

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>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>		

1. Mark 1:9, 10

⁹It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

Answer: Spirit

Acts 5:3, 4

³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Answer: Holy Spirit

Romans 8:9

⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Answer: Spirit of God; Spirit of Christ

2. Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2a. 1 Corinthians 2:9, 10

⁹But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

¹⁰But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Answer: The Spirit teaches us what God wants us to know.

2b. Romans 15:13

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Answer: The Spirit gives us power (reason) to hope.

2c. Psalm 139:7-12

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"
Even the night shall be light about me;
¹² Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,
But the night shines as the day;
The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

Answer: The Spirit is anywhere we are, He is everywhere.

2. Mark 1:9-11

⁹It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Note: Both God (by voice) and the Spirit (visible as a dove) acknowledged Jesus as the Son.

2. Matthew 28:18, 19

¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**
¹⁹**Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, . . .

Note: Jesus charged the disciples to baptize those who desired to follow God in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

3a. Genesis 1:1, 2, 26

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Answer: The Spirit of God was present and active during the creation of the world.

3b. Exodus 31:1-3

¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *manner of workmanship*, . . .

Answer: The Spirit of God gives man wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and craftsman's skill.

4. Work of the Holy Spirit:**Luke 1:13-15** (John the Baptist)

³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:35 (Christ's Birth)

³⁵And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*”

Luke 1:67-69 (Zacharias prophecy)

⁶⁷Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

⁶⁸ “Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed His people,
⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David,

Mark 1:9-11 (Christ's Baptism)

⁹It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 4:1 (Christ's Wilderness Experience)

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:14 (Christ after the Wilderness)

¹⁴Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Luke 4:18 (Christ's earthly life)

¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

Matthew 12:28 (Christ's power for miracles)

²⁸But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

John 20:22 (Holy Spirit passed on to Disciples)

²²And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:2, 8 (Holy Spirit passed on to Disciples)

²until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, . . .

⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:1-5 (Holy Spirit passed on to Disciples)

¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them.

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

⁵And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

5. John 14:16-18

¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 16:7

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

- (a) **Answer:** Yes, right from the beginning when the world was being created.
- (b) **Answer:** Someone beside Himself who would help them just as Jesus had helped them.

5c. 1 John 2:1

¹My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

- (c) **Answer:** Defender, Counselor, Helper, Advocate

6. John 16:7-14

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

- (a) **Answer:** The Holy Spirit is important because he convicts sin, develops righteousness, and helps us understand the danger of sin.
- (b) **Answer:** The Holy Spirit guides the true seeker of truth to the Truth.
- (c) **Answer:** He points people to Jesus and helps us understand what Jesus has done for us.

7. Acts 1:8

⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Ephesians 3:16-19

. . . ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of Lesson 9: The name of the Holy Spirit has entered into the discussion in lessons 1-8 a number of times. Now, it is our purpose to introduce the subject more fully. Two points need to be made especially clear. First, that it was the Holy Spirit's presence and working that led the student to Christ. Second, that a consciousness of the every day presence of the Holy Spirit will lead the student to dependence on His teaching, keeping, and empowering work each day--thus, to experience clarity in Bible study, growth in the Lord, and influence on the lives of others. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 217 adds this important truth: "If we were to cherish an habitual impression that God sees and hears all that we do and say, and keeps a faithful record of our words and actions, and that we must meet it all, we would fear to sin."

During the study itself: Briefly summarize the texts in 2(a) and 2(b). At the close of question 3, you might introduce to your student the value of a good Bible concordance for further study. (The American Bible Society has an excellent hardback concordance available for around \$2.00.) Simply read over question 4 with the student and encourage him to look them up later and underline them in his Bible. Question 5 demands your help. The SDA Bible Commentary is adequate for a good explanation. Overall in the lesson, encourage further private study.

Appeal: The text in question 7 is challenging. Tie in the questions that were asked in paragraph 2 of the introduction to the lesson.

Illustration: A very simple locating of the points of questions 3, 4, and 5-6 in terms of Old Testament times, days of the gospels, and since then, will help the student to see the eternalness of the Holy Spirit as well as His continued ways of working with mankind.

(1) Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Christ

(2) All-wise, All-powerful, Everywhere present

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament:

(3a) Involved in Creation of World & Mankind

(3b) Man Filled with the Spirit



Since the Ascension of Christ:

(5b) Another – like Christ

(6a) Reproves sin

(6b) Guides into All Truth

(6c) Glorifies, leads to Christ

(7) Helps us be Witnesses

(4) During the Life of Christ:

John the Baptist filled with H.S.

Mary Conceived by Holy Spirit

Present at Christ's Baptism

With Christ in the Wilderness

Empowered Christ