, *but* many saw it a different way. This is not speaking of the Holy Spirit, but many people were comforters back then and yet, there is coming another Messiah. He is right and he is the Antichrist but not the true and living Christ!

Then why do we believe that this is speaking of the Holy Spirit if it can speak of other people or another Messiah? Because that is not what the text is saying to us. When Jesus tells us that He will send us “another helper” the word He uses for “another” in the Greek is important. It is the Greek word ALLOS and it means another of the same kind. Thus, Jesus is sending His men and us an exact representation of Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit! In other words, God the Holy Spirit! But again, these things are spiritually discerned and apart from the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we cannot know them on our own. How do I know that?

It is simple; that is what the Scriptures are teaching us, that these things are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 2:10-14, **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Do you see what Paul is saying? The Holy Spirit teaches us the things of God as we read His Word. The Holy Spirit opens up to us the truths of God to our hearts and our lives. As Jesus said in John 14:26, **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”**

And there is more. John tells us in I John 2:27, and here John is speaking of the anointing, which is clearly a reference of the Holy Spirit, and he said “**But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**” Notice, John was speaking of the false doctrine that is out there and then tells us not to get caught up into it, instead get into the truth, the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us all truth. As I John 5:6 says, “. . . **And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.**”

Not only does the Holy Spirit help to open our hearts to the truths of God, but also He helps us to remember or bring to remembrance the things we have learned. As we have already read in John 14:26, Jesus said, “**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**”

Now the downside of that is if we don't read the Word of God, then the Holy Spirit is not going to bring to remembrance that which we know nothing of. Let me give you an example of what I mean.

Stephen, in Acts chapter 7 is brought before the Sanhedrin, the religious counsel, and he gives us an insightful account of Jewish history from the birth of the Jews from Abraham all the way to the coming of the Messiah. Stephen knew the Scriptures and as he was brought before this counsel, the Holy Spirit brought to remembrance that which he already knew, and with boldness he spoke those words. That portion of Scripture is a great commentary on the Old Testament and gives us some interesting insights to what was taking place back then. And the Holy Spirit will do that with each of us; He will bring to remembrance those things we need to know in a given situation! And so, the Holy Spirit is our Teacher!

### **3. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GUIDE US – JOHN 16:13**

Another way that the Holy Spirit works in the life of a believer is that the Holy Spirit will guide us. So often in life we come to a place in the road and don't know which way to turn. And it can be frustrating not to know what to do because the obvious is not always the right way. As Christians, we don't need to worry, or wonder, or at least we shouldn't. Jesus said in John 16:13, "**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**"

Notice that the Holy Spirit will guide us in all truth. How does He do that? In Hebrews chapter 5, verse 14 we read, **“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”** The **“solid food”** spoken of in this verse is the Scriptures, the Word of God. You see, the more you dig into the truths of God, found in His Word, the more you are going to be able to discern right from wrong.

You see, you are taking what you have learned, what the Holy Spirit has shown you, and putting it into practice, putting it into your daily life. And like a muscle, the more you exercise it, the stronger it will get, and the same is true of spiritual discernment. The more you apply God’s Word to your life, the stronger you are going to get. It is as Pastor Chuck said in this simplistic and yet profound statement: “It is the Spirit of God working through the Word of God in the hearts of the people of God.” How true that is and I am glad that it is simple. It is as David said and folks, may we believe and apply this to our own lives, **“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”** Psalm 119:105.

Now how come we find ourselves, as Christians in such a mess? Because we don’t like what the Holy Spirit is showing us, the way He is guiding us and we ignore it thinking we know better or that the Holy Spirit is trying to deprive us of some fun, some pleasure. The reality is, He is not depriving us of anything, He is protecting us.

Remember, He is our helper not a person who will hurt us!

Listen to these words written around 1100 A. D. by an unknown Christian author. He is writing about how change needs to begin in our own hearts before we can change anything around us. This is what he wrote,

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realized that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

- Source Unknown

You see, it is God's Word that is empowered by God's Spirit, when yielded to will help us to grow. Folk's, the Holy Spirit desires to guide us in all that we do. But unless we are surrendered to Him, we will do what we want, what is the easiest, what we think is the best and in the end, we will find out that He was right and we were wrong!

Again, listen to what Peter has to say in regards to what has been given to us to guide us in all things. We read in II Peter 1:2-4, **“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”** Notice, this **“divine power”** is speaking of the Holy Spirit guiding us in maturity in the Lord, towards that divine nature instead of depravity!



Let me give you an example of the Holy Spirit guiding Paul the apostle in where he was to go. In Acts 16:6-10 we are told, **“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”**

Here we see Luke speak of Asia, which was the Roman province of Asia and today is modern day Turkey. Now look at what Paul and his men try to do here. They go westward to this area and the Holy Spirit stop’s them. Now, with a road block before them they sought to go northward to Bithynia and once again the Holy Spirit stop’s them. I see two questions here. The first one is how did the Holy Spirit stop them? We don’t know for sure, it could have been a word of prophecy, it could have been God speaking to Paul’s heart, it could have been the situations they found themselves in, it could have been as they were reading the Old Testament Scriptures the Lord closed the door for them to go in those directions. We don’t know for sure, we don’t know how, but we do know the Holy Spirit got their attention and they responded to what the Holy Spirit was saying.

The second question is this. Why wouldn't the Holy Spirit allow them to go to these areas for they too needed to hear the Gospel message just as much as anyone else? I believe it was not God's time yet, He has a plan, a perfect plan with perfect timing and at this time Paul was to go to the area of Greece bringing the salvation message to Europe, the Good News of Jesus Christ! We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's guiding in our lives. You see, just because something is right does not mean it is time to do it!

And notice, while in Troas, which was located on the Aegean Sea, God revealed to Paul that the Word of God needed to go to Macedonia, which is in northern Greece today. Again, the Holy Spirit is guiding them. Yes, they tried to go west, they were stopped, then they tried to go north and they were stopped, and now they are going to go farther west, across the Aegean Sea to Greece. The thing is, they didn't just sit around, but were on the move and the Holy Spirit was directing them. As the old saying goes, "It is a lot easier to move a rolling stone than a stationary one!"

And I like the way that these men responded, they immediately went to where the Holy Spirit was guiding them! How often when God instructs us to do something we say "No!" or we stall but not these men, they immediately went. Why were they in such a hurry? Because there was a need out there, people were dying in their sins, and the only cleansing for them was the blood of Christ applied to their lives, receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior and the free gift of eternal life that is found in Him! That is a great perspective to have, seeing people who are lost in their sins and being open to His direction because He is still calling people go and spread the Good News, even today!

May we be open to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us, not only where to go but also what to do because He has what is best for our lives. It may not be the easiest way to go, but it is the best way to go. The Holy Spirit will guide us, may we obey!

**4. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL CONFORM US INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST – EZEKIEL 36:27**

In another work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer we tend to want this one very much, but we don't enjoy it too much and that is the Holy Spirit conforming us into the image of Christ. In Ezekiel 36:27 we are told, **“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”**

As the Holy Spirit molds and shapes our lives there are times that there is some chipping away in our lives and as that is going on, it may hurt! There may be times when some imperfection is removed and that too hurts! But this is all done to make us more like Christ, to conform us into His image and this is done as we surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit and follow the Word of God!

Too often we see that salvation is the beginning and ending of our faith. Not true! Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:1-4 says, **“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”**

You see, once we are saved, once the Holy Spirit comes inside of us to take up residence in us, the sanctification process begins. God, by His Spirit, is conforming us into the image of Christ, which is a life-long process, but don't lose hope. Paul tells us in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”**

I am so glad that He does not give up on me. I know for myself, there are times that I will start a project, and then it gets put aside because the work is too hard, I just can't do it. That never happens with the Holy Spirit. He never gives up and the work that He has begun in us He will complete!

The problem for us is that we don't always see the work that God is doing and this battle between the flesh and the Spirit is a strong one. It is as this story illustrates for us. We are told,

An Eskimo fisherman came to town every Saturday afternoon. He always brought his two dogs with him. One was white and the other was black. He had taught them to fight on command. Every Saturday afternoon in the town square these two dogs would fight and the fishermen would take bets [on which dog would win]. On one Saturday, the black dog would win; another Saturday the white dog would win – but the fisherman always won! His friends began to ask him how he did it. [They wanted to know the secret of his accuracy.] He said, “I starve one and feed the other. The one I feed always wins because he is stronger.”

- Billy Graham, The Holy Spirit

Isn't that what Paul said in Galatians 5:16-18, "**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**"

In other words, whatever you feed will manifest itself in your life. Are you going to surrender to the flesh because if you do then the works of the flesh will flow from you life and they are ugly. If you surrender to the Spirit then the fruit of the Spirit will flow from you life and it is beautiful! We will look at this issue more as we look at the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives, but we need to understand that we do not feed the flesh, we crucify the flesh and we feed the Spirit by being in the Word of God and yielding our lives to Him!

Also, in Ephesians 3:14-21 we are told, "**For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height--to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**"

Like it or not, once we are saved we are on display for the world to see Christ in us, which is accomplished as we yield ourselves to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. That word “**dwell**” in verse 17 speaks of settling in or making oneself at home. Thus, Paul is saying that Jesus should feel perfectly at home in our hearts, in our life and that is accomplished as we surrender to the Holy Spirit, as we allow Him to conform our life into the image of Christ!

And we need to remember that once you are saved the sanctification process begins. As Paul said in Ephesians 4:17-24, **“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”**

You see, God is cleaning you up, setting you apart for His use, as a vessel of honor, not from the outside, but beginning on the inside, He works on our hearts, and that will then overflow to the outside, in our actions. God wants to do exceedingly abundantly in our lives, but He won't force Himself upon us. He wants to conform us to His image, but we need to submit to His Spirit to guide us and conform us. As Paul said in II Corinthians 3:18, **“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”**

Now it is easy to become discouraged as we see our failures, but understand that God is working, we are a work in progress and thus, may we learn to surrender to Him. Also, there are many who do things contrary to the Word of God and say things like, “The Holy Spirit told me to do this!” or “The Holy Spirit said this was okay for me to do!” Folk's that is not true, it is not God's Spirit that told you to do these things that are contrary to the Word of God. It is as R. A. Torrey wrote,

Being led by the Spirit of God does not mean for a moment that we will do things that the written Word of God tells us not to do. The Holy Spirit never leads men contrary to the book of which He Himself is the author. And if there is some spirit which is leading us to do something that is contrary to the explicit teachings of Jesus or the apostles, we may be perfectly sure that this spirit who is leading us is not the Holy Spirit. This point needs to be emphasized in our day, for there are not a few who give themselves over to the leading of some spirit, whom they say is the Holy Spirit, but who is leading them to do things explicitly forbidden in the Word.

We must always remember that many false spirits and false prophets are gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). There are many who are so anxious to be led by some unseen power that they are ready to surrender the conduct of their lives to any spiritual influence or unseen person. In this way, they open their lives to the conduct and malevolent influence of evil spirits to the utter wreck and ruin of their lives.

- R. A. Torrey, *The Person & Work Of The Holy Spirit*, pp. 113-114

And so we can clearly see that the Holy Spirit is working in us to conform us into the image of Christ just as John reminds us, **“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”** I John 3:1-3. May we surrender to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to conform us into the image of Christ!

##### **5. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL PRODUCE FRUIT IN OUR LIVES – GALATIANS 5:16-26**

Now we do hear a lot of people speaking of this fruit of the Spirit but I think many times we miss the point of what this is all about. Yes, there is no doubt that the Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives but the question is, “What kind of fruit does the Holy Spirit produce in our lives?”



First of all let me say this. We will see when we get to Galatians chapter 5 that it is the fruit of the Spirit and not fruits of the Spirit, it is singular and not plural. And thus, the fruit of the Spirit is love, Agape love and this love can only come from God. This love is sacrificial love, it is unconditional love, it is a love that gives without any expectation of getting something back, it gives when it is not deserved.

We see Jesus speak of this kind of love for believers in John 13:34-35 where He said, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”** You see, it is this love of Christ that not only flows in us but through us and touches the lives of others. That is a mark of a believer, their love for others and again, this is that Agape love, the love that is seen in Christ and is given to us by the Holy Spirit. Another way to look at this is as pastor Skip Heitzig said, “The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Christ in the life of a follower of Christ.” Exactly!

Now, in saying that, let's read Galatians 5:16-26 to see what this is all about. Paul tells us, "**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**"

Now some try to attempt to curb certain behaviors through counting to ten before they respond, therapy, self-help groups, running away from a given situation, and-so-on. And at times they may find very good results. You may become nicer, but that is not the fruit of the Spirit, it is the flesh trying to control itself, it is imitation fruit. And if you really think about it, all you have changed is your outward behavior; your heart is still unchanged.

Think of it this way. My wife at one time had a wax fruit basket at home that looked very real, so much so you might eat it. In fact, years ago my dog did try to eat it! But as good as that wax fruit looks on the outside, the inside is very distasteful. And that is what we try to do with the flesh, make it look good, but God wants us to crucify it. You see, as a result of abiding in Christ, being attached to Him, you are going to bear fruit, not imitation fruit!

Now, when you look at Galatians chapter 5, you see that the flesh and fruit are very different. It is, **“the works of the flesh.”** You see, the works of the flesh are made in our lives because of our egocentric, our selfish attitude. Things that come out of workshops are made of dead materials, even wood is dead before it is used. That is the works of the flesh!

But, on the other end of the spectrum, it is, **“the fruit of the Spirit”** which is grown and not made out of dead works, it is living. But too often we look to the gifts of the Spirit as a visible sign that person is saved, filled with the Spirit. How wrong that is. A tree is not known by its gifts but by the fruit it produces! That is the proof of a life surrendered to Christ, yielded to the Holy Spirit!

And this fruit is born as we are attached to Christ, the vine of life, as Jesus tells us in John 15:4-5, **“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”**

And as we are attached to Christ, yielding to His Spirit, Jesus tells us what that does in our life. In John 15:8 and this is from The Amplified Bible, Jesus said, “**When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine.**”

As I have said, the fruit of the Spirit is love; it is singular, not plural. Thus, the 8 things that follow love in Galatians 5:22-23 are 8 characteristics or manifestations of love that is seen in the life of a believer. I like the way that D. L. Moody put it. He said:

Joy is love exalting  
 Peace is love reposing  
 Longsuffering is love untiring  
 Gentleness is love enduring  
 Goodness is love in action  
 Faith is love on the battlefield  
 Meekness is love under discipline  
 Self-control is love in training

- D. L. Moody

Now, in knowing that, in knowing that these are characteristics or manifestations of love, then we can go to I Corinthians 13:4-8a, and again look how love is manifested in the life of a believer. In fact, this portion of Scripture gives to us the definition of what Agape love is all about. Beginning in verse 4 we read, “**Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails . . .**”

Try putting the name of Jesus in there for the word “love” and you will see how beautifully that flows. Now try putting your name in there and see how it flows. Not too well. “Joe suffers long and is kind; Joe does not envy; Joe does not parade itself . . .” You see, there is still a lot of work to be done and the Holy Spirit will finish it. The thing is, you don’t have to force this fruit to be produced in your life. You abide in Christ and the Holy Spirit will naturally produce this beautiful fruit in your life. It is not work, it is surrender! It is not work, it is fruit! You see, it is the Holy Spirit who will produce fruit in our lives.

In our studies we have seen that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, has been sent to us to draw us to Christ. Once we come to Christ the Holy Spirit comes inside us, we, in a sense are a temple of God, and God’s desire is to make us like Himself by transforming us by His Spirit, so that we might bear much fruit.

And as we submit to the Holy Spirit’s guiding, He will be our helper in doing what is right, and keeping us away from that which is wrong. The Holy Spirit will be our teacher revealing the truths of God from the Word of God. He will bring to remembrance those things we need to know in a given situation. The Holy Spirit will guide us down the right path as we gain spiritual discernment that is according to the Word of God. And the Holy Spirit is conforming us into the image of Christ as we submit to Him. It is out of this relationship that the fruit of the Spirit is naturally produced in our lives!

I love the way that T. J. Bach puts it. He said, “The Holy Spirit longs to reveal to you the deeper things of God. He longs to love through you. He longs to work through you. Through the blessed Holy Spirit you may have; strength for every duty, wisdom for every problem, comfort for every sorrow, joy in His overflowing service.”

As I bring this study to a close, please listen to this story of Wilbur Chapman. It goes like this:

In one of Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman's meetings a man arose to give the following remarkable testimony: "I Got off at the Pennsylvania depot as a tramp, and for a year I begged on the streets for a living. One day I touched a man on the shoulder and said, 'Mister, please give me a dime.'

"As soon as I saw his face, I recognized my father. 'Father, don't you know me?' I asked. Throwing his arms around me, he cried, 'I have found you; all I have is yours.' Men, think of it, that I, a tramp, stood begging my father for ten cents, when for eighteen years he had been looking for me to give me all he was worth!"

So the heavenly Father is waiting for you. Why not receive the unsearchable riches in Christ now? Folks, God wants to make us like Himself by transforming us by His Spirit that we might bear much fruit to His glory! If the Holy Spirit has come alongside of you, drawing you to Jesus, take that next step and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and as soon as you do, your sins are forgiven, cast as far as the east is from the west, to be remembered no more. And as soon as you do the Holy Spirit will indwell you and be working with you as we have seen here this morning.

For those of you who know the Lord, allow Him to work in your life. Allow Him to be your helper. Allow Him to be your teacher. Allow Him to guide you in all you do. Allow Him to conform you into the image of Christ. And, as I have said, as you do the Holy Spirit will produce fruit in your life! The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer!