

# **Theology Proper**

## **(The Doctrine of God)**

### **Genesis 1:1a**

### ***In the beginning God...***

A. **Theology Proper is the study of God.** To begin our study we should begin with Him. After all, that is where the Bible begins. (**Gen. 1:1**) (It also gives the answer for scientists who have been searching for centuries concerning the *space time continuum*.)

***"In the beginning (TIME)  
God created (ENERGY)  
the heaven (SPACE)  
and the earth." (MATTER)***

The very first verse of Scripture assumes the existence of God. In fact there is not one writer of Scripture who wastes any time trying to prove the existence of God. Our Savior never questioned His existence (*no doubt because He was a part of the blessed Godhead Himself!*). The Bible uses the term **God** over 500 times, taking His existence for granted.

**QUOTES:** "The term *theology*, is a compound of two Greek words – *Theos*, 'God,' and *logos*, 'speech' or 'expression.' Both Christ as the *Living Word*, and the Bible as the *Written Word* are the *Logos* of God. They are to God what expression is to thought and what speech is to reason. Theology is therefore a *Theo-logia* or discourse upon one specific subject, namely, God." - *Systematic Theology*, Chafer, Vol. 1

"No study of God can be said to be comprehensive for three reasons: The first has to do with the sheer limitation of the human mind. A finite mind cannot fully grasp an infinite being. Second is the moral problem. The presence of sin even in our converted state has limited our capacity for understanding spiritual truth. Third, we have a resource problem. God has simply not told us everything about Himself. What He has told us we can know, but He has not revealed everything." - Dr. Tony Evans, *Our God is Awesome*

**NOTE:** Although we are studying the doctrine of God, we must take time to include the blessed Trinity, for God is manifest in three distinct persons: *the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*. All three are God and without any one God would be incomplete (see attached illustration #1). We will speak more about the Trinity later in this study. While it is true that they are one, there is no confusion in the Godhead. There is absolute balance. While all three members are equally God, the Son is not the Father, the Spirit is not the Son, etc.

B. Christians are constantly challenged by atheists, skeptics, agnostics and hecklers to prove that there is a God. Fortunately we don't have to prove it. The Bible declares in Ps. 14:1 ***"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."*** Anyone may argue about the existence of God, but the trouble is in his heart, not his head!

**ILLUS.:** There is a joke about the Dial-A-Prayer service where the atheists dial a number and nobody answers. There is also the one about the dead atheist who was laying in a coffin, and one of his buddies came by and looked at him and said: *"Poor old Bill! There he is, all dressed up and no place to go."* Of course, being an atheist is no joke, it is being a fool!

It actually takes more faith to be an atheist than a Bible-believer. To be an atheist a person has to deny a first cause and to do this he has to deny his rational powers. It also means that he must deny the most powerful evidence of the existence of God - the Scriptures. The belief in a Divine Being is universal to all cultures and civilizations. In fact, we would be safe in saying that only "educated" people deny God's existence, i.e., they have been **taught** to disbelieve in God!

C. Though the Bible is not a text-book about proving the existence of God it opens with a positive statement assuming the existence of God. ***"In the beginning God..."*** Thus the first proof of the existence of God is that of Scriptural proof.

### ***I. GOD – A PROVABLE BEING:***

A. Proof from Scripture:

1. The Bible uses the term God over 500 times, taking His existence for granted.
2. Many other names for God are used in the Scriptures as well, thus assuming His existence (Jehovah, Elohim, Adonai, Lord, God Almighty, the Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, etc.).

**ILLUS.:** Everything the Bible declares about God which is verifiable further proves His existence. The nation of Israel is a direct proof of God's existence. They are His special people. The miracles recorded in the Bible about their deliverance from Egypt for example, have been proven to have taken place and can only be attributed to the power of God working on their behalf. The historical and geographical references in Scripture to events, dates, people, places, nations, etc. are all verifiable. The archeologists spade constantly verifies the accuracy of Scripture, and the Scriptures are our most extensive proof for the existence of God.

B. Proof from Personal Experience:

1. Every believer can give personal witness to the existence of God.
  - a. The transformed life of the born-again person is a testimony to the existence of God.
  - b. The transformation in the Apostles after the resurrection of Christ is a powerful witness to the power of God in a person's life; those who went into hiding during the three days & nights Christ was in the tomb openly testified of and for Him after His resurrection, and in so doing placed their very lives in jeopardy.
2. Every believer can give personal witness to answered prayer.
  - a. When some four billion believers from Pentecost until today can testify of God's response to their requests in prayer it becomes obvious that they are either duped morons or there is a God in heaven.

**ILLUS.:** If you were in a dark room and you held out your hand three times a day and somebody put something that you requested in your hand day after day, wouldn't you say that there was somebody in the room with you? Would you say after many years of this happening consistently that the whole thing was a "coincidence"?! I trow not!

- b. Admittedly answered prayer is a subjective proof of God's existence, it is nonetheless a valid proof as far as God's people are concerned; it is experiential evidence of God's concern, compassion and desire to meet the needs of His people.

C. Proof from Nature:

***Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.***

***Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:***

1. Only someone who has set themselves up as their own authority or god(!) could possibly deny that all we see in creation is a product of intelligence as opposed to mere chance (read evolution).
2. The complexity of every aspect of creation, from the microscopic to the telescopic, is a witness to intelligent design.
3. From the one-celled creature to the far-flung galaxies of the universe, creation argues for its Creator.

**ILLUS.:** No one with intelligence would argue that this study on Theology came into existence on its own. There is evidence that some device (a computer in this case) produced it, guided by some human being . It could not have suddenly (or slowly – time has no bearing on the subject!) come into existence on its own! If that is true of something as simple as this, how could anyone with intelligence conclude that the entire universe somehow evolved on its own?!?!? No amount of random coincidences (the 'Big Bang'!, organic evolution, spontaneous generation, uniformitarian geology, et. al.) could have produced all we see and experience around us.

Only an idiot (or someone trying to escape accountability) denies the existence of God. To look up in the sky and see a plane and say it is pilotless because you cannot see him, is ridiculous! It is just as ridiculous to look into the heavens and say there is no God just because you cannot see Him. You have not seen your own brain. Does that mean you do not have one?!

D. Proof from Conscience:

**Romans 2:15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)**

1. Men raised in the jungle apart from universities and college professors are less likely to deny God and stifle their own consciences; they worship *something!*
2. They may not have enough information (or Scripture) to worship the God of the Bible, but they know right from wrong and know that some Being creates and controls life; there is no such thing as an uneducated atheist!
3. They have an inherent and instinctive knowledge of God; **"...their conscience also bearing witness."**

**ILLUS.:** Adultery, stealing, etc. are recognized as crimes even in primitive tribes in the jungle. It is only in the colleges and high schools in "civilized" cultures where consciences have been seared, that they talk about "consenting adults," "premarital sex" and "alternate lifestyles"! Men burn their consciences out so they can live in sin without being warned from within.

E. Proof from Cause and Effect:

1. This is known as the cosmological argument for the existence of God.
2. It basically says, *the world is here*, thus it must have come from somewhere.

**ILLUS.:** Only the *educated* deny cause and effect. They say things just happen, given enough *time*. Time becomes the creator. But if you put all the pieces of your watch in a can and shake them up for say, 150 million years, the chances of them assembling themselves into a workable timepiece lessen, not increase with time (i.e., they will wear out, break, fall apart, rust – the law of entropy).

F. Proof from Life:

1. Life comes from life – *unless you are an educated fool (evolutionist) who believes that life comes from death!*
2. The concept of spontaneous generation, that life arises from non-life has been proven false again and again – it cannot, it does not happen.

**John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

**John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;**

**John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**

**John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

**1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

- a. All life proceeds from God – the Author of life, and the Sustainer of life.
- b. All life must have a beginning and can only come from other life, thus the first life came from God Who *is* life. **"I am...the life..."**

**ILLUS.:** There are several other theological arguments for the existence of God, but the above information supplies all you really need to successfully prove His existence – and then some. Of course you will always meet people who will argue against themselves and against all reason and logic, so no amount of evidence will ever satisfy them. **("The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.." Ps. 53:1a)** "God is not subject to the microscopic scrutiny of man, God is the subject of revelation." - Peter S. Ruckman

**John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.**

## II. GOD – A BALANCED BEING:

**QUESTION:** How do you begin to describe a Being who is transcendent, infinite, and totally awesome? Of course humanly speaking there is no way a finite human can possibly comprehend God. But God has defined Himself in His personal dealings

with His creation, and it is only by studying the Bible and the events recorded there that we can “touch the hem of the garment” so to speak, in getting to know Him.

**QUOTE:** Dr. Tony Evans, *Our God Is Awesome*, p. 11 “The doctrine of God is not presented in Scripture as a set of well-organized theological tenets unrelated to the realities of every-day life. God has determined to reveal His character in the contexts of peace and pain, joy and sorrow, grace and wrath, birth and death, love and hate, and countless other real life situations. We learn about God’s law from a murderer named Moses. We learn about God’s worship from an adulterer named David. We learn of God’s sovereignty from a sufferer named Job. We learn about God’s grace from a rebel named Peter....”

#### A. His Holiness:

**ILLUS.:** What do we mean when we speak of God as a balanced Being? Simply that although God is loving, merciful and faithful, at the same time the Bible reveals Him as being just, holy and righteous. He is neither a tyrant drooling to torment us, nor a Santa Claus waiting to spoil us. God is not lop-sided, He is balanced. While he cannot tolerate sin, His mercy causes Him to provide a remedy.

We begin with the attribute of holiness because regardless of what else God may be said to be, He is absolutely holy, i.e., He is completely undefiled, pure, without sin, soil or guile. Perhaps all of God’s other attributes stem from His holiness - ? We could say that it is the centerpiece of God’s attributes. The reason we have a problem with comprehending God is due to our own problem of sin. We who are impure cannot conceive of absolute purity. If your TV set has a problem, the picture may be blurry, fuzzy and not sharp and clear. When we try to study God the picture is not clear because something is wrong with our receiver. We are fallen creatures with a sin problem that blocks a clear vision of God.

1. God’s holiness separates Him from all of His fallen creation.

**Isaiah 6:3** *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

**Isaiah 57:15** *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

**Exodus 3:5** *And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*

2. God’s holiness demands punishment for sin.
  - a. God is holy and His holiness separates Him from His people.
  - b. But God designed a place and a process of worship for Israel called the Tabernacle to show them that though He was separate and distinct from them, He wanted fellowship with them.

**ILLUS.:** Three curtains separated the three sections of the Tabernacle. One hung across the outside entrance, another covered the entrance to the holy place and yet another covered the most holy place. Even the High Priest himself could not simply skip into the holy of holies. He had to meet God’s righteous demands. If he pushed back that third curtain and crossed the threshold into the holy of holiest bypassing the laver, the altar of sacrifice and *without blood*, he would have died!

- c. Today we do not have a Tabernacle, nor a sacrifice to offer, but we have Christ’s shed blood offered on our behalf, so we can come boldly to the throne of God.

**Hebrews 9:24-25** *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others...*

#### B. His Faithfulness:

**1 Corinthians 1:9** *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

1. One who is faithful is someone who can be trusted, who is reliable, dependable, and trustworthy.
2. God’s faithfulness means that what He promises, He will deliver.

- a. Some of the promises God makes to His children are so wonderful that they are called "exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:4), and we know that He is "...able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Eph. 3:20a
- b. You can think of His promises as a checkbook from which you can write checks which you can "take to the bank."
- c. In order to be able to cash in on these promises you must know where they are and which ones apply to you.

3. God's faithfulness means that what He has said in His Word can be trusted absolutely.

- a. The trustworthiness of God is all about the authority and accuracy of the Scriptures.
- b. Either the Word of God is true or God is not faithful, trustworthy or reliable.

C. His Mercy:

**Deuteronomy 4:31a** *(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee...*

**Psalms 118:29** *O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

**Psalms 103:11** *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

1. God is always merciful – it is a part of His nature – however, His promise of mercy is often contingent upon human response, i.e., it is contingent upon repentance.
2. Of course His mercy ceases to work for those who reject Him – there is no mercy in hell – it is too late.
3. There is a sense in which God is merciful to all in this life regardless of whether or not people accept His grace. Matt. 5:45 says God **"...maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and unjust."**

**ILLUS.:** One time an atheist said to a preacher, "Preacher, it's October, and I plant on Sunday, plow on Sunday, harvest on Sunday, and here it is October and I've got the biggest bank account of any farmer in this country. Now, how do you account for that?" The preacher replied "God doesn't settle accounts in October, that's how you account for that." People get away with all kinds of things in this life, but they will not have any mercy at the Great White Throne Judgment.

People often presume on the mercy and grace of God or assume God is **only** mercy, grace and love. But that would make God un-balanced. He would have to love and overlook fornication, adultery, perversion, bestiality, lying, killing, profanity, blasphemy and idolatry in the same way He loves honesty, purity, decency, courage and righteousness. That is not the God of the Bible.

**Psalms 32:10** *Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.*

D. His Justice:

**Isaiah 45:21b** *...there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.*

**Romans 2:1,5,6** *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

1. Pitting your puny self-righteousness against the righteousness of God is a crime worse than adultery or murder.
2. Thinking that your good works will save you is blasphemy against the God Who sent His Son to die for your sins.
3. The justice of God balances the truth of the mercy and love of God and without it He would be unbalanced.

**ILLUS.:** Yes, God is a balanced Being! His love is balanced with His hatred of sin. His mercy is balanced with His wrath. His longsuffering is balanced with His justice. But these characteristics alone cannot fathom the character of God. He is also an infinite God Who cannot be adequately described or analyzed by mere finite minds. All we can know about God is revealed in

His Word, but there is so much more that we will not understand until we get to heaven! Therefore we have an obligation to study what *is* revealed that we might know Him better...

### **III. GOD – A TRIUNE BEING:**

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:** By the trinity of God is meant that He is one in being and substance, possessed of three personal distinctions, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**NOTE:** One of the mysteries surrounding our infinite God is the Trinity. Who can plumb the depths of the one God revealed in three distinct persons?! But it is nonetheless a part of His essence, of Who He is. The only thing we can know about God is what He has chosen to reveal about Himself in His creation and in His Word. The Holy Trinity is definitely and distinctly taught in the Bible. We may not be able to fathom this mystery, but we must believe it.

The “Jesus only” people, including some Charismatics, are kin to the cultists who go the other direction and make the Father and the Son two gods (Arianism). (This heresy has been picked up and perpetuated in some of the new versions of the Bible - *The New American Standard Version* and *The New American Standard Version Updated Edition* – see below).

**John 1:18 KJV** *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

**John 1:18 NASV** *No man hath seen God (1 God) at any time; the only begotten God (another God?!), who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath explained Him.*

#### A. Scripture Proofs:

##### 1. Statements:

- a. We know that there is only one God, but again and again in Scripture the designation of “God” is attributed to three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – also termed “the Godhead.”

**Acts 17:29** *Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

- b. There are both direct statements concerning the Trinity, as well as allusions to a plurality within the Godhead.

**Matthew 28:19** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...*

**2 Corinthians 13:14** *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

**John 14:9** *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

**Colossians 2:9** *For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

**Genesis 1:26a** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*

**John 5:26** *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself...*

**Acts 5:3-4** *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.*

**Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

**Matthew 3:16-17** *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway 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.*

**John 15:23** *He that hateth me hateth my Father also.*

**Isaiah 48:16** *Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.*

**Isaiah 61:1-2** *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6** *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:** By the Old Testament references to a plurality in the Godhead and separate references to the Father and the Spirit and the prophetic statements regarding the coming Messiah, the Son of God, the Trinity is taught directly and indirectly.

By the threefold divine manifestation at the baptism of Jesus, the threefold reference in the apostolic benediction, the mention of three divine persons and the teaching of Christ and of Paul, the doctrine of the Trinity is plainly and positively taught in the New Testament.

- c. There are no perfect illustrations of the Trinity, but we are created in the image of God and though we are one, we are nonetheless three in one: body, soul and spirit.

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:** In every Divine act all three persons of the Godhead have a part, though not always an equal part.

(This brings us to a consideration of some of the works of God where we can see the Trinity actively participating...)

## 2. Creation:

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

**John 1:1-3 & 14** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**Genesis 1:2** *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.*

## 3. Incarnation:

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Luke 1:35** *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

**Philippians 2:5-7** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

## 4. Redemption:

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For he (the Father) hath made him (the Son) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**Isaiah 53:5 & 10** *But he (the Son) was wounded for our transgressions, he (the Son) was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him (the Son); and with his (the Son) stripes we are healed. Yet it pleased the LORD (the Father) to bruise him (the Son); he (the Father) hath put him (the Son) to grief: when thou shalt make his (the Son) soul an offering for sin, he (the Son) shall see his (the Son) seed, he (the Son) shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD (the Father) shall prosper in his (the Son) hand.*

**Hebrews 9:14** *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

**1 John 3:16** *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

**John 10:18** *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

**John 3:6** *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

**Acts 20:28** *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

#### **IV. GOD – AN INFINITE BEING:**

##### A. His Non-Communicable Attributes:

**NOTE:** By “non-communicable attributes” we mean those characteristics which apply only to God and have not been passed on to man.

##### 1. His Eternality: (Unending Existence)

**Psalms 90:2** *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God (the Father).*

**Revelation 1:8** **I** (the Son) *am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

**Hebrews 9:14** *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

##### 2. His Omnipotence: (Almighty Power)

**1 Peter 1:5** *Who are kept by the power of God (the Father) through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

**Romans 15:19** *Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

##### 3. His Omniscience: (Absolute Knowledge)

- a. God is the only real “know-it-all”! Nothing can be hidden from Him.

**Proverbs 15:3** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

- b. His omniscience extends to all three persons of the Godhead.

**Jeremiah 17:10** **I the LORD** (the Father) *search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

**John 2:24-25** *But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.*

**1 Corinthians 2:10-11** *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

##### 4. His Omnipresence: (Universal Presence)



- a. This means that all of God is everywhere at one time.
- b. He is infinite, i.e., without limit; absolute immensity.

**ILLUS.:** The entire world may watch the President of the U.S. on TV via satellites, but he is not personally present everywhere. In fact he is only in one place – the origin of the broadcast. God however fills the universe and more.

***Psalms 139:11-12*** *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

***Jeremiah 23:24*** *Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

***Psalms 139:7-10*** *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

***Matthew 18:20*** *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

***John 3:13*** *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

- 5. His Immutability: (Unchangeableness)

***Malachi 3:6a*** *For I am the LORD, I change not...*

***Hebrews 13:8*** *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

- 6. His Impeccability: (Flawlessness – Incapable of Sin)

***Titus 1:2*** *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

***Hebrews 4:15*** *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

***James 1:13*** *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

**NOTE:** It wasn't that Jesus *did not sin*, but that *He could not sin* – because He was God! His temptation on the mount was nevertheless genuine, in that it was a valid attempt on Satan's part to tempt Him to do wrong. A "Palestinian" child's attack with a stone against an Israeli army tank may be real, even though harmless.

- 7. His Truthfulness: (Absolute Truth)

***John 7:28*** *Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.*

***John 14:6*** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

***1 John 5:6*** *This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*

- 8. His Unity: (Total Oneness)

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:** By the unity of God is meant, not that He is possessed of a single personality, but of oneness of essence and being as the one and only Deity. This truth opposes the error of Polytheism – the doctrine of many gods.

***Deuteronomy 6:4*** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

**Isaiah 43:10-11** *Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

**NOTE:** This is the favorite passage of the Jehovah's (false) Witnesses, and it is the verse you can use most effectively against their pernicious doctrine that Jesus is not THE Savior. This passage teaches there is only one God (Jehovah) and that He is the ONLY Savior. They teach that Jesus is "a god" and admit that Jesus is "A Savior", but if that is true and Jehovah is the ONLY Savior & God, that makes Jesus Jehovah! AMEN!

9. His Glory: (Total Majesty)

- a. Someone has defined God's glory as the sum total of His intrinsic nature.
- b. If we were to be able to comprehend all God is, as to His nature, attributes, character and perfections we would have described His glory.
- c. If we were on the Mount of Temptation with Peter, James and John when Christ was transfigured, we would have seen His majesty and manifested glory.

**2 Peter 1:16-17** *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

- d. Jesus Christ is the expression of the glory of God in a bodily form.

**John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**ILLUS.:** A judge becomes glorious when he puts on his robe. But when he takes it off, he is just another man. A policeman is glorious when he has on a badge and his blue uniform, but take them away and he is just another person. God is always glorious because He never takes off His "uniform." He never takes off His robe of glory. He is the King of the universe. He is altogether glorious. (Tony Evans)

Adam and Eve shared in His glory until they "took off their uniforms" when they sinned against God. To some extent that glory is restored at the new birth today, but though judicially righteous, we do not reflect but a marred image of the glory of God.

**Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**2 Corinthians 3:18** *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

10. His Transcendence: (Distinct from His Creation)

- a. The Lord is unique; one of a kind.
- b. There is nothing in His created universe with which to make an adequate comparison.
- c. Thus man must rely on God's revelation of Himself to know anything about Him and not attempt to come up with his own ideas about God.

**ILLUS.:** People say "I don't believe God would send anyone to hell" or "I just don't believe God is like that." What they are saying is that He does not fit their concept of God. This is also the danger of using mere human intellect, reason, or logic to comprehend God. They are all inadequate.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

- 1) God is immaterial. **"God is a spirit..."**
- 2) God is invisible. **"No man hath seen God at any time..."**
- 3) God is a Person. **"Those who worship Him..."**

11. His Sovereignty: (Absolute Authority)

- a. He is Lord of all His creation.
- b. God rules.
- c. God wills.
- d. God's sovereignty means that though He allows and permits alternate choices among men, He will ultimately achieve His intended purposes; His will cannot ultimately be thwarted because He is God.

**ILLUS.:** Here is a crude example. You decide to go to New York. There are several routes you may take. You chose to go I-95. Then you change your plans and decide to take the longer and more scenic route. You still get to New York, it just took you longer. God has a plan for your life. You can choose to follow His original plan or go a different route. You will arrive at His intended destination. The issue is whether by choosing your route instead of His initial plan will you miss His blessing? Will He discipline you? Will others miss out because of your choice? How will you look when you arrive?! You can never do anything to surprise God or to destroy His sovereignty. (For a biblical example, read the story of King Nebuchaddnezzar and his pride and where it got him – he went insane. But ultimately he ended up praising the Lord! Dan.4)

## B. His Communicable Attributes:

### 1. His Holiness: (Absolute Purity)

- a. Since we dealt with God's holiness under point II above, we will limit our discussion here.
- b. However, while it is true that only God is holy in the absolute sense, he nevertheless wants His children to be holy.

**1 Peter 1:16** *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

- c. Practically speaking any holiness we attain to must be transmitted to us by God.
- d. Our holiness is modeled after Him, and can only be attained via the new birth; without regeneration it is impossible to acquire any holiness.

**Romans 3:10** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

**Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Isaiah 64:6** *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

- e. Thus, we can only have His imputed\* righteousness and/or holiness.

**NOTE:** \*The concept of imputation is an important doctrine in Scripture. Christ imputed (transferred) our sin to Himself so He could bear our penalty. Then He imputed (transferred) His righteousness to us. Speaking of Abraham, God says...

**Romans 4:21-24** *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead...*

### 2. His Righteousness: (Absolute or Positive Goodness)

**NOTE:** \*The idea of imputation applies to righteousness as well. Our self-righteousness is unacceptable to God. Therefore the only righteousness He will accept is that which He imparts or imputes to us through the new birth.

**Romans 10:3-4** *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

### 3. His Mercy: (Ultimate Compassion)

- a. God can communicate His mercy to man.

- b. Mercy is extended to anyone who sincerely desires it and requests it; mercy balances God's justice.

***Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.***

- c. When we experience mercy, we are to extend mercy or be merciful to others. ***Luke 16:1-8***

#### 4. His Jealousy: (Intolerance of Idolatry)

- a. We ordinarily think of jealousy in a negative sense.
- b. However with God it is positive; since He is our Creator and Redeemer His motive is genuine and pure.
- c. His jealousy is directed towards those who ignore, berate or demean His Person His love and His Son.

**ILLUS.:** One of the reasons God prohibits any images of Himself is because our brains are too small, our knowledge too limited, and sin clouds our comprehension of Who and What He is like. Any image we would make would demean Him and desecrate His holiness and perfection. Imperfection cannot portray perfection.

#### 5. His Love: (Boundless Affection)

**NOTE:** The quest we are on – to get to know God – is the loftiest pursuit of the human intellect. God Himself succinctly states the importance of such a quest.

***Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.***

Of course, this side of heaven - where we will finally get to really know Him – we cannot have a totally accurate picture of God. The late Art Linkletter saw a little boy drawing a picture & asked, "What are you doing?" The boy replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God." Mr. Link-letter said, "I thought that no one knew what God looked like." The boy looked up confidently and said, "They will when I get through."

We do not know what God looks like, but in this study we will hopefully draw a picture of God from the Scripture which is both definable and defensible.

- 1. Man's view of love is unbiblical and distorted.
  - a. "Love" as defined by the world is adultery, fornication, premarital sex, lust, etc.
  - b. The biblical definition of "love" is a desire for, and a delight in, as well as the welfare of the one on whom that love is bestowed.
  - c. True love includes love for your enemy.

***Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you...***

***Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?***

- 2. God's love includes His enemies! Rom. 5:8
  - a. True love is visibly expressed.
  - b. True love is sacrificially given (it costs something!).
  - c. True love is supremely unconditional (not based on the worth or value of the one loved).
  - d. God's love is always judicial (He hates what is wrong & embraces what is right).

***Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

- 1) God's love is not syrupy emotionalism, sentimentality or physical attraction and is concerned about right & wrong.

**1 Corinthians 13:6 (Charity – love in action) rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;**

- 2) God's love is not motivated by some vacuum in His nature which must be fulfilled; by definition God cannot have "needs."
- 3) God's love is motivated by an inherent desire to shower His affection on His creation, *for His own glory*.

**ILLUS.:** Someone may think that is selfish, but since God is perfect He cannot manifest selfishness or any other sinful quality. Dr. Tony Evans uses an illustration in his book: *Our God Is Awesome*, p.256, which helps our understanding. A man is sprinkling his lawn on a hot day. The neighborhood kids all show up to run under the sprinkler, and since the man loves kids he not only permits it, but goes in the house and fixes them a snack and brings it out to them. He states: "...since God is pursuing His own glory, when He brings you under the umbrella of His love, you are in the very best position possible. Why? Because as God unfolds His will to achieve His glory in your life, you get to enjoy the blessings of His grace, power, purpose, and joy."

- 4) God's love was defined and manifested on Calvary.
- 5) God's love was visibly expressed, sacrificial in nature, beneficial to His creation, and unconditional in its scope.
- 6) God's love is expressed in His grace and mercy towards vile, helpless and hopeless sinners.

**CONCLUSION:** No doubt there are many other attributes of God, both revealed in Scripture and some not revealed, which are uniquely applicable to Him and which we mere humans do not share (e.g., His eternity, infinity, immenseness, etc.) However, these will have to suffice to show His uniqueness, perfection and awesomeness, due to time and space limitations for this class.

***Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!***

Now let's proceed to part 2 of our study and examine Pneumatology, the study of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit...

## **Pneumatology** **(The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)**

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

**What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

A. **Pneumatology is the study of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost is commonly referred to as the third Person of the Holy Trinity of the Godhead. He is just as much a Person as the Father and the Son. In fact the term "*Ghost*" as applied to Him in the King James Bible suggests that He is an exact duplicate of the Son of God in an invisible form. (A "*ghost*" is the "...spirit of somebody who has died" – *Encarta Dictionary*) Jesus promised that the Holy Ghost would come into the world for the believers if He were to leave.

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

**John 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:*

B. There is perhaps no more rewarding, practical, or fascinating study for the believer than that which we will now pursue. Since the Holy Spirit lives inside each believer it behooves each of us to find out as much as we can about this wonderful, permanent "Houseguest." He does not just reside near us as a neighbor, or close by us as a friend, or even have a personal relationship with us as a loved one – He lives **inside us!** He is as near to us as our very breath.

C. Of course the only place we can learn of Him with 100% accuracy is from God's revelation of Him, His Person, His ministries, and His activity. That revelation is found in only one place, God's Word, the Holy Scriptures. In fact the Holy Spirit reveals **Himself** there, for He is the Author!

### **I. SCRIPTURE AND ITS AUTHOR - THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

A. The Spirit and Revelation: (From God to Man)

**2 Peter 1:20-21** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

1. The first activity of revelation initiated by the Holy Spirit is that of implanting Scripture in the mind of the man to whom he wishes to communicate; He **reveals** the Word and words.
2. Though He may use the vocabulary and personality of that individual the product is the very words of God.

**ILLUS.:** When you read the words of Isaiah or Paul or Peter, you are reading their style, and see the imprint of the man and his personality, etc., but the end result is that God's Word and words are communicated exactly and without error. But revelation, until it is written is of little practical value to us. Thank God He did not simply communicate to the minds of men, but had those men pen their words. This brings us to the next step in the production of the Scriptures.

B. The Spirit and Inspiration (From Man to Man)

**1 Corinthians 11:23** *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you...*

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

**2 Timothy 3:16** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

1. Revelation and inspiration are closely related; however revelation is intensely personal: from the Lord to mind of the individual; whereas inspiration includes the communication of that revelation to others: the Spirit **transmits** the Word and words through the **graphe** or Scripture, i.e. writings.
2. Both revelation and inspiration guarantee the accuracy and innerancy of the words and message, since the Holy Spirit is the Author, Communicator and Superintendent of His words.
3. The words "given by inspiration of God" derive from the Greek word **theopneustos** or the breath **pneustos** = wind, air or breath) and **theos** = God, hence we have the concept that "all Scripture is God breathed."

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:** By the inspiration of the Scriptures is meant that the writers were so empowered and controlled by the Holy Spirit in the production of the Scriptures as to give them divine and infallible authority. *Bancroft's Elemental Theology, p.8*

C. The Spirit and Inscripturation: (From Man to Paper)

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

**2 Peter 3:15-16** *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

1. Praise the Lord the process did not just stop with revelation and inspiration, otherwise we would be left with a message transmitted via word of mouth from generation to generation, with all the potential problems that would create.
2. Once the revelation is recorded or *placed in writing*, it becomes a permanent record of what has been revealed and inspired.
3. Again the Holy Spirit was active and instrumental in this process of presenting, protecting and even preserving the message (Word) and words of God – the Spirit **presents** the Word and words.

**NOTE:** Beware when anyone speaks about God's Word, i.e., the message – without also speaking of the words (plural) by which that message is conveyed. The only accurate transmission of "the message" is through the words of that message – not the thoughts or concepts or "dynamic equivalence" of that message. It is not about what man *thinks* God said, but about *exactly what God said* (the words)!

That is one of the things wrong with the other English versions of the Bible; they not only use corrupted manuscripts they also use the "dynamic equivalent" method of translation, which is simply an attempt to figure out and convey what man *thinks* God meant to say. The King James Bible translators were not *interpreters*, they were *translators*, i.e., they took the words of God in the original languages and translated them into English.

- a. Not everything Paul or Moses wrote down or spoke were the inspired words of God.
- b. The process of determining *the canon* of Scripture ("catalog or list" i.e., which words, verses, passages, books) would be included in the Bible was a lengthy and difficult process (from the human standpoint), but one which was also superintended by the Holy Spirit.

**NOTE:** The canonization of a book of the Bible does not mean that the Jewish nation or the church gave to that book its authority; but rather that its authority, being already established on other internal and external evidence, was recognized as belonging to the canon and thus it was declared to be. Example: I have a Buick automobile. It is a Buick whether or not I place a Ford emblem on it. It has both the internal and external evidences to be declared a Buick. My declaring it so or ignoring the evidence does not alter what it is. Anyone who really knows cars will declare it to be a Buick based on its manufacture, parts, appearance, etc. It is what it is! So it is with Scripture. It does not matter who calls it something else ("Just a man made book!"), or attempts to alter it (omitting, adding, changing it, as in the new versions, etc.), or who declares it to be on a par with any other book (the *Quran*, the *Bagavad Gita*, the *Book of Mormon*, etc.), cannot change its intrinsic nature.

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:** By the canonicity of the Scriptures is meant that, according to certain and fixed standards, the books included in them are regarded as parts of a complete and divine revelation, which is therefore authoritative and binding in relation to both faith and practice.

- c. The canon of Scripture was closed with the last verse of the book of the Revelation and God has not given any new revelation since then, nor will He.
- d. The O.T. priesthood recognized the Law, Psalms and Prophets (the entire O.T.) as canonical, and our Savior confirmed them.

**Luke 24:44** *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

**Luke 24:27** *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

- e. The N.T. as with many of the books of the O.T. were declared to be Scripture by their authors ("thus saith the Lord..." or "the word of the Lord came unto me" etc.), were received as having divine authority by the Apostles chosen by our Lord, were placed on a level of authority with the O.T. by the early church, and had internal evidence of innerancy, and were thus declared canonical.

**John 16:12-15** *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

**Colossians 1:1-2** *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**2 Peter 3:15-16** *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

#### D. The Spirit and Illumination: (From Paper to Hearts)

1. The next step in the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the presentation of the Word and words of God is the ministry of illumination whereby He communicates through the written and preached Scriptures to the hearts of the hearers.

**Romans 10:17** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

2. Illumination by the Holy Spirit is necessary to a proper comprehension of spiritual truths; the Spirit **confirms** the Word and words.

**ILLUS.:** An unsaved man may be able to read the Bible and even understand the words and historical and geographical record, but he cannot comprehend the spiritual significance because the Author of Scripture does not indwell him to communicate the truths of the passage.

**1 Corinthians 2:13-14** *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

3. The Spirit not only illuminates His Word, but He also instructs us by His Word.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

#### E. The Spirit and Preservation: (From Generation to Generation)

**Psalms 12:6-7** *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*

**Matthew 24:35** *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

**Psalms 119:89** *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*

1. The ministry of preservation, though clearly taught in Scripture, is rarely taught in Bible colleges.
2. The ministry of preservation is one of the most important doctrines in the Bible, since the Scriptures are the foundation of our faith and if they have not been preserved intact, then revelation, inspiration, inscripturation and illumination are meaningless; the Spirit **protects** the Word and words.



**ILLUS.:** Of what value is an inspired record if it gets lost?! As some wit said: "How odd of God to inspire His Word and then lose it!" God is not absentminded! He did not misplace, lose or otherwise allow His Word and words to be corrupted, distorted or die! He did not breathe out His words and then stop breathing! God is not dead – or even sick! He promised to preserve the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit – Who is God – has kept that promise. It is the Holy Spirit Who has superintended the entire process, from revelation to preservation.

## II. SALVATION AND ITS ACTIVATOR – THE SPIRIT:

**John 6:63** *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

### A. Spirit Baptism:

**1 Corinthians 12:13** *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

**Romans 6:3-11** *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1. When we are saved we are placed into the body of Christ.
2. You will notice in the passages cited above that there is **no water** within six chapters in either direction of these verses, so they cannot refer to *ritual* (or water) baptism, but *real* (or Spirit) baptism!

**ILLUS.:** Every Charismatic wants to connect these passages with water baptism, just like the Catholics! Beware those who would beguile you (Col. 2:4,8). Water only places you in water – not in Christ. There is no connection – outside of a testimony or public demonstration – between your water baptism and your salvation. The Romans 6 passage gives us a definition of Spirit baptism, i.e., v.3 says we are *baptized "into His death"* and v.4 says we are *buried into His death*, then immediately in v.5 God tells us we are *baptized into His resurrection*. Water never places you in Christ. If water put you into Christ, then Christ would be water!!! Water puts you into water. Flesh puts you into flesh. The Spirit puts you into the Spirit. Spirit baptism occurs at regeneration and is not a separate event, but takes place simultaneously.

**Ephesians 4:4-6** *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

**NOTE:** Once again there is **no water** anywhere close to this passage. This is undoubtedly referring to the one *real baptism* every believer experiences – *Spirit baptism*. In fact, every one of the seven things mentioned in these verses are spiritual – not one is physical in the sense of this present world system.

3. You will notice from the above Scriptures that the regeneration of the sinner, which is produced by the Holy Spirit, is closely related to and simultaneous with, the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**John 3:3-6** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

4. When a person is born again, or quickened (made alive) by the Spirit, he or she is placed into Christ.

### B. Spirit Indwelling:

**Galatians 3:2** *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

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

**1 Corinthians 3:16**

**16** *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

1. Not only are we placed into the body of Christ as the initial work of regeneration (quickening) by the Spirit, but He then enters our body and indwells us, at the same instant.

2. Regardless of the maturity level of the believer (or immaturity), the Holy Spirit takes up residence within and lives there till death.
  - a. Because He is a Person, the Holy Ghost may be uncomfortable in His abiding place, but He will live there regardless.

**NOTE:** The Holy Spirit is a Person and as such He is said to do that which only a person can do: teaches, convicts, intercedes, leads, reproves, etc. He has the attributes of a person: He loves, performs works, comforts, etc. He also is affected as a person by other beings: He can be grieved, lied to and made sorry. He is always referred to as a person in Scriptures. (Note: It seems that the pronoun "itself" when referring to the Holy Spirit in the KJB speaks of *His works* and the pronoun "Himself" speaks of *His Person*. In Greek the word "spirit" is a neuter noun which would naturally call for a neuter pronoun, and in a few instances the neuter pronoun is used (Rom. 8:16, 26); but often the masculine form of the pronoun is used, thus emphasizing the fact of the personality of the Spirit.)

**John 16:8** *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

**John 14:26** *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

**John 14:16-17** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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.*

- b. He may be quenched (His influence extinguished, or diminished) by resisting His conviction, His promptings, His leading, or His direction; it may even include not using His gifts.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

- c. He may be grieved (made sorry) due to the way the believer lives or what he allows in his life, or refuses to include which He desires (e.g., the fruit of the Spirit).

**Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

**Isaiah 63:10** *But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.*

- d. He may be lied to; this may be connected to some commitment he made but failed to live up to.

**Acts 5:3-4** *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.*

### C. Spirit Sealing:

**Ephesians 1:13-14** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

1. As the above passage implies the impartation of the Holy Spirit is the "down-payment" on the completion of our salvation.
2. His indwelling seals us "till the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30) guaranteeing our arrival in heaven in a glorified state.

**Romans 8:18-23** *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

**NOTE:** The above three events (Spirit baptism, indwelling and sealing) are simultaneous with salvation in *chronology*, but appear to be *logically* arranged in this order.

### III. SERVICE AND ITS ADMINISTRATOR – THE SPIRIT:

**NOTE:** Although all the previous ministries of the Holy Spirit have a direct bearing on the believer, we will now deal with the day-to-day blessings bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon us. These are the very practical and useful ministries of the Spirit in all of our lives.

Jack Hyles, in his book *Meet the Holy Spirit* makes a distinction between the indwelling of the Spirit and the actual reception of the Spirit in the believer's life. He uses a simple illustration of a man who allows his mother-in-law to move into his home, but has a hard time accepting her. He pays almost no attention to her. Then one day he realizes his error and says to her "Please forgive me. I want to accept you as one of the family." She had been living in the house for some time, but he had not accepted her. He says that many believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and have acknowledged His presence, but who need to accept Him, by acknowledging His presence daily.

**Acts 19:1-2** *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*

While this passage may not exactly deal with the same concept, there may be a great deal of truth to Dr. Hyles' practical illustration, and we must not ignore His presence in our lives. And until we practically and daily acknowledge Him and accept Him as a Partner in our ministry, or rather the Administrator of our ministry, we will probably never know all He desires to do for us and through us.

#### A. Surrendering To The Spirit:

1. Surrender to the Holy Spirit results in the filling of the Spirit.
2. Spirit fullness is living with His conscious presence, yielding to His will for your life and allowing Him to direct every aspect of your life.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

**Colossians 1:9-10** *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

#### 3. Spirit fullness follows a biblical prescription:

- a. Empty yourself; if it is your will, your desire, your strength, then He cannot fill you.
- b. Sanctify yourself; admit your sins and then confess them.
- c. Ask for His power and fullness.

**Luke 11:5-13** *And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.*

*And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

**QUOTE:** Andrew Murray: "...fullness comes by faith...He asks that we believe in Him when we see and feel nothing. Believe that the fountain that springs up and flows forth in living streams is within you, even when all appears to be dry...A great longing, thirsting waiting, crying – a praying without ceasing for the Father to fulfill His promise in us and take full possession of us within. Such an emptying is the prerequisite to the filling."

**Psalms 42:1-2** *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God...*

- d. Obey the Holy Spirit's command in Eph. 5:18

**Ephesians 5:18** *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*

- e. Live in God's Word.

**NOTE:** Any "filling" that doesn't measure up to the Word is false. Any "filling" which involves self-will is false. Filling is cooperating with God and tapping into His power in accord with His Word. To be filled we must lose our will and yield to His will as revealed in His Word. It involves total cooperation with Him and His Word.

The so-called "power of the HOLYGHOST" of the fake healers (Benny Hinn, and company) is not in line with God's Word; thus it is spurious, fake, and phony! No one in the Bible gets "slain in the Spirit" when someone touches him on the forehead or blows his breath on him, barks like a dog, convulses in laughter (ala the "laughing revivals"), etc. God's power is not in the fire, earthquake, or whirlwind, (the

spectacular), but in the “still small voice” to guide us and help us live each day in His will, to keep us from sinning, to help us win the lost, do our job as parents, teach others, live clean, be a blessing to others, and “do right.” Spirit fullness produces Christlikeness.

The power brakes on your car have more than enough power to stop your vehicle, but you must cooperate and move your foot from the accelerator to the brake and apply some force. There is plenty of available power, but you must cooperate to energize that power and put it at your disposal. So too you must simply cooperate with the power of the Holy Spirit to utilize the available power He longs to give to you.

## B. Serving In The Spirit:

**NOTE:** Before one can serve the Lord in the Spirit, there must be an anointing by the Spirit. The anointing for the prophet, priest and king of Israel was done when the man God called entered His new sphere of ministry. So it should be with the believer. It follows the old prescription: God’s calling is His enabling. God enables the believer He calls. The believer simply yields to that call and to the Holy Spirit’s anointing. Along with the anointing there was always a cleansing. Thus it behooves the God called believer to get alone with God and beg for His cleansing, and then receive His anointing for whatever ministry He has given you.

Jack Hyles used the illustration of an old country preacher praying, “Lord, give me the unction. Lord, give me the unction. Lord, give me the unction.” Someone overheard the prayer and asked, “Reverend, what is the unction.?” Through tears he cried, “I don’t know what it is, but I sure know what it ain’t.” Maybe we don’t understand the anointing or unction of the Spirit, but we should know when we don’t have it!

**Exodus 28:40-41** *And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty. And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.*

**1 Kings 1:33-34** *The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.*

**1 Kings 19:16** *And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.*

**1 John 2:18-20** *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

**2 Corinthians 1:20-22** *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

### 1. The gifts of the Spirit:

- a. There are many gifts of the Spirit recorded in Scripture.

**ILLUS.:** A “gift” of the Spirit is something beyond natural talent or ability, though the Lord may enhance whatever the believer has and use it for His glory. For example when God wanted to have a Tabernacle erected as His dwelling place to lead His children through the wilderness, He gave special abilities to certain men. (They may have had some natural talent in these areas, but God supernaturally honed them to accomplish His will.)

**Exodus 31:1-6** *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee...*

- b. A spiritual gift then may be something uniquely given for a specific purpose (tongues, healing ability, etc.) or the enhancement of a natural talent (music, mechanical ability, etc.) that God will use to get His work accomplished.
- c. In the N.T. there are three specific lists of gifts which I classify as sign gifts (**1 Cor. 12**), service gifts (**Romans 12**) and speaking gifts (**Eph. 4**).
  - 1) The *sign gifts* were **temporary** and **foundational** gifts for the establishment of the early church (you only need to lay a foundation once!).
  - 2) The *service gifts* are **permanent** and **ongoing** gifts for the edification (building) of the church.
  - 3) The *speaking gifts* are four in number; two are **temporary** (“apostles and prophets”) and two are **permanent** (“evangelists... and...pastors and teachers”).

**Ephesians 4:11-12** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...*

**Ephesians 2:20** *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone...*

**1 Corinthians 13:8-10** *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

**NOTE:** The gifts of the Spirit are especially useful in reaching the lost or evangelizing ("getting the Bride" for the Son – see Genesis 24:22, 35, 53). They are enticements to attract the unsaved. Which gift(s) do YOU have?! Are you using your gift of mercy? Your gift of giving? Your gift of teaching? Surely these gifts are also to be used to edify the Church. No genuine gift of the Spirit is for self-edification. (I Cor. 13)

## 2. The fruit of the Spirit:

**Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

**Proverbs 11:30** *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

**John 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

**John 12:24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

**John 15:8** *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

**John 15:4** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

- a. It appears from the amount of Scripture dedicated to fruit-bearing by believers that this would be an important and integral part of the ministry of any Christian.
- b. In fact it appears that without fruit-bearing the believer is of little value and cannot really serve the Savior.
- c. In other words, it is possible to be filled with the Spirit, and have some of the gifts of the Spirit, but unless you have the fruit of the Spirit, you will accomplish little for the Lord.

**NOTE:** Our Savior one day spoke of the sower who sowed seeds in the fields. The object of seed-sowing is obviously to produce a harvest, or fruit. Note his evaluation of the result of the seed sown in this parable. After describing how some seed was wasted and produced nothing of lasting value, He makes this statement...

**Matthew 13:8** *But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

Notice that the harvest varied, but that there were no seeds (God's Word) which fell on good ground (the heart of true believers) which did not produce *any fruit!* All believers are to produce some fruit! How are YOU growing?! What fruit are YOU producing? How much fruit are YOU producing (30, 60, 100 fold?)?

- d. Fruit varies, i.e., there are many varieties of fruit trees in nature, and it seems that there is also a variety of fruit among believers.
  - 1) There is soul-fruit, i.e., the product of soul-winning. Prov. 11:30
  - 2) There is the fruit of Christlikeness which comes from abiding in Him and having an intimate, and very personal walk with the Lord. Jn. 15:1-8
  - 3) There is the fruit of Christian character listed in Galatians 5:22,23 which replaces the old works of the flesh (vv. 19-21).

**NOTE:** In a study of the "fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5, I defined the nine-fold fruit listed there as follows (an abbreviated version):

LOVE: The quality of unconditional love towards the lost and towards brethren, manifested by our Savior & Example  
JOY: The exuberant, excitement produced by the Holy Spirit within each believer due to the new birth & our ultimate destination of Heaven  
PEACE: The settled, quiet, calmness which abides in the soul of God's children because of a right relationship to the Lord  
LONGSUFFERING: The patience under trial produced by the indwelling Spirit regardless of external circumstances  
GENTLENESS: The disposition believers are to manifest towards others  
GOODNESS: Kindness in action  
FAITH: Believing God; trusting Him in daily living to care for us (providence) and our needs (provision)

MEEKNESS: Mildness and submissiveness, especially in relation to God's Word, and in response to others  
TEMPERANCE: Self-control (which gives victory over sin)

- 4) There is the fruit Peter lists which further describes our Christlikeness (an amplification of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5?).

**2 Peter 1:5-8** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- 5) There is the fruit of regeneration produced by the Holy Spirit which changes us in many areas; which gives us new goals in life, new direction, new interests and a whole new life.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

### C. Speaking in the Spirit:

1. Earlier we examined briefly the gifts of the Spirit; one of those gift-groups included the speaking gifts of evangelist and pastor/teacher.
  - a. It is the author's conviction that the gift of "evangelist" would be equivalent to our present-day missionary.
  - b. The early church missionaries would go to a place where there were no churches, evangelize and get a few folks saved and start a church.
  - c. They would stay there a few months or a few years until the church was doctrinally sound and properly organized, appoint a local, national pastor and then move on to do the same thing again.
2. The pastor/teacher is the man-of-God called to be the more or less permanent leader of an established local assembly.
  - a. His job is mainly one of ministering the word of God to the flock; he is to "preach the Word...in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." 2 Tim. 4:2
  - b. As the term "pastor" suggests he is to shepherd the flock God has entrusted to his care.

**Acts 20:25-31** *And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

**NOTE:** Paul the missionary had founded the church at Ephesus and had become its temporary pastor for three years. He was about to move on when he gave the above instructions to the pastor(s) he would be leaving behind. In the passage he leaves them with a three-fold responsibility: to feed the flock, lead the flock and take heed (i.e., warn and watch over) the flock. This, in a nutshell, is the responsibility of the man-of-God called to be the pastor or shepherd of any flock of God.

- 1) In feeding the flock he is to nourish the sheep with spiritual food by preaching the Word of God to them (Paul said "preach the Word" not "preach about the Word").
- 2) In leading the flock he is to emulate the Great Shepherd in Psalm 23 who made sure the sheep had "green pastures" and "still waters" i.e., his ministry is to be one where the flock are carefully led and their needs attended to in a peaceful environment.
- 3) In taking heed to the flock, he is to warn them and watch over them to protect them against their enemies by keeping the "wolves" (false teachers) from entering the flock and preying on the flock and to sound the alarm about those who would poison their supply of spiritual food with false doctrine.

**ILLUS.:** Some preachers shy away from this sometimes unpleasant task of warning the flock or simply give very general warnings which may be misinterpreted by the flock. They fail to be specific in their warnings. If they would follow Paul's and John's example they would not be afraid to "name names" of the false teachers, nor to specifically identify their heresies.

**1 Timothy 1:19-20** *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

**3 John 9-10** *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.*

**2 Timothy 4:14** *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*

**2 Timothy 2:16-18** *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*

**2 Timothy 1:15** *This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.*

**Titus 1:10-13** *For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*

**NOTE:** In both the O.T. and the N.T., men-of-God have not failed to warn specifically of men and movements which were heretical or hurtful to the people of God. Men-of-God today are to follow in their footsteps and not be too concerned that by so doing they may alienate some or diminish the numbers in their congregations. God will honor those who are true to Him and the calling He has given them. They will, like the Apostle Paul, at the end of their ministries be able to say with him: **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."** **2 Tim. 4:7**

3. Speaking in the Spirit is not just for the specially called men-of-God, but for all believers.

**Colossians 4:6** *Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

**1 Peter 3:15** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready alway to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

**Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**NOTE:** The power granted to the believer at the time of their regeneration, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is for the purpose of **witnessing**, i.e. speaking in the Spirit so others may be saved. (This is contrary to what is taught or preached in Charismatic or Pentecostal circles today where the people are told that the purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit is to speak in tongues or perform miracles of healing, etc.)

4. One more form of speaking in the Spirit is that of prayer.

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

**Ephesians 6:18** *Praying alway with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...*

a. The Holy Spirit is our prayer Partner and intercedes with us.

**Romans 8:26** *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.*

b. The only kind of prayer that gets past the ceiling is that which is energized by the Holy Ghost of God.

**CONCLUSION:** Although this may be the end of this study, there is no end to the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit, nor is there an end of other areas of study concerning His ministry. There are numbers of good and even great books on this subject by knowledgeable men-of-God I could recommend. However, the greatest study of this subject is found in the book the Holy Spirit Himself authored: God's Word! And the most practical study for the believer is to be found in his day-to-day walk with the Lord as he is led of the Spirit.

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