

CHRIST'S ABIDING PRESENCE

When a person becomes a Christian, and, as the living of the Christian life unfolds and develops, it quickly becomes apparent how much one needs the Lord daily to be successful at it. Many often say, "If only I had lived when Jesus was on earth; I could have gone to Him for guidance, help, strength, assurance."

This lesson will help to unfold one of the great truths of the Bible. We all know that Jesus is not here now. In our next lesson we will find that He will be here again soon. But in the meantime, now, today, everyday, Another, One just like our Lord, is here, and is fully able to help us in every way we need.

Have you met Him? Yes, you have! Have you been helped by Him? Yes, you have! Have you received strength from Him? Yes, you have! Who is He? Where is He? What is He? Let us study God's Word and see.

1. First, what is His name? Jot down the various names you find for Him in Mark 1:9,10; Acts 5:3,4; and Romans 8:9.

2. Throughout the Bible, the "Holy Spirit" is identified with God the Father, and with Christ the Son. Also, throughout the Bible, the characteristics of the Holy Spirit are found to be the same as those of God and Christ. Not only are all three eternal (Hebrews 9:14), but They are also all-knowing (omniscient), all-powerful (omnipotent), and everywhere present (omnipresent). Note the characteristics of the Holy Spirit in the texts below:

- (a) 1 Cor. 2:9,10 _____
- (b) Romans 15:13 _____
- (c) Psalm 139:7-12? _____


The Holy Spirit is God in the same sense that the Father and Son are God. The three are the members of the "Godhead." (See Mark 1:9-11 again, and also Matthew 28:18,19.)

3. What can we learn of some of the activities of the Holy Spirit in the days of the Old Testament from the following texts?

- (a) Genesis 1:1,2,26 _____
- (b) Exodus 31:1-3 (note verse 3) _____

4. We can learn much about the work of the Holy Spirit during the years Christ was on earth from many passages found in the gospels. Study some of these as you have time: In the life of John the Baptist (Luke 1:13-15), in connection with the birth of Christ (Luke 1:35), the prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:67-69), at Christ's baptism (Mark 1:9-11), in Christ's wilderness experience (Matthew 4:1), following the wilderness (Luke 4:14). He was the power in Christ's earthly life (Luke 4:18), and the power by which Christ did miracles (Matthew 12:28). Christ passed on the power of the Holy Spirit to His disciples (John 20:22; Acts 1:2,8; Acts 2:1-5.)

5. In light of questions 3 and 4, what did Jesus mean when He made the promise of John 14:16-18 and John 16:7 near the close of His ministry on earth?
- (a) Had the Holy Spirit worked on earth before that? _____
- (b) What did Jesus mean by the term, "another"? _____
- (c) What did He mean by "Comforter"? (Same as "Advocate" in 1 John 2:1) _____
6. John 16:7-14 is a most important passage on the work of the Holy Spirit. What can we learn from the following verses?
- (a) Verses 7, 8 _____
- (b) Verse 13 _____
- (c) Verse 14 _____
7. God wants to use all of His followers as tools of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8.) To be what Christ wants us to be, and to have a powerful witness that Christ wants us to have, is the focus on the work of the Holy Spirit for us. Read and meditate on Ephesians 3:16-19.

<p>(1) _____</p> <p>(2) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The <u>Holy Spirit</u> in the <u>Old Testament</u>:</p> <p>(3a) _____</p> <p>(3b) _____</p>		<p><u>Since the Ascension of Christ:</u></p> <p>(5b) _____</p> <p>(6a) _____</p> <p>(6b) _____</p> <p>(6c) _____</p> <p>(7) _____</p>
<p>(4) <u>During the Life of Christ:</u> _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>		