

Holy Spirit Sabbath School Lessons
Lesson 9 – The Holy Spirit and the Church

Sabbath Afternoon:

Quoted texts: Ephesians 1:22, 23; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3–7; Acts 17:11; Ephesians 4:5, 6; Acts 2:4–11

Ephesians 1:17-23 “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²²And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, ²³Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

Christ is the head of the church, but notice in context, this position was given to him by God the Father.

Also, notice a vitally important point. Jesus is indeed God, for the Bible declares Him to be such. As the only begotten Son of God, he has inherited all the attributes of God, in the same way that we, as humans inherit all the attributes of our earthly parents, but this verse, and others like it, state clearly that Jesus Christ has a God, which is His Father, “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory” see also the following...

2 Corinthians 11:31 “The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.”

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

Ephesians 4:6 “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Hebrews 1:9 “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

This shows that God the Father is the supreme ruler of the universe and as shown previously all things come from the Father, including His only begotten Son. God the Father is indeed, “the God and Father of all”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

Jesus Christ is that one spirit, as we have seen over and over again, as is shown in the following quotes...

“We want the Holy Spirit, **which is Jesus Christ.**” {Lt66-1894 (April 10, 1894) par. 18}

“The impartation of **the Spirit** is the impartation of **the life of Christ.**” {DA 805.3}

“All professions of Christianity are but lifeless expressions of faith until **Jesus imbues the believer with his spiritual life, which is the Holy Ghost.** The evangelist is not prepared to teach the truth, and to be the representative of Christ, till he has received this heavenly gift.” {3SP 242.2}

“**The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ**, which is sent to all men to give them sufficiency, that through His grace we might be complete in Him. The Lord has provided that we should always be under the teaching and influence of the Holy Spirit.” {14MR 84.3}

There are so many more, but the above quotes make it so clear without further comment.

Romans 6:3-7 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

Acts 17:10-11 “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Ephesians 4:4-7 “There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; 5. **One Lord, one faith, one baptism**, 6. **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and **in you all**. 7. **But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**”

The above scripture is so clear, and shows the true hierarchy in heaven, with God the Father as the head of all.

Notice something very particular about this text. There is only “one” singular, body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith and baptism. No one would even begin to suggest that there are “three bodies in one” or “three spirits in one” or “three hopes in one” or “three Lords in one” or “three faiths in one” or “three baptisms in one” yet, contrary to common sense and the Scriptures themselves, the trinitarian says that “God is three in one” inferring that the word “one” doesn’t mean only one, but three. The above text proves that assumption to be totally wrong.

Acts 2:4-11 “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ⁹Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”

We have dealt with this before but will talk about it again when we come to it in the lesson.

Memory Text: *As above, but notice that the lesson only quotes v:3-5 to try to emphasise “the Spirit” while leaving out two vitally important verses in context, showing that there is also only “One God and Father of all” and that grace is given to us “according to the measure of the gift of Christ”*

Comments after memory text. “The Holy Spirit is ultimately responsible for the existence of the church of Christ.” *and* “The church exists because of what God has already done and continues to do for us through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who creates a spiritual community and fellowship that has the Written Word of God, inspired by the same Spirit, as its authority for faith and practice”

The above statements are pure error. God the Father and Jesus Christ alone are responsible for the existence of the church. They both work in and through the church by their omnipresent spirit, “the Spirit of Christ” and not as is stated above.

Sunday:

The Holy Spirit unites us with Christ?

Again, we are faced with more comments that are total confusion. It is the spirit and life of Christ himself that unites us to Christ, not someone else. We are not “effectually united” by someone else but actually, truly, really united to Christ himself through “the Spirit of Christ” not some other mystical being that is separate from Christ.

Ephesians 2:13-22 “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh **by the blood of Christ**. ¹⁴For **he is our peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ¹⁵Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ¹⁶And that he

might **reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸**For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.** ¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone**; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²²In whom ye also are builded together for **an habitation of God through the Spirit.**”

1 Peter 2:5-7 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and **he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.** ⁷Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: **but unto them which be disobedient**, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,”

We are asked in this section about the above two texts in relation to the role of Christ and the Holy Spirit in the creation of the church.

Again, they are insinuating error. It is Christ and God the Father that created the church by Christ's death on the cross, “made nigh by the blood of Christ”. It is Christ alone who “abolished in his flesh the enmity” “for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace” through His “one Spirit unto the Father” and through Christ alone we “are builder together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” “of Christ”. As we have seen over and over again, the “one Spirit” mentioned above is “the Spirit of Christ”. The church is built on the rock of truth as shown below...

Matthew 16:13-18 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon **this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**”

This is the rock that the church was built upon, that “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” and even though the enemy is throwing everything he has against this beautiful truth, “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” He that believes this rock of truth, that Jesus is “the Son of the living God” “shall not be confounded”. It is the truth and it will stand because it is built upon the rock, which is Christ Jesus.

*Yes, we have access to God the Father through the Spirit because it is “**Spirit of God**”, which is His life, His mind, His Spirit, not some other mysterious being.*

The last three points in the comments: “communion of the Holy Ghost” (KJV), “In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” And “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Are only possible by “the Spirit of Christ” “in us the hope of glory”

Monday:

The Holy Spirit unites us through Baptism

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “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.** ¹³For **by one Spirit** are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink **into one Spirit.**”

*The context shows who the “one Spirit” is, it is from “**Christ**”, we are baptised into Christ, by “the Spirit of Christ” and it is the spirit of Christ that unites us into one body and no one else as the text quoted below shows.*

Romans 6:3-7 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.** ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is **crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be

destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

That “newness of life” that we are to walk in, is only possible by “the Spirit of Christ” working in us by His word, which imparts to us the life of Christ.

“And when He had said this, **He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.” The Holy Spirit was not yet fully manifested; for Christ had not yet been glorified. The more abundant impartation of the Spirit did not take place till after Christ’s ascension. Not until this was received could the disciples fulfill the commission to preach the gospel to the world. **But the Spirit was now given** for a special purpose. Before the disciples could fulfill their official duties in connection with the church, **Christ breathed His Spirit upon them.** He was committing to them a most sacred trust, and He desired to impress them with the fact that without the Holy Spirit this work could not be accomplished. – {DA 805.2}

The Holy Spirit is **the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ.** Only those who are thus taught of God, those who possess **the inward working of the Spirit**, and in whose life **the Christ-life** is manifested, are to stand as representative men, to minister in behalf of the church.” – {Desire of Ages 805.3}

Tuesday:

The Holy Spirit Unites the church through the Word of God

Acts 17:10-11 “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**”

John 5:38-47 “And ye have not his word abiding in you: **for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.** ³⁹Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.** ⁴⁰And **ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.** ⁴¹I receive not honour from men. ⁴²But I know you, that **ye have not the love of God in you.** ⁴³I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. ⁴⁴How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and **seek not the honour that cometh from God only?** ⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. ⁴⁶For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”

John 8:31-32 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;** ³²And **ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”

How true are these two scriptures in relation to the current SDA church? Firstly, they are no longer the people of the book. They accept the “doctrines of devils” and “cunningly devised fables” over a simple “thus saith the Lord” They have not followed the example of the noble Bereans and “received the word with all readiness of mind” they have not “searched the scriptures daily” to see “whether those things are so”. They haven't tested the spirits whether they are of God but have received the trinity doctrine, against all of the evidence from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Jesus words can be applied to them, “whom he hath sent, him ye believe not”. They haven't received who Jesus Christ really is and they do not believe that He is, “the only begotten Son of God”, and have rejected the foundational truths that made the Seventh-day Adventist church what it was during the first 50 or so years from its inception. Truly Jesus says of the current church “ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” because” ye have not the love of God in you”

As Jesus says above “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed”. The current church has rejected the the clear testimony of Christ and chosen another God in His place and so they are automatically disqualified as being “my disciples indeed”.

Romans 6:14 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

By accepting the trinity doctrine, they have become the servants of Satan and will obey him because

they have “yielded” themselves to believe his lies which will sadly lead them into “sin unto death”, because as the Spirit of Prophecy says...

“It was just before this that Jesus had a second time performed the miracle of healing a man possessed, blind and dumb, and the Pharisees had reiterated the charge, “He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.” Matthew 9:34. **Christ told them plainly that in attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan, they were cutting themselves off from the fountain of blessing.** Those who had spoken against Jesus Himself, not discerning His divine character, might receive forgiveness; for through the Holy Spirit they might be brought to see their error and repent. Whatever the sin, if the soul repents and believes, the guilt is washed away in the blood of Christ; **but he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him.** It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; **when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare It to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul.** – {DA 321.3}

“The Pharisees to whom Jesus spoke this warning did not themselves believe the charge they brought against Him. There was not one of those dignitaries but had felt drawn toward the Saviour. They had heard the Spirit’s voice in their own hearts declaring Him to be the Anointed of Israel, and urging them to confess themselves His disciples. In the light of His presence they had realized their unholiness, and had longed for a righteousness which they could not create. But after their rejection of Him it would be too humiliating to receive Him as the Messiah. **Having set their feet in the path of unbelief, they were too proud to confess their error. And in order to avoid acknowledging the truth, they tried with desperate violence to dispute the Saviour’s teaching.** The evidence of His power and mercy exasperated them. They could not prevent the Saviour from working miracles, they could not silence His teaching; but they did everything in their power to misrepresent Him and to falsify His words. Still **the convicting Spirit of God** followed them, and they had to build up many barriers in order to withstand its power. The mightiest agency that can be brought to bear upon the human heart was striving with them, **but they would not yield.** – {DA 322.1}

“It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He sends them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths; **it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened.** Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God’s word, **through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul.** Thus it had been with these Jewish leaders. They were convinced that a divine power attended Christ, but in order to resist the truth, they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. In doing this they deliberately chose deception; **they yielded themselves to Satan, and henceforth they were controlled by his power.** – {DA 322.2}

“The last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so,” said Jesus, “shall it be also unto this wicked generation.” There are none so hardened as those who have slighted the invitation of mercy, and done despite to the Spirit of grace. **The most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Spirit is in persistently slighting Heaven’s invitation to repent.** Every step in the rejection of Christ is a step toward the rejection of salvation, and toward the sin against the Holy Spirit. – {DA 324.2}

“In rejecting Christ the Jewish people committed the unpardonable sin; **and by refusing the invitation of mercy, we may commit the same error.** We offer insult to the Prince of life, and put Him to shame before the synagogue of Satan and before the heavenly universe **when we refuse to listen to His delegated messengers,** and instead listen to the agents of Satan, who would draw the soul away from Christ. **So long as one does this, he can find no hope or pardon, and he will finally lose all desire to be reconciled to God.** – {DA 324.3}

Sadly, the quotes above are being played out before our very eyes in the rejection of the truth about God the Father and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. It shows clearly that when you bring this truth to them, they know it is true, they are convicted by the Spirit of Christ in their hearts and consciences that what you are sharing with them is the truth, because the Spirit of Christ sends it home to them in clear tones that cannot be mistaken, but because of their spiritual pride and unwillingness to repent of their past rejections of the truth, they stifle that conviction, attribute the truth to the working of Satan, and “with desperate violence” get angry and persecute “His delegated messengers”

What more can be done for these poor, deluded souls than has already been done for them? If they

*continue in “persistently **slighting Heaven’s invitation to repent” they will eventually commit the unpardonable sin and be lost forever.***

John 17:17-23 “Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.** ¹⁸As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. ²⁰Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹That they all may be one; **as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. ²²And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, **even as we are one:** ²³**I in them, and thou in me,** that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

Compare this with its context in the following...

John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth,** and **the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 14:15-18 “If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷Even **the Spirit of truth;** whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**”

If you compare all the texts above, it shows that the unity that is the distinguishing mark of Christianity is possible only by a union of the believer with Christ himself through His holy spirit dwelling in us by His word. First, He says that He is the truth, then that He is “the spirit of truth” and that His spirit quickeneth or gives life through His words, which are spirit and they are life. Compare this with the following SOP quote, that we have seen before...

“I am the way, the truth, and the life,” Christ declares: “no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Christ is invested with power to give life to all creatures. “As the living Father hath sent me,” He says, “and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.” “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:57, 63). **Christ is not here referring to His doctrine, but to His person, the divinity of His character.** “Verily, verily, I say unto you,” He says again, “The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man” (John 5:25-27). – {1 Selected Messages 249.3}

It is by eating the word that we are changed and as we can see, what we are partaking of when we take in the word of God, we are in truth receiving “His person” “the divinity of His character” “His holy Spirit”. His spirit is His person, the third person of the Godhead, which comes to us with all the fullness of the Godhead as Christ fulfils His promise to us to come to us and make his abode with us and manifest himself to us as our comforter.

Wednesday:

The Holy Spirit Unites the Church in Faith and Doctrine

Ephesians 4:4-6 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

As the above text says, everything mentioned in the comments, is only possible by the “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” through the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. They are the only ones to bring true unity in Faith and Doctrine.

“Those who believe the truth should remember that they are God’s little children, under His training. Let them be thankful to God for His manifold mercies and be kind to one another. They have **one God and one Saviour; and one Spirit—the Spirit of Christ—is to bring unity into their ranks.** – {Special Testimonies Series B04 23.3}

The quote from the lesson says “The gospel of Christ is to reach all classes, all nations, all tongues and people.” Notice it says “the gospel of Christ” not the gospel of the Holy Spirit. It is Christ that needs to be exalted not a separate being called the Holy Spirit.

“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.” “And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them.” “And Jesus increased his wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Let the brightest example the world has yet seen be your example, rather than the greatest and most learned men of the age, who know not God, nor Jesus Christ whom he has sent. **The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.** – {YI July 7, 1898 Par. 2}

Thursday:

The Holy Spirit Unites the Church in Mission and Service

Acts 2:4-21 “And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ⁹Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the **wonderful works of God**. ¹²And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? ¹³Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. ¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ¹⁵For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ¹⁷And it shall come to pass in the last days, **saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit** upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: ¹⁸And on my servants and on my handmaidens **I will pour out in those days of my Spirit**; and they shall prophesy: ¹⁹And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: ²⁰The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: ²¹And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

What does this text really teach about “the Holy Ghost”?

First of all, it tells us clearly where the spirit comes from: “saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit”. Twice it says the same thing, that it is the Spirit of God that is “poured out” or given and that it clearly comes from God the Father, through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ...

“Saith the Lord: “My people shall never be ashamed.” Joel 2:26. “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Psalm 30:5. When on His resurrection day these disciples met the Saviour, and their hearts burned within them as they listened to His words; when they looked upon the head and hands and feet that had been bruised for them; when, before His ascension, Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands in blessing, bade them, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel,” adding, “**Lo, I am with you alway**” (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:20); when on the Day of Pentecost the promised Comforter descended and the power from on high was given **and the souls of the believers thrilled with the conscious presence of their ascended Lord**—then, even though, like His, their pathway led through sacrifice and martyrdom, would they have exchanged the ministry of the gospel of His grace, with the “crown of righteousness” to be received at His coming, for the glory of an earthly throne, which had been the hope of their earlier discipleship? He who is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,” had granted them, with the fellowship of His sufferings, the communion of His joy—the joy of “bringing many sons unto glory,” joy unspeakable, an “eternal weight of glory,” to which, says Paul, “our light affliction, which is but for a moment,” is “not worthy to be compared.” – {GC 350.1}

“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25. Though the ministration was to be removed from the earthly to the heavenly temple; though the sanctuary and our great high priest would be invisible to human sight, **yet the disciples were to suffer no loss thereby. They would realize no break in their communion, and no diminution of power because of the Saviour’s absence.** While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, **He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.**

He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, **“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”** Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, **His energizing presence is still with His church.**” – {DA 166.2}

The quotes above are so clear, and they cannot be contradicted. The disciples were “thrilled with the conscious presence” of “the Spirit of Christ” who was “their ascended Lord” and no one else. Though they couldn’t see him, He fulfilled His promise to them to be with them and be in them. “His energizing presence” was still with them then, and is still with us now. There is “no break in their communion, and no diminution of power” because Jesus Christ is the Comforter that He promised to be. Jesus alone, through His spirit, “the Spirit of Christ” is responsible for what we read about in the book of Acts, and not someone else that they call “The Holy Spirit” one of the co-eternal three, of the trinity doctrine.

Acts 2:42-47 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

The unity that the disciples of Christ experienced was only possible after they were filled with “the conscious presence of their ascended Lord” through the presence of “the Spirit of Christ”.

Friday

We have already seen above who is the one that creates unity in the church, and the quote that says... “The holy spirit will create unity.”

Does not contradict what has been clearly shown that it is “the Spirit of Christ” that brings unity into our ranks. But only as we “yield ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit” can we experience the true fellowship that comes by the presence of “the Spirit of Christ” in the life...

Colossians 1:21-28 “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath **he** reconciled ²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: ²³**If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard**, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; ²⁴Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: ²⁵Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ²⁶Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:** ²⁸Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:”

Amen