

# DISCIPLESHIP LESSON 21

<b>1</b>	<b>PRAYER</b>
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*Pray* for God's guidance through his Spirit, for awareness of his presence and for listening to his voice. Dedicate this lesson about disciple making to the Lord.

<b>2</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b> (20 minutes)	<b>[CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD] GOD IS GREAT AND CREATIVE</b>
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## **Meditation.**

**Theme: God is great and creative.**

*Read* Psalm 139:13-18.

God has made our human body fantastic! God is the Creator of life and growth and both phenomenon are miracles. The human body grows and renews itself continually. God is also the Creator of the smallest forms of life thinkable.

### **1. Blood clotting.**

When a person suffers a cut it ordinary bleeds for only a short time before a clot stops the flow. The clot eventually hardens and the cut heals over. But blood clotting is a complicated process and requires extreme precision in order to avoid disaster. When your pressurized blood system is punctured a clot must form quickly or you will bleed to death. If blood congeals at the wrong time and place in the body, the clot may block blood circulation as it does in heart attacks and strokes. The blood clotting must be confined to the cut or the entire blood system might solidify and kill the person.

Large quantities of enzymes (proteins that catalyze a chemical reaction) in inactive form are stored in the body, ready to be activated. The blood clotting system is like a river cascade: one component activates a second component, which activates a third component, etc. In each section of the cascade, certain enzymes promote clot formation and other enzymes promote the prevention, localization or removal of blood clots. Furthermore, these enzymes are again dependent on other enzymes to function: to activate, to increase, to retard or to stop their activity. All these enzymes need to be present in order for blood clotting to take place and to stop at the right moment. The blood clotting system is a single system composed of several interacting parts that contribute to the basic function of clotting. The removal of any one of these parts causes the system effectively to cease functioning. Only God could design and create such a complex coagulation cascade system!

### **2. The cells of the human body.**

The human body consists of an uncountable number of cells. It is estimated that each kilogram of the human body contains 2 000 000 000 000 cells! Each cell consists of 10 very small power plants that produce all the energy needed for the numerous functions of the body. Each power plant produces energy for working and running, for thinking and speaking and for all the other functions of the body. But each of these power plants is smaller than 1 micrometer (there are 1 thousand micrometers in 1 millimetre)! This source of energy is so small and yet together all these cells produce the vast energy that enables a human being to do everything he does!

### **3. The alveoli of the human lungs.**

The human lungs consist of a great number of small tubes with an air-sac (alveolus) at the end. It is estimated that there are more than 600 000 000 alveoli built into the human lungs! The walls of an alveolus are full of small blood vessels that absorb oxygen from the air-sac and transport it to the rest of the human body. The walls of these alveoli are so cleverly folded into one another that if you could unfold them, they would cover an area of a football field! Just imagine folding something the size of a football field into such a small space as your lungs!

By means of the greatest microscopes we can today study enzymes, cells of our body and the alveoli of our lungs. But WHO created these enzymes, cells and alveoli? Enzymes, cells and alveoli belong to the smallest things in creation! The Bible says that GOD created all these fantastic things! If we cannot even fathom all the wonders of our own human body, who can then fathom the Creator of the smallest things that exist and the Designer of such complex systems within the human body? The existence of a wonderfully made body proves the existence, power and wisdom of a wonderful God!

## **Worship.**

*Take turns to worship* God (in one or two sentences) in his characteristic as being the wonderful Creator of the smallest things that exist and the Creator of unimaginable complex systems in the human body! Worship God for how wonderful he made you.

<b>3</b>	<b>SHARING</b> (20 minutes)	<b>[QUIET TIMES] ROMANS 1 - 4</b>
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*Take turns* and *share* (or *read* from your notes) in short what you have learned from one of your quiet times out of the assigned Bible passages (Romans 1 - 4).

Listen to the person sharing, take him serious and accept him. Do not discuss what he shares.

<b>4</b>	<b>TEACHING</b> (70 minutes)	<b>[HOLY SPIRIT] THE PERSON AND FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>
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**In the DOTA course the following teachings are about the Holy Spirit.**

- Manual 2, lesson 21. The nature of the Holy Spirit, his work in people and his work in the Church.  
 Manual 2, supplement 9. The Holy Spirit sustains Christians amidst their sufferings.  
 Manual 4, lesson 45. The baptism with the Spirit, the filling with the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit.  
 Manual 5, lesson 9. Pentecost  
 Manual 7, lesson 35. The gifts of the Holy Spirit.  
 Manual 7, supplement 12. Additional gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## A. THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### 1. The Holy Spirit is personal.

#### (1) The Holy Spirit is personal.

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal power or influence, but personal. He speaks the truth (John 14:16-17), intercedes for us in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:27), desires what is contrary to the sinful nature (Galatians 5:17) and is grieved by sin (Ephesians 4:30-31).

#### (2) Relationship to the Holy Spirit.

The fact that the Holy Spirit is personal is very important for how we experience him. If the Holy Spirit were merely a power or influence, then our dominant aim would have been, "How can I obtain more of the power and influence of the Holy Spirit?" (30%, 40% etc.). If, however, the Holy Spirit is personal, our consistent attitude should be, "How can the Holy Spirit possess more of me?" "How can the Holy Spirit reign over more areas of my life?" "How can I relate better to the Holy Spirit and submit myself more to his guidance?"

### 2. The Holy Spirit is God.

#### (1) God revealed himself as the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

(See also manual 2, supplement 8, "The nature of God and the Son of God".).

Christians believe in one God, in one unique Divine Being (Mark 12:29). But God is unfathomable<sup>1</sup> to man who is limited to the three dimensions of space and the dimension of time (Job 11:7-8a; 1 Timothy 6:15-16) and therefore no man can define God or describe his divine being or nature! Christians believe that what God has revealed about himself has been recorded in the Bible.

Although the nature of God is unfathomable, God has revealed and expressed himself in a way that people may know him. God has expressed himself:

- in *deeds or acts* within human history (Isaiah 43:13)
- in *words* spoken to people (Matthew 4:4)
- in *appearances* of the Angel of the LORD and in fire (Exodus 3:3-4)
- in *a human body* on earth (Genesis 18:11-3; John 1:1,14,18; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15,19; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3)
- and in *the omnipresent Holy Spirit* who lives within his people (Romans 8:9-10) who are only in one place on earth at a time.

God is the invisible and omnipresent Spirit (John 4:24), but without letting go of his divine nature (being), he took on the human nature which is not omnipresent. Thus God, who exists before and above the creation, entered his own creation and the human history (John 1:1,14)!

After Jesus Christ had completed his work of salvation on earth and had ascended into heaven, he returned to earth in the Holy Spirit who is omnipresent in order to live in the bodies and lives of individual Christians who are not omnipresent (John 14:16-18; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)! He applies the completed work of salvation of Jesus Christ two

<sup>1</sup> The God of the Bible is more than four dimensional, but has revealed himself to man within the three dimensions of space and the dimension of time, so that man would be able to know God and fellowship with God!

thousand years ago in the lives of Christians throughout human history (John 16:13-15; Romans 8:9-11). He also lives in the Church which is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 2:22).

Thus God is the invisible Spirit present in the universe, in the Church and in the body of every Christian (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). In this way the real existence of God the Holy Spirit becomes visible in God's creation, in human history, in the Christian Church and in human existence.

In the Bible God revealed that in the unity of the Divine Being or Divine nature there is a distinction. Throughout the Bible God revealed himself in three "Persons": God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three Persons share the one Divine Being or Divine Nature and are completely God (Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 1:3,8-9; Romans 8:9-10). The expression "Person" (Greek: hypostasis) does not here refer to an individual person, but to the inner distinction within the unity of the Divine Being or Divine Nature. This inner distinction within the unity of the Divine Being is called "the Trinity" within Christian theology. The word "three" is not an indication of a number that one can count, but an indication of the inner distinctions in the ways of existence and revelation of one Divine Being.<sup>2</sup>

Christians are baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). The word "the name" is singular, not plural! *The one name of God* reveals that the Divine being or Divine Nature is one or absolutely unique (Deuteronomy 6:4)! And the words "the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" reveal that there is *an inner distinction within the unity of the Divine Nature.* Therefore, Jesus Christ is called "God with us", "the Son of God" and even "God"<sup>3</sup>. And therefore, the Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of God", "the Spirit of Christ", "Christ in you" (Romans 8:9-10; Acts 16:7) and even "God" (Acts 5:3,5).

### **(2) The inherent attributes of the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit has the inherent attributes of God, like holiness (Romans 1:4), life (Romans 8:2), love (Romans 15:30), truth (John 16:13) and being eternal (Hebrews 9:14). Truth and love are attributes that do not exist by themselves, but are shared between the persons of the Trinity (the inner distinctions within the divine nature) even before the creation (Genesis 1:26). After the creation, truth and love is also shared with people.

### **(3) The attributes of the Holy Spirit in relation to the universe.**

The Holy Spirit also has the attributes of God in relation to the universe.

- Omnipresence (being present everywhere): God (Psalm 139:7-10) and the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17).
- Omnipotence (having all power): God (Genesis 1:1-2) and the Holy Spirit (Psalm 104:30).
- Omniscience (knowing everything): God (Psalm 139:1-4) and the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

## **3. The names of the Holy Spirit.**

### **(1) In the Old Testament.**

The Old Testament refers 90 times directly to the Holy Spirit and gives him 18 different names. Some names describe his relationship to God, like "Spirit of God". Some names describe his character, like "Holy Spirit". Some names describe his work in people, like "Spirit of wisdom" (Isaiah 11:2).

### **(2) In the New Testament.**

The New Testament refers 254 times directly to the Holy Spirit and gives him 39 different names. Some names express his relationship to the Father (Matthew 10:20) and the Son (Romans 8:9-10). Some names affirm his own essential deity, like "The Lord is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17). Some names reveal his essential character, like "Holy Spirit". Some names describe his relationship to Christians and the work he does in them, like "Spirit of truth" (John 14:17) and "Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:29).

## **4. The symbols of the Holy Spirit.**

Different symbols refer to the Holy Spirit.

### **(1) The symbol of a dove (Matthew 3:16).**

"A dove" symbolises purity and peace. Jesus Christ was 100% pure (sinless) and the Great Peacemaker between God and man and between Man and man.

### **(2) The symbol of fire (Acts 2:1-4; Matthew 3:11).**

"The tongues of fire" that fell from above on the believers were symbols of the baptism with the Spirit. "The baptism with the Spirit" means that that people who believe in Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit, are born-again, enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5,7; Acts 11:14-18) and are included in Christ and his Body, the Church (Ephesians 1:13;

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<sup>2</sup> Think of the distinctions in the ways of existence and revelation of a man: he is the son of his father, the husband of his wife and the father of his son. Nevertheless, in his nature he remains one human being. Think of the various ways in which water can exist and reveals itself: it is a solid substance (ice), a fluid (water) and a gas (steam). These examples can only point to the possibility of distinctive ways of existence and revelation of the Divine Being!

<sup>3</sup> Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20).

1 Corinthians 12:13). “The baptism with fire” means that the people who do not believe in Jesus Christ will go to the fiery lake of burning sulphur (hell) (Matthew 3:11-12; Revelation 21:8)<sup>4</sup>.

**(3) The symbol of wind (John 3:3-8; Acts 2:2).**

“The blowing of a violent wind” was a symbol of the power of the invisible Holy Spirit which people experience. And “the wind that blows wherever it pleases” symbolises that the regeneration (rebirth) and renewal are unpredictable and irresistible works of the Holy Spirit.

**(4) The symbol of water (John 7:37-39).**

“The streams of living water” symbolises the Holy Spirit as the Source of the complete salvation and lasting satisfaction of Christians as well as the Source of making Christians a channel of abundant blessings to other people.

**(5) The symbols of oil, a seal and a deposit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).**

“The anointment with oil” is a symbol that Christians have received the Holy Spirit with all his functions and that they have been equipped for their prophetic, priestly and royal tasks here on earth.

“Being sealed with a seal” is a symbol of being genuine, possession and protection: Christians have genuinely been born again by the Holy Spirit: they belong to God; and God protects them.

“The payment of a deposit” is a symbol that Christians have already received the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of everything that God is going to give them as their inheritance in the future (namely, the kingdom of God in its final perfect phase on the new earth).

## **B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PEOPLE**

The Holy Spirit is now the Representative of Jesus Christ on earth. He works in both the unbelievers and the believers everywhere on earth.

### **1. The Holy Spirit represents Jesus Christ.**

**(1) The Holy Spirit is on earth the Representative of Jesus Christ.**

*Read* John 14:16-18; John 16:7,13-15.

Jesus promised that he would not leave his disciples behind as orphans, but that he himself would come to them in the person of the Holy Spirit. The word “Counsellor” (Greek: *paraklétos*) is also translated with Advocate, Counsellor, Comforter and Helper, but is best translated with the word “Representative”, someone called to your side to help you, especially against an accuser or judge.

The Holy Spirit is above all the Representative of Jesus Christ. He teaches the disciples of Jesus Christ what they ought to know (John 16:13) and reminds them of everything that Jesus Christ had said to them, so that they were enabled to write the New Testament (John 14:26). He testifies about Jesus Christ (John 15:26), so that the disciples of Christ were enabled to be Christ’s witnesses to the ends of the earth (of his being, his life, his death, his resurrection and his completed work of salvation (Acts 1:8). He guides them into all the truth which he hears from Christ (John 16:13). He pleads the cause of Christ, defends the name of Christ and protects the interests of Christ. He manages the possessions of Christ. And he transforms Christians in the likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). In short, the Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus Christ in the experience of Christians in the Church!

Both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are called “the Representative” (Greek: *paraklétos*).

- The Holy Spirit is the Representative of Jesus Christ with Christians on earth (John 14:16,26). He is the Spirit of Christ in the prophets of the Old Testament (1 Peter 1:10-12) and the Spirit of Christ in Christians (Romans 8:9-10).
- And Jesus Christ is the Representative of Christians with God the Father in heaven (1 John 2:1).

While the Holy Spirit speaks in the Name of Jesus Christ to Christians on earth (John 16:13-15), Jesus Christ speaks on behalf of Christians to God the Father in heaven (Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:24) (see manual 2, supplement 9). According to his human nature Jesus Christ is limited to heaven (Acts 2:33), but according to his divine nature Jesus Christ is omnipresent: in heaven (Ephesians 1:20-21) and on earth (Matthew 28:20). Also the Holy Spirit is omnipresent: in heaven (John 4:24; Romans 8:26-27) and on earth (Acts 2:33).

**(2) The Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ in Christians.**

Before Jesus Christ in his human nature ascended into heaven, he was the Representative of God with people on earth. He was and still is “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). But with respect to his human body Jesus Christ is no longer on earth, but in heaven (Luke 24:50; Acts 1:9).

From heaven he sent to Christians “another Counsellor” (Advocate or Representative) (John 14:16). Jesus does not refer to “another Person” (individual), but to “another Representative” just as he was a Representative on earth. The Holy Spirit is the Representative of God the Father and of God the Son with Christians on earth. During his first coming to

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 3:11 is explained by Matthew 3:12.

the earth Jesus Christ was the Representative of God with people. He was God that had taken on the human nature besides his divine nature and entered his creation and human history as the God-Man. Now in the present time the Holy Spirit is the Representative of God the Father and of Jesus Christ with people on earth. The Holy Spirit has therefore been given to people to be on earth what Jesus Christ would have been if he were still present on earth as Man!

When Jesus Christ as Man was still present on earth, his human body was limited to a particular place on earth (Palestine) and limited to a particular period within human history (about 4 B.C. to 30 A.D.). But then he was exalted by the right hand of God the Father (the instrument) and to the right hand of God the Father (the position)(Ephesians 1:20-21; 1 Peter 3:22). God the Father had made a promise in the past (Joel 2:28-29) that the Holy Spirit and his visible and audible influence would be poured out on Christians on earth. The words “poured out” and “fallen on” say something about the Holy Spirit himself. They emphasize the facts that the Holy Spirit comes from above from God, comes on all believers, comes overwhelmingly and in abundance (Acts 2:33)!<sup>5</sup> The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ is not limited to one place on earth and also not limited to one period in human history. The Holy Spirit does not have a human nature, but lives in human beings (Christians). The Holy Spirit continues the work of Jesus Christ as Representative on earth! The Holy Spirit lives forever **with** Christians and **in** Christians (John 14:16-17)! The Holy Spirit applies the completed work of salvation of Jesus Christ to the lives of Christians everywhere in the world.

The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ cannot be separated from one another. They can also not be received by people separately, because they are one Divine Being and have one Divine Nature. The Holy Spirit is “the Other Self of Jesus and of God the Father”. The Holy Spirit is: “God with us” and “God in us” (John 14:16-17). He is: “the Spirit of Christ in us” and “Christ in us” (Romans 8:9-10). The Holy Spirit is given to Christians to be for them what Jesus Christ would have been is he were still present on earth as man!

## **2. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin.**

**Discover and discuss.** What are the functions of the Holy Spirit in relationship to the world, which consists of both non-Christians and Christians?

**Read** John 3:16-18,36; 16:8-11; Romans 1:18,28-32.

**Notes.** The word “to convict” (Greek: elenchó) means to expose, to convict, to rebuke, to refute or in short to convince.

### **(1) The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin.**

The Holy Spirit makes people realise what “sin” is, namely, “to miss God’s goal”. He exposes sin and convicts a person of sin.

The Holy Spirit exposes the godlessness of people, that is, he shows them their wrong relationship towards God, who revealed himself in creation and in the Bible. He shows them their lack of love for God. He especially exposes their independence from God and their rebellion against God. He convicts them of their self-centredness, self-dependence, self-determination, self-justification, self-satisfaction, self-seeking, self-sufficiency and self-will.

And the Holy Spirit exposes the wickedness of people, that is, he shows them their wrong relationship towards other people. He shows them their lack of love towards people. He convicts them of doing the things, which God forbids, and of neglecting to do the things, which God commands.

Thus, he teaches people what they are by nature: sinners and lost. He exposes their real character and conduct within God’s holy light and makes them aware that they badly need a Saviour and a Lord. He makes them realise who they really are and what God had intended them to be. He *rebukes* the evil of people (cf. 1 Samuel 15:22-23; Acts 22:7-8), *refutes* their arguments (cf. Matthew 22:31-32,42-46; Acts 6:10), *convicts* them of guilt and *gives them a deep sense of* guilt, shame and remorse.

### **(2) The Holy Spirit convicts people of righteousness.**

The Holy Spirit makes people realise the righteousness that God worked on behalf of people. That is, he convinces people of the truth, reality and necessity of what God has done through Jesus Christ in order to save people from sin and judgement. He convinces people that Jesus Christ had to take on the human nature and had to die on the cross in order to make atonement for sins (Luke 24:26,44; John 3:14; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18). And he convinces people that Jesus Christ had to be resurrected from the dead and exalted to the throne in heaven in order to conquer the world.

The Holy Spirit also makes people realise the righteousness that God demands of people. Unless people possess perfect (100%) righteousness in God’s eyes, they cannot be saved. Keeping the whole law, but failing in just one aspect of the law, brings them under God’s curse (James 2:10; Galatians 3:10)! He convinces people that they should believe in Jesus Christ in order to receive the perfect righteousness of Christ free (by grace) (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

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<sup>5</sup> The difference symbolised by the mode of baptism with water. Christians who prefer baptism with water by immersion only say something about the person baptised: he dies symbolically and is resurrected symbolically with Christ. However, Christians who prefer baptism with water by outpouring say especially something about the Holy Spirit himself: he comes from above from God, comes upon all Christians, comes overwhelmingly and comes abundantly!

Thus, he convinces people of the possibility of becoming righteous in God's eyes only if they repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

**(3) The Holy Spirit convicts people of judgement.**

The Holy Spirit makes people realise that the last judgment is *coming*. He convinces people that as certain as the devil is condemned to hell (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10), so certain unbelievers will be condemned to hell (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 21:8). He convinces people of the truth, reality and necessity of God's judgement if they continue to reject the truth in the Bible and Jesus Christ (Romans 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; 2:12). The Holy Spirit makes people realise that they are really lost and deserve eternal condemnation and doom by the holy and righteous God, unless they repent and believe (John 3:16-18; John 16:8-11; Romans 1:18,28-32).

**3. The Holy Spirit changes Christians.**

What Jesus Christ made possible in the past on Good Friday and Easter, the Holy Spirit makes available in the present time since Pentecost! The completed work of salvation that Jesus Christ accomplished at his first coming is in the present time applied by the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians.

**(1) The Holy Spirit regenerates people.**

Jesus said that a man must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3-8)! Regeneration is the realisation in time of God's purpose in eternity. God's eternal purpose is choosing certain people that they may be saved through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and through believe in the truth (Ephesians 1:11,13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; 1 Peter 1:2). God works out his eternal purpose for them by calling them at some time in history through the preaching of the gospel. He saves them through the regenerates and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-6). The Holy Spirit makes Christians partake in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), that is, they do not share divinity (ontologically)<sup>6</sup>, but share the divine characteristics, like love, holiness and righteousness. The Holy Spirit does this in a way that the believers also know and experience their regeneration and renewal. He witnesses in a Christian's heart that he is a child of God and that "the Christian is living in God" and that "God is living in the Christian" (Romans 8:16; 1 John 2:20,27; 1 John 4:13). The Christian will never become "God", but God through his Spirit dwells in Christians (1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ by applying Christ's completed work of salvation in the personal lives of Christians.

"Regeneration" is a completely sovereign work of God (Titus 3:3-7). That is why Christians confess that they are saved only by God's love, mercy and grace (Ephesians 2:8). The Spirit's work of regeneration penetrates the conscience of a sinner so that he converts, that is, he changes his thinking (mind) to the thinking (mind) of God, turns away from his self-sufficiency, away from the sinful world and away from Satan to God (Acts 2:37-42; Acts 26:18). Conversion includes remorse for sins and faith in Christ. And faith is the result of God's sovereign calling (Romans 10:17), a gift of God's grace (Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29; Acts 13:48) and at the same time the means by which a person is justified (Romans 5:1). Faith is the empty hand by which a person accepts the salvation that God graciously gives (John 1:12). Through the preaching of the gospel, people are called to conversion (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; 26:18; Romans 10:14-17). Through their response consisting of faith, people are justified (Romans 3:22).

Justification results in:

- a new relationship to God (Romans 5:1)
- assurance of salvation
- and the ability to live the new and holy life (Romans 6:4-14).

**(2) The Holy Spirit gives absolute assurance that Christians are children of God.**

The Holy Spirit gives a Christian the assurance that he is an adopted son (child) of God – he has "received the Spirit of sonship"<sup>7</sup> (Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:4-5,13; Acts 15:7-11).

God gives the Christian three great assurances:

- that God has imputed (ascribed) the righteousness of Christ to the Christian, thereby declaring him completely righteous in God's eyes and henceforth regarding and treating him as perfectly righteous (Romans 4:6; Romans 8:33)
- that God will turn all events in his life for his good, even the painful events (Romans 8:28)
- and that God will not allow anything or anyone to separate him from God's love for him (Romans 8:31-39)!

**(3) The Holy Spirit makes people hear the Word of God.**

The Bible is the special instrument of the Holy Spirit, his "sword" with which he penetrates the mind, heart and life of both non-Christians and Christians. The Spirit continually uses specific Bible passages (as for example Matthew 4:4) to teach, motivate and change Christians in all kinds of different situations of their lives (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrew 4:12). He guides Christians into all the truth of the Bible and teaches them about all the things that Jesus Christ has taught (John 16:13-15; John 14:26; 1 John 2:27).

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<sup>6</sup> That is, they do not become "God".

<sup>7</sup> Greek: pneuma huiiothesias

Every word in the Bible is inspired by the Spirit, infallible in its contents and authoritative for doctrine (faith) and life (behaviour). The Bible is useful for teaching the truth, for exposing sin and refuting excuses and arguments against God, for correcting people back to God's ways, for training them in doing what is right in God's eyes and for equipping them for God's tasks in their life (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible as the Word of God is the truth and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 17:17; 14:17). The objective words of God in the Bible stand in sharp contrast to the subjective prophecies and dreams of people (Jeremiah 23:9-32). In Jeremiah 23, the characteristic of false prophets was that they liked to make predictions concerning the future (e.g. that no harm would come to Israel in the future), while the characteristic of true prophets was that they proclaimed God's revealed words to people and led them to repent. Christians must always test the subjective guidance of the Spirit in the heart with the objective Word of God in the Bible, because "the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:17). The Spirit will never say anything in contradiction to the Bible! Moreover, true Christians never go beyond what is written in the Bible (1 Corinthians 4:6).

In summary, above all, the Holy Spirit guides Christians especially through means of the Bible when it is correctly interpreted. Therefore hearing, reading, studying, meditating, memorising, applying the Bible to our lives and passing on the words of the Bible so important for every Christian!

#### **(4) The Holy Spirit makes Christians obey the words of God.**

The Holy Spirit makes Christians understand the truths in the Bible (Ephesians 1:17-18). He applies the truths of the Bible to the mind, heart and life of Christians and causes them to submit more and more to God and his Word. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit consists especially in that the Christian obeys Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:2)! God has given his Holy Spirit to those people who obey him (Acts 5:32). Therefore, the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion" (Hebrews 3:7-8). Therefore, Christians have the responsibility to see to it that no-one among them has a sinful (godless, wicked), unbelieving (doubting, critical) or hardened (resisting, rebellious) heart that turns away from the living God. Instead Christians should encourage one another every day to obey God's words in the Bible (Hebrews 3:12-13). Therefore, everyone who has an ear must hear what the Spirit says to all Christian congregations (churches) in the world (Revelation 2:1,7). Therefore, those who live according to the persuasion of the Holy Spirit, want to, can and certainly will submit themselves to God and the Word of God. They make it their goal to obey and please God. However, those who live according to the persuasion of their sinful nature, *do not want, cannot and certainly will not* submit themselves to God or the Word of God (Romans 8:5-8; Colossians 1:9-12). The emphasis in the Bible is not on gaining knowledge of the Bible, but on obeying the knowledge revealed in the Bible.

#### **(5) The Holy Spirit sanctifies Christians.**

The Holy Spirit sanctifies Christians so that they are transformed more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). Through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, Christians put to death the sinful will and disgraceful deeds of their body (Romans 8:13). They choose to live by the guidance and enabling of the Holy Spirit and thus bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The sinful nature of man expresses itself in physical sins such as sexual immorality and excessive indulgences; in spiritual sins such as idolatry and witchcraft (occultism); and in social sins such as selfish ambition and quarrelling (Galatians 5:19-21). The fruit of the Spirit expresses itself in fundamental spiritual qualities such as love, joy and peace; in social virtues such as patience, kindness and goodness; and in relationships such as faithfulness towards God, gentleness towards people and self-control in your own life (Galatians 5:22-23).

"To live by the Spirit", "to be led by the Spirit" or "to keep in step with the Spirit" all mean that the Christian allows the Spirit of Jesus Christ to rule in his heart or inner being as his Lord and Master, controlling his life and influencing him more and more, as he again and again submits himself to Christ's authority and will. The visible evidence of the Holy Spirit living in the Christian is the fruit of the Spirit; especially love (Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 3:16-17).

The Holy Spirit leads people to deep biblical convictions concerning their lost condition, to know and glorify Jesus Christ and to understand and obey the Bible. The Holy Spirit also prays for the Christian according to the perfect will of God (See manual 2, supplement 9). He causes a genuine transformation in Christians. Christians genuinely experience this transformation.

### **C. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH**

At Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit signified three events:

- Pentecost was God's seal on the office of Jesus Christ as Messiah (Acts 2:32-36). The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ in the Church.
- Pentecost was the occasion of the institution of the Church (Acts 2:37-47). The Holy Spirit manages the activities of the Church.
- And Pentecost empowered the disciples to do their tasks (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit manages the missionary work of the Church.

### **1. The Holy Spirit is the Glorifier of Jesus Christ.**

The Holy Spirit lives in the midst of the Church (Ephesians 2:19-22). The function of the Holy Spirit is above all to put Jesus Christ in the centre of the Church and of every Christian and so glorify Christ in the experience and lives of church members (John 16:14-15). This is the hallmark of the Holy Spirit! That is why the test for every spiritual event or experience should be: “Is no one besides Jesus Christ glorified through this?”

The Holy Spirit gives us personal knowledge of God and his glory (his attributes and characteristics) that radiates from the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; Matthew 11:27). He teaches us everything that we ought to know, reminds us of the words of Jesus Christ, testifies to Jesus Christ, guides us into all the truth of Jesus Christ (John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13) and enables us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3). The Holy Spirit gives us knowledge of the Living God by means of the preaching and teaching of the Bible, which contains the recorded testimony to Jesus Christ (John 20:30-32; Acts 8:35).

Note that the Holy Spirit<sup>8</sup> does not speak words independent from Jesus Christ: “The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking what is mine and make it known to you” (John 16:13-15)! The test of every movement that claims to be based on the Holy Spirit, whether in personal or corporate experience, is the place it gives to Jesus Christ. When a Christian or a church glorifies in a particular person or a particular human experience, then it lacks the hallmark of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit cannot bear to see a cooling of love for Jesus Christ, because the main function of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ in the experience of Christians and the church.

### **2. The Holy Spirit is the Manager of the activities in the Church.**

By regeneration the Holy Spirit makes a believer in Jesus Christ a member of the Body of Christ, the one worldwide Christian Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). The Holy Spirit lives in the body of Christians (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20) and in the Christian Church (Ephesians 2:21-22). He is responsible for the good functioning of the Church and appoints the elders (note: plural) in every congregation (Acts 20:17,28). He also keeps the doctrines and practices of the Church pure (Acts 15:28). He guides the deliberations in the congregation in such a way that decisions may be taken unanimously (Acts 15:28). In modern times congregations often vote according to democratic principles in order to arrive at a decision, but this may never replace the will of God in the Bible! Christians must listen to what Jesus Christ says through his Spirit to the congregations (note: plural) (Revelation 2:1,7) and the congregations may not go beyond what is written in the Bible (1 Corinthians 4:6)!

The Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to Christians as he determines (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:11). That is why a congregation has different personalities, ministries and forms. The Holy Spirit guides the various ministries in the Church (Ephesians 5:18-19; Ephesians 6:18), as witnessing, preaching, worship, prayer, praise and songs. Only the Holy Spirit can turn Christian meetings into spiritual events!

### **3. The Holy Spirit is the Executor of Christian Missions in the world.**

The Holy Spirit chooses (selects) and calls certain Christians to become labourers or missionaries (Acts 13:1-4). God only knows the hearts of people and knows which people would be suitable for the tasks that need to be carried out. The congregations need to set these men and women free so that they would be able to carry out their calling, support them through prayer and, if possible, also through their finances. The Holy Spirit gives every Christian his own task and equips him for that task (1 Corinthians 12:4-6,11; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Mark 13:34).

Jesus Christ determines the strategy of his worldwide ministry by closing and opening doors through the Holy Spirit (Revelation 3:7-8; Colossians 4:3; Acts 16:6-10). The Holy Spirit guides the Christian worker to important converts (Acts 8:29-35). The Holy Spirit gives the worker or missionary the ability to discern the schemes of evil spirits and to act with authority (Acts 13:9-11), encourages the worker in his task and gives joy to the new believers – even in difficult circumstances or persecution (Acts 13:49-52).

<b>5</b>	<b>PRAYER</b> (8 minutes)	<b>[REACTIONS]</b> <b>PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD</b>
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*Take turns* in the group *to pray short* to God in response to what you have learned today.  
Or divide the group into two's or three's and pray to God in response to what you have learned today.

<b>6</b>	<b>PREPARATION</b> (2 minutes)	<b>[ASSIGNMENT]</b> <b>FOR NEXT LESSON</b>
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*(Group leader.* Give the group members this preparation for at home in writing or let them copy it down).

1. **Commitment.** Be committed to make disciples.

<sup>8</sup> The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Christ” (1 Peter 1:11).

Preach, teach or study the teaching of “The Person and functions of the Holy Spirit” together with another person or group of people.

2. Personal time with God. Have a quiet time from half a chapter of **Romans 5 - 8** each day. Make use of the favourite truth method. Make notes.
3. Bible study. Prepare the next Bible study at home. (5) **Ephesians 6:1-4**. Theme: “The Christian relationship to parents and children.” Make use of the five steps method of Bible study. Make notes.
4. Prayer. Pray for someone or something specific this week and see what God is doing (Psalm 5:3).
5. Update your notebook on making disciples. Include the worship notes and teaching notes and this preparation.