

## MASTER OUTLINE NUMBER TEN

### **The Holy Spirit: His Ministry**

Christians have great and many privileges as children of God because of who the Holy Spirit is, and what He can do in the life of every believer. It is most important to realize that the Holy Spirit is fully God. The deity of the Holy Spirit is affirmed in the Scriptures. He is declared to be God:

(1) By Peter, when Ananias and Sapphira tried to deceive God by bringing a portion of an offering, pretending to bring all of it. "But 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? ... You have not lied to men but to God'" (Acts 5:1-4). When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he therefore lied to God. The Holy Spirit is God, according to the Scriptures.

(2) By the apostle Paul, when he wrote to "the church of God which is at Corinth" (1 Cor. 1:2), asking them a most important question: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16). Every New Testament church is composed of born-again, Spirit-baptized believers. The building is not the church, it is the sanctuary where the church meets to worship; and God the Holy Spirit indwells each believer in the church. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). Yes, your physical body is the temple of God, the Holy Spirit.

(3) By attributes ascribed to the Holy Spirit that are also ascribed to God the Father and God the Son:

(a) Omnipresence-He is everywhere present in God's universe (Ps. 139:7-10).

(b) Omnipotence-He has all power in God's universe (Luke 1:35).

(c) Omniscience-He has all knowledge in God's universe (John 14:26; *cf.* 1 Cor. 2:10, 11).

Yes, the Holy Spirit is God, and we should desire everything He has for us.

This study on the Holy Spirit and His ministry will help you recognize your great need of His Christ-exalting presence in your life. Jesus said, "He [the Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine [receive My teaching] and declare it to you" (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ in and through every child of God. If He is not exalting Christ in your life, it is because He is "grieved." Paul said, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). God the Holy Spirit is grieved by sin in the life of the believer. You are to put off the life-style of the old man (the flesh) and put on the life-style of the new man. Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh (first birth), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit [new spiritual birth]" (John 3:6). Paul lists some of the sins that grieve the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers (Eph. 4:22-32). Search your life and, if you find any sin therein, practice 1 John 1:9. As you confess your sins, call them by name; repent and forsake them, that you may be filled with the Holy Spirit of power and joy (Acts 1:8).

10-A. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit Before Pentecost (Judges 14:5, 6)

10-B. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and After (Acts 2:1-21)

10-C. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Evangelist (Acts 5:29-32)

10-D. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Helper (John 14:15-17)

## 10-A. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit Before Pentecost

5 So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah.

Now *to his* surprise, a young lion *came* roaring against him.

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though *he had* nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. Judg. 3:10

**10-A. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit Before Pentecost (Judges 14:5, 6)**-“And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him” (v. 6). Samson was a spiritual enigma. Before his birth he was chosen of God to be a “Nazirite to God” (Judg. 13:1-5). A Nazirite could be either man or woman, set apart from things of the world for the service of God. Some Nazirites were separated unto God for a short period of time, but Samson was set apart by God for life. In failing to live the life of the Nazirite, he trusted Delilah and revealed to her the secret of his great physical strength (Judg. 16:16, 17). While he slept, with his head in Delilah’s lap, she called for a man cut his hair. When he awoke, Delilah was saying, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” He said, “I will go as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” Then we come to one of the saddest statements in the Bible— “But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him” (Judg. 16:18-21). When he lost **the power of** the-Holy Spirit, he lost the victory, and the Philistines captured him. Finally, however, the Spirit again came mightily upon him and defeated the Philistines (Judg. 16:29, 30).

In the Old testament the Holy Spirit came upon the Lord’s servants; but when they continued to disobey God, The Holy Spirit would leave them. For example, Samuel prophesied to Saul saying, “The Spirit of the of the LORD will come upon *you*, and you will prophesy with them {the prophets] and be turned into another man” (1 Sam. 10:6-10). But the time came when Saul, in disobedience to God, sinned so greatly that the Holy Spirit departed from him (Sam. 16:14).

When King David repented of his sin, knowing that the Holy Spirit had abandoned King Saul, he prayed “Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me” (Ps. 51:11). This psalm of repentance should be read often and when necessary practiced by every believer, lest the Holy Spirit be grieved (1 John 1:9). The Holy Spirit only came upon prophets, kings, judges, and priests in the Old Testament, He also filled some for special work. “The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezalel...And I have filled him with the Spirit of God” (Ex. 31:1-11). Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God and given the wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, to be a Spirit-filled craftsman who could supervise the building of the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, and all the furniture, and who could make all the clothes for the high priest and his sons (Ex. 35:31-36:7). The Holy Spirit came upon many, but only filled a few, the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, however, took place at Pentecost.

See Acts 2:1-21 for **Point 10-B: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and After.**

### *Coming of the Holy Spirit*

## 10-B. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and After

2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place; Lev. 23:15 • Acts 1:14

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 4:31

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them.

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

### ***The Crowd's Response***

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. Acts 8:2

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Acts 4:32

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" Acts 1:11

8 "And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own "language in which we were born? *dialect*

9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and "Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 1 Pet.1:1

10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 "Cretans and Arabs-we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." *Arabians*

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

### ***Peter's Sermon***

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only "the third hour of the day. 1Thess. 5:7 • 9 A.M.

16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 And *it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,* Joel 2:28-32

*That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;* Acts 10:45

*Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,* Acts 21:9

*Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.*

18 *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.* 1 Cor. 12:10

19 *I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath:* Joel 2:30

*Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.*

20 The *sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.* Matt. 24:29

21 *And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'* Rom. 10:13

**10-B. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and After (Acts 2:1-21)**-When the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, there were certain supernatural manifestations that marked the beginning of His ministry in the church age. The 120 disciples were in the Upper Room and in accord with one another.

(1) The first supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit on this occasion was for the ear-"There came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting" (v. 2). It was for the ear, not the eye. The Scriptures emphasize the importance of hearing God's Word (Rom. 10:17). The risen Savior sent letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor and closed each message with the words, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit [the Holy Spirit] says to the churches" (Rev. 2 and 3).

The sound was of hurricane force, without physical power. They could hear the wind, but did not feel its force. This lesson is simple but profound: The Holy Spirit is sovereign. He moves and does what He wills (John 3:8). He does not conform to the will or expectations of man. Even though there was no physical power, however, this rushing mighty wind was filled with spiritual power. The Holy Spirit, with Pentecostal power, moved the Upper Room congregation from their place of worship into the city streets and into the temple, to witness and share their faith in holy boldness (Acts 4:13).

(2) The second supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit was for the tongue-"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them" (v. 3). This was the cleansing of the tongue in preparation for witnessing (cf. Is. 6:5-8; James 3:5-10). After the tongue was cleansed, each of them could say with Isaiah, "Here am I! Send me" (Is. 6:8).

(3) The third supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit was for witnessing power (Acts 1:8)-"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (v. 4). All of the 120 disciples were chosen by the Holy Spirit to witness in languages unknown to them, but not unknown to the hearers (vv. 7, 8). They witnessed in the power of the Holy Spirit and prepared the people for Simon Peter's message. This was a great miracle. People from many nations heard the Upper Room congregation share their faith in the language of the hearers. Verse 6 implies that when Peter preached in his language, each one heard him in his own language (vv. 6-36). It is no wonder that about three thousand who heard the gospel in their own language believed it in their hearts, repented of their sins, and were baptized and added to the church (vv. 37-42).

Note that the Upper Room congregation, filled with the Spirit, went to the temple and there exalted Christ, not their Pentecostal experience. They were filled with the Holy Spirit to tell the lost how to be saved (Acts 1:8).

See Acts 5:29-32 for **Point 10-C: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Evangelist.**

## **10-C. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Evangelist**

29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 4:19

30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

31 "Him God has exalted to His right hand to *be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.  
Luke 24:47

32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

**10-C. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Evangelist (Acts 5:29-32)**-The apostles were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin for evangelizing. They were accused of filling Jerusalem with the gospel-the Good News that Jesus Christ was resurrected after having been crucified. In holy boldness Peter said, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree .... And we are His witnesses to these things [the death, burial, and resurrection), and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him" (vv. 30-32). Paraphrased, Peter was saying, "We are witnesses [evangelists) and the Holy Spirit is an evangelist also." We must live, that the lost may see Jesus in us; but even though they see Jesus in us, they cannot know how to be saved until they hear the gospel.

Bearing similar witness in the book of Romans, Paul quoted the prophet Joel: "For 'whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved'" (Rom. 10:13-17; *cf.* Joel 2:32). In verses 14 and 15 Paul asks four questions which pertain to verse 13:

(1) "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?" They cannot call on Jesus and be saved until they believe "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

(2) "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" They cannot believe until they hear the gospel, the Good News of salvation. Seeing Christ in the Christian is not enough; they must hear to believe.

(3) "How shall they hear without a preacher [a witness]?" The lost must have a witness in order to hear; they must hear in order to believe; they must believe in order to call; and they must call in order to be saved.

(4) "And how shall they preach [witness, proclaim the gospel], unless they are sent?" The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost to baptize every born-again believer into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), and empower the believer to witness, i.e., to evangelize (Acts 1:8). The risen Christ instructed His disciples: "Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Before His death, Jesus instructed His followers: "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:38). The "Lord of the harvest" (the Holy Spirit) answered that prayer on the Day of Pentecost. The 120 were sent into the fields, "already white for harvest!" (John 4:35). For almost two thousand years the Lord of the harvest (the Holy Spirit) has continued to send Holy Spirit-filled laborers into the fields, white already to harvest. When you enter the harvest to win souls to Christ, the Holy Spirit (the Lord of the harvest, the world's greatest evangelist) will go with you, indwell you, and fill you with power to evangelize.

Remember, the lost cannot be saved until they call on the Lord for salvation. But they cannot call until they believe, they cannot believe until they hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17), and they cannot hear without a witness. The witness cannot witness unless he or she is sent by the Lord of the harvest, who will fill the witness with His power. He is waiting for you to say "Here am I! Send me" (Is. 6:8).

See John 14:15-17 for **Point 10-D: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Helper.**

### *Jesus Promises Another Helper*

## **10-D. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Helper**

15 "If you love Me, \*keep My commandments. 1 John 5:3

16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- Acts 2:4, 33 • Comforter

17 "the 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.

**10-D. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Helper (John 14:15-17)**- "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper" (v. 16). "Parakletos" is the Greek word used four times in the Gospel of John, and is translated "Helper." The word means, "one called alongside," i.e., to take the place of Jesus. The Lord Jesus was the first Helper sent by the Father; "He will give you another Helper" (v. 16). Now the Father would give the disciples the Holy Spirit (Paraclete) to "help" them and all believers, to be with them in the absence of Christ. The disciples were sorrowing because Jesus told them that He would go away, and they could not go with Him then. He said, "Let not your heart be troubled ... I go to prepare a place for you ... I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

(1) The Helper will "abide with you forever ... and will be in you" (vv. 16, 17). Let this fact comfort you in these days of trials and tribulations. Paul said, "We also glory in tribulations ... because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Rom. 5:3-5). The Helper has been given to all believers to fill our hearts with the love of God.

(2) The Helper was sent by the Father, in the name of Jesus, to take His place and continue to teach His disciples all things. He would also cause them to remember all that Jesus taught them, so that they could give us the complete Word of God (John 14:26; cf. 2 Pet. 1:12).

(3) The Helper, "whom I shall send to you from the Father," was sent to "testify of Me" (John 15:26). For almost two thousand years the Holy Spirit has motivated believers to give testimony to the saving and keeping power of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 8:29-40). And the Helper will continue to fill obedient believers with the power to share their faith with the lost (Acts 1:8).

(4) "When He [the Helper] has come" (John 16:7-15):

(a) He will convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment;

(b) He will guide you into all truth;

(c) He will show you things to come;

(d) He will glorify Christ;

(e) He will take the things of Christ, and show it to you.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would take His doctrine and guide the apostles as they recorded what He taught. He would help them to remember, and show them things yet to come (Acts 1:1, 2). On the Day of Pentecost the Helper began His ministry of evangelizing the world and guiding the apostles as they wrote the New Testament. He has continued to evangelize the world and to guide believers as they study God's Word, helping them to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. He will continue His great ministry until Jesus comes to rapture the church (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

See 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 for **Point 10-E: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Giver of Spiritual Gifts.**

## 10-E. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Giver of Spiritual Gifts

### *Spiritual Gifts: Unity in Diversity*

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Eph. 2:11 • Ps. 115:5 • *mute, silent*

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. Gr anathema

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. *allotments or various kinds*• Eph. 4:4

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. Rom.12:6

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of* all:

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, Rom. 15, 14

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 12:9 NU *one*

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. Rom. 12:6 • [John 3:8]

**10-E. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Giver of Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-31)**-We find the Holy Trinity working together from Genesis to Revelation. So it is no surprise to find the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working together in the church, the body of Christ (vv. 12-31), so that the whole body of Christ may profit spiritually in every good thing (v. 7). The apostle Paul would not have us be ignorant of how the Trinity is involved in giving and using spiritual gifts for the edifying of the church:

(1) **The Holy Spirit.** "There are diversities [differences] of gifts, but the same Spirit" (v. 4). We are told to earnestly desire the best gifts (v. 31), especially the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 14:1). "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church" (1 Cor. 14:4). You may choose a special gift and desire it, pray for it, and yet not receive it, because the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts according to His sovereign will, and not always according to your wishes. "But one and the same Spirit works all these things [spiritual gifts], distributing to each one individually as He wills" (v. 11).

(2) **The Lord Jesus Christ.** "There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord" (v. 5). Paul says there are varieties of ministries in the church, and the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts according to His sovereign will, enabling all to perform their ministries in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the lordship of Christ, because Christ is the head of the church, the body of Christ (Col. 1:18, 19).

(3) **God the Father.** "And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all" (v. 6). In the church there are varieties of operations; God the Father, working with God the Holy Spirit and God the Son, enables those who have been given spiritual gifts to exercise them to the honor and glory of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one [in the body of Christ, the church for the profit of all" (v. 7). Spiritual gifts, ministries, and operations are not bestowed on a person in order to attract attention to that person. They are given to attract sinners to Christ and to bless the whole body of Christ.

Every born-again child of God should have the attitude of John the Baptist. When asked, "Who are you?" he answered, "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD'" (John 1:22, 23). In John's humble opinion he was not important, he was just the voice of one; he was one of many who helped prepare for the first coming of Christ. John also said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Do you have a decreasing or expanding ego? The nearer you are to God, the smaller the ego; the farther you get from God, the bigger the ego. John delighted in exalting Christ, not himself. God the Father has exalted God the Son, and given Him a name above all names. At the name of the Son of God (not a servant of God), every knee in heaven, on earth, and in hell will bend; and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is lord (Phil. 2:1-11).

The apostle Paul lists nine spiritual gifts:

- (1) the word of wisdom (v. 8)
- (2) the word of knowledge (v. 8)
- (3) faith (v. 9)
- (4) gifts of healing (v. 9)
- (5) the working of miracles (v. 10)
- (6) prophecy (v. 10)
- (7) discerning of spirits (v. 10)
- (8) different kinds of tongues (languages) (v. 10)
- (9) interpretations of tongues (v. 10)

Remember:

- (1) They are gifts of the Spirit; you cannot earn them by keeping the law or doing good works. They are gifts of pure grace, not of works—just like salvation (Eph. 2:8, 9).
- (2) Are *all* spiritual gifts given to every member of the body of Christ? The answer is obvious—No (vv. 29, 30).
- (3) Can the individual Christian choose the spiritual gift he or she would like to receive? You are to "desire spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 14:1); however, the gifts are given according to the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit (v. 11). You may desire the best gift; but you will not receive it unless it is the will of God.
- (4) Are these spiritual gifts for the church today? Some say no—that God phased out some or all of the spiritual gifts, that they are not for the church today. It is true that these gifts are not apparent in *many* local churches, but that does not mean that they are not in *any* of the churches. Remember that God is sovereign, and does whatever pleases Him in heaven and on the earth (Ps. 135:6; Dan. 4:35).

At the close of chapter 12 Paul says, "But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way" (v. 31). In chapter 13 he reveals that love is the more excellent way to manifest spiritual gifts. It is surely the only effective way. "Though I speak with the tongues [languages] of men and of angels, but

have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1). There are two main Greek words for love:

(1) *Phileo*--this is love between friends (brotherly love); it is kindly feeling toward one another. This Greek word for love is found often in the Bible.

(2) *Agapao*, with the noun form *agape*--this is perfect love. God is *agape*--"God is love" (1 John 4:8).

Paul was saying that you may be blessed with spiritual gifts, but if you do not have *agape* ("the love of God has been poured out in *out* hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us," Rom. 5:5)--your spiritual gifts will be ineffective. You will become "sounding brass or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1). In other words, you will be nothing but a religious noise.