

# The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit gets mentioned quite a lot these days, but despite this I believe that the Holy Spirit is not very well understood. People have a lot of misconceptions about the Spirit and a tremendous lack of appreciation for the marvelous gift that has been given to the Church. What I'd like to do is spend some time talking about the Spirit and going over what the Bible has to say about Him.

The first thing we need to understand is that the relationship we have with the Spirit in the Church Age is quite different from the way things were in the Old Testament. It's easy to forget the fact that the Spirit was a gift given to the Church by Jesus, and the reason He gave it was because He was leaving to go back to Heaven:

**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.”

What Jesus is saying is that when He left He was going to give His followers something entirely new – *something they did not have before*. (After all, if they already had it then there would be no need to send it again!) He was going to send them the Holy Spirit.

That is exactly what Jesus did. The Spirit was given to the Church on the day of Pentecost:

**Acts 2:1:** “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Here we see that “they were all filled with the Holy Ghost”, and that has continued to be the case throughout the Church Age. Whenever a person is saved they are immediately filled with the Spirit. We can see this in the case of the centurion Cornelius, who was saved and filled with the Spirit while Peter was still preaching to him:

**Acts 10:42:** “And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.”

The book of Ephesians tells us that we are not only given the Spirit, but we are sealed with it:

**Ephesians 1:13:** “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,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

What Paul is saying here is that we have been promised an inheritance – one that we have not yet received. The Holy Spirit is “the earnest” of that inheritance. In other words, He is like earnest money. Whenever someone makes an offer on a house they are required to put up “earnest money”. This tells the seller that their offer is serious. The Holy Spirit is essentially “earnest money” from God, telling us that He is serious about the inheritance He has promised us.

Another key point in this passage is that it says “ye were sealed” with the Spirit. This means that the Spirit is sealed within us: we cannot lose it and it cannot be taken from us. We have it *forever*. In fact, this is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a Christian. Anyone who has the Spirit is saved, and anyone who does *not* have the Spirit is *not* saved:

**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.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

If we have the Spirit we are saved and will be resurrected. If we don't have the Spirit then we are not saved and we will not be resurrected when the Lord returns. It is that crucial. That is the great gift that Jesus gave to His Bride, the Church.

However, I want to point out that this gift was given *only to the Church*. The Old Testament saints were not given this gift. They lived in a different dispensation – a different Age. Christ was very clear that the gift of the Holy Spirit was a new thing and that it was given *because Jesus was leaving*. This is not to say that people in the Old Testament did not have the Spirit, because some of them definitely did. What it does mean is that the Spirit was given differently and operated differently.

The first person the Bible describes as being filled with the Spirit was actually not a priest or a prophet but a workman named Bezaleel. We find this in the book of Exodus:

**Exodus 31:1:** “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.”

God had just given Moses the plans for the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant – two very holy things that were going to be used to worship God. However, the Lord did not stop at just giving Moses the plans; God also picked out the people He wanted to perform the construction work. In this case God picked Bezaleel and filled him with His Spirit so that he could build the Tabernacle and the

Ark.

In other words, God wanted Bezaleel to perform a very special and holy task, so God gave him His Spirit so he could accomplish the job. We see this all throughout the Old Testament. God would assign tasks to certain people and then give them His Spirit so they could carry them out. Very few people were given the Spirit. It was a rare gift – which is something that Moses lamented:

**Numbers 11:27:** “And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!”

Moses longed for a day when all of God's people would be given the Spirit. That's exactly how things are today, but that was not the case in the Old Testament. In fact, the situation was even worse than that! Not only was the gift of the Spirit a rare thing, but those who had the Spirit had to act with great care because *it could be lost*. If a person sinned against God, the Lord might withdraw His Spirit. It was not sealed inside people the way it is today.

A good example of this is the case of Samson. Samson was born to begin delivering the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines:

**Judges 13:5:** “For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

Notice that the passage does not say that Samson would *deliver* the Israelites. All it says is that he would *begin* to deliver them. The Lord had a job for Samson, so He gave Samson His Spirit:

**Judges 13:24:** “And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

We all know the life story of Samson and the mighty acts that he accomplished through the power of the Spirit. However, we also know how the story ends. Samson told Delilah the source of his power and she had one of her servants cut off his hair. The Lord was displeased and withdrew His Spirit, which caused Samson to lose his strength and be captured by the Philistines:

**Judges 16:20:** “And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.

21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.”

In the Church Age we are sealed with the Spirit. The Lord will never take Him from us. But losing the Spirit was a genuine concern in the Old Testament. When Samson disobeyed God, the Lord

departed from him. God withdrew His Spirit and Samson lost his strength. Even King David was troubled by this very same problem. After he sinned with Bathsheba he begged God to not withdraw His Spirit:

**Psalm 51:11:** “Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”

The Spirit cannot and will not be taken from us; in the Church Age that is not possible. But before this Age it was a very real concern and it did happen. We have been given an astounding gift and we don't even realize it. This gift has *only been given to the Church*. Once the Church is gone things will revert to the way they used to be – but I am getting ahead of myself.

So what does the Holy Spirit do? Well, quite a lot, actually. One of the big things that the Holy Spirit does is convict people of their sins and draw them to Jesus so that they can be saved. You see, no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws Him:

**John 6:44:** “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Everyone who has ever come to Jesus has done so because the Father has drawn him. This is done through convicting people of their sin and their need for a Savior. God will not save anyone who has not repented, and before people can repent they must understand that they have sinned and are guilty before God. Only then can they cry out for forgiveness and mercy. In order to be saved the Father must draw you to the Son, and the Father uses the Holy Spirit to do that.

Salvation depends upon conviction. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of its sin:

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

The word translated “reprove” is the Greek word *elegcho*, which means to convict, convince, or admonish.

The Holy Spirit also teaches us:

**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.”

This is why we can understand the Bible, and why lost people find the Bible so impossible to understand. The Bible tells us that its truths are spiritually discerned; in order to understand them we need the Spirit. Since we have the Spirit we can understand what the Bible is saying. The Spirit teaches us all things, and in key moments of our lives the Spirit brings things to mind.

Did you ever wonder why the disciples found it so impossible to understand what Jesus was saying? Well, consider this: they did not receive the Spirit until *after* Jesus ascended into Heaven! That means that during the life of Jesus on Earth they were trying to understand Him *without* the indwelling of the Spirit. We have a big advantage over them: we have the Holy Spirit teaching us all things. The disciples didn't have that until the day of Pentecost.

Another way to look at this is that God has given us a built-in companion. When you are sitting all by yourself reading your Bible, you are not really alone because the Holy Spirit is there within you. As you read the Word He will teach you things and guide you into the truth.

The Holy Spirit is your tutor. He is the one who reveals truths to mankind and knows the deep things of God:

**1 Corinthians 2:10:** “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 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.”

I am not saying that it is impossible to learn anything from human teachers. In fact, God has actually blessed some people within the Church with the gift of teaching for that very reason. God *wants* you to learn from other people; if He didn't then there would be no teachers. But the point is that you can understand the Bible *yourself*. You don't have to depend on other people to tell you what it says.

This is a very important point. The Catholic Church teaches that only priests have the power to interpret the Bible. They say that lay people should avoid reading the Bible and should just believe whatever their priest tells them. However, the Catholic Church is wrong. *Everyone* should read the Bible. God commands everyone to study it, believe it, and obey it. You don't need a priest to interpret it for you – you have the Spirit! He will teach you all things, provided you actually sit down and study the Word. In fact, it is *your job* to critically examine the things that your teachers are telling you. Instead of just blindly accepting everything that they say you should read the Word and check the truth of their statements.

The Holy Spirit also intercedes for 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.”

This part of the Spirit's ministry is not visible to us, but it is still a very important ministry. You see, Satan is more than just our adversary; he is our accuser. The Bible tells us that he is constantly attacking the saints and accusing them before God *day and night*. Job was not the only person that Satan has brought accusations against; he still does that today. (Satan will continue to do this until midway through the Tribulation, at which point his access to God will be revoked. You can read about this in Revelation 12:7-12.) The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf. If Satan is the prosecuting attorney then the Holy Spirit is our defense.

Another thing the Spirit does is lead us:

**Romans 8:14:** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

This is something we see quite a bit in the New Testament. One manifestation of this is the way the Spirit sometimes gives specific counsel and guidance. For example, in the case of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, the Spirit came to Philip and gave him a command:

**Acts 8:29:** "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot."

Philip obeyed and went up to the chariot, and there he met an Ethiopian who was confused about an Old Testament prophecy. When Philip explained it to him, the Ethiopian was saved and went away rejoicing.

The Holy Spirit also sanctifies us:

**2 Thessalonians 2:13:** "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

**Titus 3:5:** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Sanctification is a fancy name for "becoming more like Christ". When Christ saves us He makes us a promise to perfect us, but that perfection doesn't take place at the moment of salvation. Even though our sins have been forgiven and we have been made right with God, we have *not* been put beyond the reach of temptation. We still struggle with sin. We have a new, holy nature, but there is still a sinful nature within us that puts up a fight and makes our lives difficult.

One day that will change. When the Lord comes for us and brings us home (whether that happens at our death or at the Rapture) we will be changed. Our days of struggling with sin will be over once and for all and we will finally be like Christ. That day will come, but until it comes – until we are with the Lord – we struggle with sin. The process of defeating that sin and choosing holiness over depravity is called sanctification.

We often think that sanctification is something that *we* have to make happen. We believe that it's up to us to learn how to do better, and that it's just a matter of trying harder. But that is not the case. We don't sanctify ourselves; that is something the Spirit does. He is the one who regenerates and renews us. When we conquer sin and achieve victory, that victory was achieved by the Spirit, not by us. He is the one driving our sanctification. When we face sin our response should not be "I'll just try harder next time". Instead we should cry out that the Spirit would wash and regenerate us, that God would change us, and that Jesus would live His life through us. We cannot sanctify ourselves; only the Spirit can do that. Victory over sin is something that only God can provide. Our own efforts will always fail.

The Holy Spirit also rebukes the world, which is something that was touched on earlier:

**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.

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

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

There are also the gifts of the Spirit, which is a subject that is far too large to discuss here. All I will say is that the Spirit has given different gifts to people within the Body of Christ so that they might

minister to one another:

**I Corinthians 12:8:** “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”

There is a great deal that can be said about the gifts of miracles, tongues, and so forth. Some people believe that these gifts have ceased while others believe that they still exist. I don't want to get into that debate right now because it is a complicated discussion that is outside the scope of this paper. The point I want to make is that the Spirit has given different gifts to different people, and He intends those gifts to be used for the good of the Body. God gave each of us different abilities so that we can minister to one another's needs. We are not an army of clones where each person is exactly like everyone else. We are a Body, and a body has different parts that perform different functions.

There is also something called the fruit of the Spirit, which is mentioned in Galatians:

**Galatians 5:22:** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Usually we see this as a to-do list. We read it and think “Ah, here is a list of character qualities that I need to develop. I'd better get started right away!” But that's not how it works. These are *fruits* of the Spirit. In other words, these are things that happen in your life *as a result of having the Spirit dwelling in you*. The Holy Spirit is the one who will accomplish these things in your life! As you follow Christ you will begin to see these things manifested. When you do you will know that they weren't accomplished by your efforts; they were the work of the Spirit.

A lot of people want to think that *they* are responsible for their holiness and that they have made themselves who they are. “Just look at me! Look at all of my great character qualities. Aren't I a wonderful person? I made myself this way through my own hard work and willpower. I'm holier than you because I'm *better* than you.” We might never say these things out loud, but it's easy to fall into the trap of believing these things. We want to think that we are responsible for our spiritual growth, but that's not the case. The Holy Spirit is the one who sanctifies us, draws us closer to God, reveals the truth of the Word to us, and who works in our lives. We are the recipients of God's grace, *not* the ones who made it happen. Christianity is not a do-it-yourself religion. It is not the story of the great things we have done; instead it is the story of the great things that God has done for us.

As we've seen, the Holy Spirit does quite a lot: it teaches us the truth, reveals the deep things of God, intercedes for us, guides our lives, sanctifies us, and gives us gifts so that we might minister to one another. That is quite a list. Notice, however, what is absent: there is no mention that the Holy

Spirit restrains evil. Nowhere in the Bible do we find the Spirit tasked with that particular role.

The reason I bring this up is because a lot of people believe that the Holy Spirit is keeping the Antichrist from appearing. This idea is based on this verse from 2 Thessalonians:

**2 Thessalonians 2:7:** “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”

In the King James Version of the Bible that verse is difficult to understand. What on Earth does “he who now letteth will let” even mean? Well, the phrase “letteth will let” is the Greek word *katecho*, which means “to restrain, hinder”. The ASV translation of this passage is much easier to understand:

**2 Thessalonians 2:6:** “And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only there is one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.”

What this verse is saying is that there is someone who is acting as a restrainer and keeping the antichrist from appearing. The antichrist will not appear until the restrainer is taken out of the way. People commonly assume that this restrainer is the Holy Spirit, but the problem with this view is that *nowhere* in the Bible does one ever see the Holy Spirit restraining demonic activity. This passage says that there is a restrainer, but it does *not* say who that restrainer is.

However, there is a class of beings who spends a great deal of time restraining demonic activity. Those beings are *the angels*. The book of Daniel gives us a glimpse into the warfare between the angels of light and the demonic angels. For example:

**Daniel 10:12:** “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

As you can see, the demons were successful in keeping the angel at bay, but when Michael came they were forced to yield. The Bible describes Michael as a tremendously powerful being who is highly effective at resisting the powers of darkness:

**Daniel 10:20:** “Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”

There is even one case where Michael resisted Satan himself:

**Jude 1:9:** “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said,



The Lord rebuke thee.”

In fact, the Bible tells us that during the Tribulation Michael will lead an army of angels and will evict Satan from Heaven once and for all:

**Revelation 12:7:** “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,  
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.  
9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Based on all of this, it seems quite clear that the *angels* are actually the ones who are charged with restraining evil in this world. The angel who seems to have the most power is Michael, who Daniel 10:21 refers to as “your prince” and Jude 1:9 calls “the archangel”. In my opinion I think that the restrainer of 2 Thessalonians 2:7 is not the Holy Spirit but is Michael. The Bible contains numerous accounts of Michael restraining evil (and even resisting the devil himself), whereas there don't seem to be *any* accounts of the Holy Spirit doing that. In fact, Michael's entire ministry seems to be focused on that very point!

If this is the case then for the past two thousand years Michael has been battling to keep the antichrist from appearing. One day God will remove him from the battlefield, and when that day comes the entire world will be plunged into a terrible time. But that is a subject for another time.

Regardless of who the Restrainer is, the day is coming when the Holy Spirit will no longer be given out as it is today. That gift was given only to the Church. Once the Church is complete and the Lord returns and brings it home (an event known as the Rapture), the gift of the Spirit will cease as well and things will go back to the way they used to be. People will still have the Spirit and the Spirit will still draw people to Christ to be saved, but they will no longer be sealed by the Spirit. If they sin they will lose the Spirit and face terrible consequences.

We find this teaching in one of the parables of Christ – the parable of the ten virgins:

**Matthew 25:1:** “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.  
2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.  
3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:  
4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.  
5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.  
6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.  
7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.  
8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.  
9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.  
10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.  
11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

There is a tremendous amount of misunderstanding regarding this passage. People often apply it to the Church despite the fact that it has nothing to do with us – it is addressed to the Tribulation saints.

First of all, Christ is referring to His coming *at the end of the Tribulation*. At that point in history the Church will be with Christ in Heaven. This means that the Church won't be watching for the Lord's return; instead we will actually *be returning with Christ!* The only people who will be caught off-guard will be those who are still on Earth – in other words, the Tribulation saints. So this parable is aimed at them, not at us.

Second, it should be noted that the Bible is consistent in its use of symbols. The Church is always referred to as the Bride, not as ten bridesmaids. The bride does *not* have to worry about missing her own wedding, and the bridegroom is not going to forget his own bride and claim to not know her! That is simply impossible.

Who are the bridesmaids, then? They are the Tribulation saints. The Church – and *only* the Church – is the Bride. Before the Church came into being there were many Old Testament saints who were saved, but they were not a part of the Church and are not a part of the Bride. After the Rapture there will be many people who will be saved, but they won't be a part of the Church and they won't be a part of a Bride. They will still have a relationship with Christ but their relationship will be different from ours. We have a special position – one that is not shared by members of any other dispensation.

The other key to remember is that oil is always symbolic of the Holy Spirit. What we have here are ten Tribulation saints, five of whom were wise and had the Spirit and five of whom were foolish and lacked it. When Christ returned, half of these people were caught without the Spirit, and when they tried to enter they were turned away. The reason Christ told them to watch is because if He returns and catches people without the Spirit, He will not accept them. They will be turned away.

This is a situation that the Church does *not* have to worry about. When we were saved we were given the Spirit and it was sealed within us. We can't lose the Spirit and we can't lose our salvation. However, that is *not* the case for the Tribulation saints. They will not be sealed with the Spirit. They have to watch and be careful, lest Christ return and they are caught without it and damned forever. They have to exercise great care, lest they be rejected as Samson was.

This does not mean they are saved by works; far from it. They are still saved by grace. But the gift of the Spirit was given to the Church and not to anyone else. People in the Old Testament were also saved by grace and not works, but there were still times when God withdrew His Spirit from people. Here Christ is making it clear that if He returns and finds the Tribulation saints without the Spirit, He will not accept them. That is Christ's point and that is why it is so important that they watch for His return. Their eternal salvation depends upon their being ready when He arrives.

In the Church Age we have been given an astounding gift – the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit intercedes for us, sanctifies us, guides us into the truth, draws us to Christ, and is forever sealed within us. This very special gift has only been given to the Church; it was not shared by the Old Testament saints and will not be shared by the Tribulation Saints. Moses longed for the day when all of God's people would be filled with His Spirit, and we now live in that day. We should be thankful and praise God for His indescribable gift.