



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Discerning the Daze of Deception, Pt. 3

Pastor John Riggs

Key Scriptures:

Primary and Core References

- 2 Corinthians 11:3–4 – The central text for this sermon.
- 1 John 4:1–2 – “Test the spirits” passage on discerning between true and false prophets.
- 1 John 4:3–6 – Describes the spirit of antichrist and contrasts the spirit of truth vs. the spirit of error.
- 1 John 4:13 – Evidence that believers abide in God because He has given us His Spirit.
- Colossians 1:24–27 – The mystery of “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
- Matthew 3:16–17 – The baptism of Jesus showing the Trinity present together (Father, Son, Spirit).
- Matthew 28:19 – The Great Commission command to baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- John 14:15–17 – Jesus promises the coming of the Helper, the Spirit of Truth.
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 – “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”
- 1 Corinthians 6:9–20 – Warnings against sexual immorality and reminder that believers’ bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Supporting or Contextual References

- Genesis 1:26 – “Let us make man in our image,” used to illustrate the plurality in the Godhead.
- John 15–16 – Mentioned collectively regarding Jesus’ teaching about the coming Holy Spirit.

- Ephesians 6:12 (implied) – On spiritual warfare and demonic hierarchies (“principalities and powers”).
- Acts 17:11 – The Bereans’ example of testing all teaching by Scripture.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,” cited on the authority of the Word.
- Romans 8:9–11 (implied) – On the indwelling Holy Spirit giving life to believers.
- John 1:1–2 and Genesis 1:1–2 (implied) – For the eternal nature and creative role of the Triune God.

Key Points:

- The current era is characterized by deception, making it crucial for believers to discern the times through God's word.
- The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is often neglected in modern church teachings due to historical movements and philosophical shifts.
- The Word of Faith and Charismatic movements, with their unbiblical practices, contributed to a negative perception and avoidance of the Holy Spirit in some parts of the church.
- Pragmatism and the church growth movement shifted focus from the Holy Spirit's power to man-made programs and strategies for numerical growth.
- Consumerism has led churches to adopt a corporate model, treating faith as a commodity and often sidelining the Holy Spirit's work.
- The Holy Spirit indwells every Christian, providing the power for a new life in Christ, but grieving or quenching the Spirit can lead to defeated lives.
- Discernment of spirits is vital, and the primary tool for testing spirits and teachings is the Word of God, which serves as the ultimate standard of truth.
- The mystery revealed to the saints, particularly Gentiles, is 'Christ in you the hope of glory,' signifying the indwelling presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- The doctrine of the Trinity (one God in three co-equal, co-eternal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is central to Christian faith and is evidenced in scripture from creation.
- The baptism of Jesus serves as a clear biblical illustration of the Trinity, with the Father speaking, the Son being baptized, and the Spirit descending.
- The baptismal formula in Matthew 28:19 signifies the unity of the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Jesus promised a 'helper' or 'Spirit of truth' (paraclete) who would be with believers eternally, a role fulfilled by the Holy Spirit.
- Living a life that glorifies God requires the active presence and work of the Holy Spirit within believers, as humans cannot achieve this on their own.
- Sexual immorality, including fornication and pornography, grieves the Holy Spirit and hinders His work in a believer's life, as believers are considered temples of the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible lists various sins, including sexual immorality, greed, and reviling, that prevent individuals from inheriting the kingdom of God, but also emphasizes that believers can be washed, sanctified, and justified by Christ's sacrifice.
- Believers receive power from the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Christ, enabling them to overcome sin and live a life that glorifies God.
- Pentecost marked the fulfillment of Jesus' promise for the Holy Spirit to indwell believers, empowering them and enabling them to speak in other tongues.
- The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment, highlighting that sin is the root problem of humanity and Jesus' primary mission was to die for sin.
- The Holy Spirit is a divine personage, not an impersonal force, possessing a mind, will, and emotions, and is actively involved in salvation and sanctification.
- The Holy Spirit intercedes for believers in prayer, helping them in their weaknesses and praying according to the will of God, even with groanings too deep for words.
- The Holy Spirit acts as a seal or down payment, guaranteeing the fullness of salvation for believers until it is fully revealed.
- The Holy Spirit's role in spiritual understanding and conviction.
- Believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- The importance of conviction by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit can be resisted.
- The guiding and revelatory nature of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit's role in teaching truth through the Word.
- The Holy Spirit's humility and focus on glorifying Christ.
- The Holy Spirit's warning and constraining power.
- The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit.
- The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts.
- The Holy Spirit can be grieved.

Question and Answer: (answers provided on pages 27-30 of the study)

Q: Why is the Holy Spirit often not taught or emphasized in churches today?

Q: What is the significance of the Holy Spirit indwelling believers?

Q: How can Christians test the spirits or teachings they encounter?

Q: What does the Bible teach about the Trinity?

Q: What is the meaning of 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'?

Q: Can you explain the illustration of the Trinity at Jesus' baptism?

Q: Why is baptism performed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Q: What is the role of the 'helper' Jesus promised to send?

Q: Can a person live a life that glorifies God without the Holy Spirit?

Q: How does sexual immorality affect a believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Q: What does it mean to be a 'temple of the Holy Spirit'?

Q: What is the significance of Pentecost for believers?

Q: What is the Holy Spirit's role in convicting the world?

Q: Is the Holy Spirit a person or an impersonal force?

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help believers in their prayer life?

Q: What does it mean that the Holy Spirit 'seals' believers?

Q: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in understanding spiritual concepts like sin and righteousness?

Q: How do I know if I am truly a child of God?

Q: Is it possible to resist the Holy Spirit?

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help Christians avoid deception?

Q: What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ?

Q: Can the Holy Spirit warn or protect believers?

Q: What are the 'fruits of the Spirit' mentioned in the Bible?

Q: What are spiritual gifts, and who gives them?

Q: How can a Christian grieve the Holy Spirit?

Q: What happens if a Christian consistently grieves or resists the Holy Spirit?

Q: What does it mean to 'quench' the Holy Spirit?

Q: Is there any sin that cannot be forgiven by God?

Sermon Transcript:

Good job. Good morning, everyone. Good morning. I tell you what, you're going to have to go a long way to find better worship than that. I really appreciate what our worship team is doing and how they're leading us in a heart of worship. I tell you what, I have been so excited to be here this morning. Um, I'm so excited this morning to open up the word of God with each of you today as we learn together what God teaches us in his word about how we are to discern the days of deception that we are living in. And I'm so grateful to God today for his incredible word. And so once again, I'm going to begin with a word of prayer. And then I'd like for us to go to the word of God this morning and then we're going to learn together uh what God teaches about this very, very important topic of our time.

Dear heavenly father, Lord, we come to you today and father, it's exciting for us to be gathered here together as the redeemed of the Lord. God, we've all had long weeks. There's been lots going on in this busy summer, the month that we've entered into. The month of July is a busy summer month for many of us. And so Lord, I just ask God that today as we gather here together, as we've been in the trenches throughout the week, as we've been living our lives in a way that would honor and glorify you, as we've been loving our wives and teaching and directing and guiding our children and working and all that's involved in what we do, Lord, I just pray that the next few moments, God, that we could set aside some of the busyness and the hectic lives that we live and that we could for the next few moments just be rejuvenated by the word of God, Lord, and encouraged this morning as we come together as those that are purchased by the blood of Jesus today. As we open the word of God, the living word, God, today, I pray, Lord, that you would just encourage each and every one of us here. Lord, we love you. We thank you for Christ and for our salvation. We thank you for the Holy Spirit that you have given that indwells us, that does so much in the lives of every believer. And God, we thank you for this time together. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Now, for those of you that have been here over the last month, you know that this is our fourth message in this series. And it's a very, very important series. Has been since the inception of the church, the ability to discern the uh deception that was going on even in the first century church, but even more so now with all of the different ways in which the enemy has access to bring deception in this time. Now, we've been looking at our primary verse is found in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. So, we're going to look at that this morning. You might turn there. We've got a lot of scriptures that we're going to study today and we're going to zero in and we're going to focus on a certain aspect today that is unfortunately not taught like it should be in the days in which we're living in. And that is going to be the third person of the triune Godhead, the Holy Spirit. We're going to spend some time looking at what the Bible teaches about this incredible gift that God has given us in the Holy Spirit. In fact, in my lifetime, there has been some things that have come along that have, I believe, contributed to the reason why the Holy Spirit is not taught often in churches today. A lot of that began with the word of faith charismatic movement. Early, early on in my life, I remember this movement that was becoming very popular and very prevalent in the western church. The charismatic movement along with many of the things that they were engaging in claiming the works of the Holy Spirit really had an effect on the church and Christianity as a whole. Because of some of the things that they were doing, claiming these things were done uh by the Holy Spirit, it caused many people to shrink back from the Holy Spirit. Things like rolling on the ground and laughing in the spirit and barking like dogs and and uh slaying in the spirit and all of these unbiblical things that this charismatic movement was doing was creating a problem in the church. Many of these things

that were being done had nothing to do with the Holy Spirit. Why? Because last week we learned at least in part some ways how we test the spirits to see whether they are from God. One of the things we know about the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit always brings glory to Jesus Christ. Those things that were happening had nothing to do with bringing glory to Jesus Christ. They were bringing glory to man. And it caused a problem and it's still prevalent in our time really. This big movement began in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Um, and this entire movement has spread across the United States. And, uh, it has had a huge negative impact on the church. And it also has greatly affected the way people view the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, the next thing that we saw come into the church was a philosophy. It was a philosophy called pragmatism. In pragmatism in the context of the church, it is the philosophy that churches should do whatever works in order to bring about numeric growth in the church. I grew up in the church growth movement. And the church growth movement brought in a philosophy that we just do whatever we need to do that gets results to get people here. It was all about growth. And so this philosophical worldview came into the church and men exchanged the power of God and the working of the Holy Spirit and the sufficiency of scripture with programs of man. And you could go to these conferences and you could learn from some of these mega church pastors about how you build a big church. In fact, many books were written on this topic. All you have to do is implement X, Y, and Z to grow your church. And so the Holy Spirit, unfortunately, was left out in this movement where men became more interested in developing programs to do something to bring and generate growth in the church. A lot of programs were implemented in this season of time. It's still in the church today.

And then from there we've moved into something even more, I think, detrimental in a way in our own time and that is this consumerism movement. The consumerism movement in the western church is a corporate model mindset. It came out of the pragmatism mindset and the philosophy where now churches are just building big corporations. We are corporations according to the government and we design churches by corporate structures and we do things like corporations do and we now are trying to appeal to the western consumeristic mindset. America is a consumer-driven society and the church has taken this and brought this in. And what we find now in the western church is that the church now peddles Christian faith and the church as commodities. Simple commodities, nothing more than a corporation offering goods and services for shoppers to choose from. Nowhere in any of these things do you see the Holy Spirit's power being implemented or used. These many of them are just the works of men. And when we've come this many years and we've had all of these things infiltrating the church, we find that over the years we hear fewer and fewer messages on the person and the work of the Holy Spirit of God. I believe that a few things um that we can see here. If you were to ask the average Christian today about God the Father, God the Son, and then God the Holy Spirit, you'll find that for many Christians, they don't have much knowledge or understanding about the third person of the triune Godhead, God the Spirit. They don't have a lot of understanding about God the Spirit. One of the reasons as I mentioned is because it's not preached about or taught much in these days because men are too busy busy building worldly kingdoms of corporate structure and model that they're doing it with giftedness and programs and structures. They're not using though what we've been given. And we are to use the leading and the directing of the Holy Spirit of God. You can't do one thing for the kingdom of God without the Holy Spirit of God. Nothing can be done.

And as we begin to look at how very important it is that we understand this promise that Christ gave to his apostles, uh the fact that he was going away, but he was going to send them the

helper, the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth, that he would ask the father, and the father would send the holy spirit to come and the holy spirit would not leave like Christ did and ascend to heaven. He would come and be with his apostles and those who came to believe the gospel forever. And not just forever would he be with them. In other words, Jesus says, "You know the Holy Spirit, disciples, because he's been with you." And they have seen his works as they watched Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit doing signs, wonders, miracles, and all that was going on. They knew the Holy Spirit just by seeing what Jesus Christ was doing by the power of the spirit in their presence. But Jesus promised the Holy Spirit that I will send will be inside of you. Now, a lot of Christians don't realize what this even means. If you were to ask the average church Christian goer in America, do they know that the Holy Spirit of God dwells inside of every single Christian? Many people don't really know or understand that. Why? Because often times when the gospel is preached, they come to faith and believe. Listen, you can't even be saved without the work of the Holy Spirit. And a new believer doesn't know the work the spirit has done in bringing about their regeneration and their new faith and new birth. They know they've been changed and they've been saved. And you'll remember this when you first came to faith in Christ. There were things happening in your life that were very difficult for you to understand or explain. Why? Because they were supernatural and divine. We began by the spirit, but then over time we don't have understanding about this person of the Holy Spirit. We begin to grieve the Holy Spirit or quench the Holy Spirit and then we no longer are living or walking in the power and the fruits of the spirit are no longer present in our lives. So many Christians are living defeated lives in Jesus Christ. They do not know the power of God that lives in them. They do not understand the personal relationship that we are to have through the spirit to the son and the father. They don't realize that they can actually grieve the very power that God gave them, the person of the Holy Spirit in their life to the point that they no longer can hear the spirit speaking to them through the word directing and leading and all that he's doing in their lives. And the church becomes very impotent and powerless. It's not because God's power is not powerful. It's because the church no longer is walking or living in the power of the spirit in their lives.

Now, this is so very important and critical that we get this relating to the days and the times in which we're living in. Now, if you will, we're going to run through this pretty quick. We got a lot of scriptures to look at today, and it's already later than I thought it would be, but it's it's what it is. Here we go.

Now in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 you know Paul is concerned that those that he had led to Christ in Corinth were being led astray and deceived by Satan because false teachers had implemented had infiltrated the church and they were preaching a different Jesus. We looked at that about three weeks ago how important Christology is and learning from scripture through the Holy Spirit teaching us who Jesus Christ is. We got to know who Jesus is because there are lots of false teachings about different Christs and they they use the word Jesus but he's not the real Jesus of scripture. And then also that they would receive a different spirit because this Christ that was being preached was different and along with that was a different gospel and along with that was a different spirit because you cannot preach the true Christ with a different gospel. You can't preach the true Christ by the demonic spirit. They're all tied together. And Paul was so concerned that they were going to be led astray from their pure and sincere devotion to Jesus Christ because they were putting up with these false teachers. And Paul is reminding them of these truths so that they will wake up and realize that they are near deception and being led astray. They were putting up with these false teachers.

Now remember, we learned, I believe it was last week or the week before, that there's only two spirits at work in this world. There is the divine spirit, which would be the Holy Spirit of God. He is at work in this world. And then there's the demonic spirits. Those fallen angels who followed Satan, the serpent, the ancient devil, who who actually followed him in his rebellion. And and they are working in this world and they are working in this dark world that we're living in. They are behind much of what we see, much of what is set up, much of what is being done, much of what is being taught. These are from these demonic spirits. And we learned that we are not to believe every spirit last week in First John 4 in verse 1-2. It says, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God or many, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the spirit of God." Every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. And that was one of the litmus tests that we looked at for us to test or prove the spirits that are working in the world, the teachings that are going out, the religious systems of the day, all of the things that are be spoken about on platforms of YouTube and podcasters and everything that you consume as far as media goes. Every single week, there is two spirits at work. It's either the spirit of God or the spirit of demonic fallen beings that are working in this world. And we need to know that the word test we learned meant to prove it. And how do we prove and test the spirits there is the the one way in which we do that is by the word of God. We measure every single thing by the word because the word is the standard of truth. Thy word is truth. All scriptures given by inspiration of God. All of it. So we measure everything we're hearing, being taught, being told, everything we're seeing. We measure it all. We prove it all by scripture. So Christians should be people who love and study and learn and know the word of God. Why? Because it is their standard for measuring and proving everything. It's one sure way that you can guarantee that you will not be led astray is to be able to know and discern through proving things with scripture.

Now, most people that are led astray in these cults and so on and so forth and the teachings that are going on today and what we call churches, if you want to put brackets around them, because they're nothing more than a than a man's um corporate business with a little lipstick on a pig to call it a church, it's still a pig. I don't care how much lipstick or what color you put on it, it's still a pig. And here's the thing, we use scripture. So if your Christian community would study the word like they would be like the Bereans that we learned about last week that Paul said, "Hey, you need to be like these Bereans who even took what I told them and went back and examined the scriptures to see if what I told them was true." They were simply doing what God told them to do to test everything that they're being taught. You go pick up a book and you think you're going to read that book because you've heard it's good. You better do a little research and you better understand what's being taught and then you come over and you stick it up here and you put it up against the standard and if it doesn't hold true to the standard, take that book and chuck it. You don't need those things. You need the word of God in our lives.

Okay, moving right along. So, we are not to believe, but we're to test every spirit. Now, in John, uh, John continues here in 1 John 4:3-6. Now, I want you to look at this. Now, we've got to really roll because we've got so many passages that I want you to write down and I want you to have in your in your in your uh arsenal here for the week that you're getting ready to face. We are coming here and we are equipping ourselves and we are what? Encouraging one another and we are being built up in the Lord to the unity of the fullness of the stature of Jesus Christ. We are growing and maturing. Why? Because we're getting ready to leave here and we're getting ready to go out into the world. And then we're going to be able to live and apply these things out this next week. John writes in 1 John 4:3-6, just a little further down in 1 John,

he says, "And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus is not from does not confess Jesus is not from God." Remember we talked about the Christology aspect of that. And then John says that actually this is the spirit of antichrist. This is the antichrist spirit if you will which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Speaking of the spirit of antichrist, not the person of antichrist. He says, "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them." Why? Now you got to understand this because I'm going to hammer this thing all morning. For he personal pronoun describing someone a personage. He who is in you, John says to these believers is in you. Remember John chapter 14, John 15, John 16, he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. Christian, you have to know that who it who dwells in you is God the spirit. All the other spirits of the world working under the kingdom of darkness, they are created angelic beings by God. They are not omniscient. They are not omnipresent. They are not omnipotent. They can't be all places at once. They don't know all things. And they're not all powerful. But there are many of them. And they are working under what we find we read about in scripture, a certain hierarchy. And the way that the governmental system of this world is set up in the principalities and the powers in heavenly places. What we're learning is there is a kingdom here that is operating in this world and they're behind the scenes in the spirit realm and they're manifesting everything in the physical realm. It's what's going on. These they say they are from the world. Therefore, these people they speak from the world and they listen to them. The world listens to the worldly things. But he says this, "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us." Speaking of these apostles, "Whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." Little more information to put in your arsenal there.

In John uh 1 John 4:13, if you were to move down your page just a little further in 1 John, you'll find this. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us because he has given us of his spirit. Of his spirit.

Now let's look at some of these things today. Paul writes very similar things to the church of Colossae. Turn your Bibles to Colossians, the book of Colossians. You're going to have to go left from First John to Colossians. Go to Colossians. It's one of Paul's epistles. And I want to show you some things that Paul taught in a very similar way. Now, Christian, I want for you to get this. When you come to faith in Christ through the hearing of the preaching of the gospel and you are convicted of your sin of of righteousness and of judgment and you by faith trust and believe in the finished work of Christ. What is going on that you don't know? That is a work of the Holy Spirit of God working and bringing about what Christ has already performed and finished. He is bringing that about in your life. And he is working through the spirit in order to draw you to this salvation that you have come to know. The spirit of God has done this. And then you are indwelt by the spirit of God. Why would you need to be indwelt by the spirit of God? Because scripture says that if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. See, something happened to you when you came to faith in Christ. There was a new birth experience. You were regenerated, scripture says, by the spirit. And you were born again. In other words, you were born again in Christ. By the spirit. You have your old man in Adam. You've been born again in Jesus Christ, the second Adam, by faith alone. And then here's the thing. Now God gives us the power and so much more to now aid us in living the new life that gives honor and glory to God the Father through Christ the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you leave out the Holy Spirit and you don't understand or you ignore or you have no concept, you're going to run into problems in how you live out the life that Christ has given you to live out for his glory. It's going to happen. So, we need to teach people about the Holy Spirit of God. Very important.

Here we go. Colossians 1:24-27. Now I rejoice, Paul says, in my sufferings for your sake and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is the church. We are part of the body of Christ. And there are more afflictions that the body of Christ is receiving. And Paul through the ministry of what he's doing in serving Christ as one of those who is in Christ, he says, "I am adding to the sufferings and the afflictions of Christ. As I go through those afflictions and sufferings, it's as if Christ is also going through that." And he says, "That is the church of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that is given to me to make the word of God fully known." And listen to this. What is he going to make fully known? The mystery that was hidden for ages and generations, but now is revealed to who? The saints. Who are the saints? Anyone who has by faith trusted believed in Christ and has been born again of the spirit. We are the saints of God. And God has revealed, Paul says, this mystery. And here it is to them. God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery. And here's the mystery Paul says to the Gentiles as well as the Jews Christ which is Christ in you the hope of glory. It's another way of talking about the spirit living in us. Paul says the same thing.

Now, the doctrine of the trinity, that is the triune Godhead. It's important we get this and we're going to roll quickly through this. The triune Godhead, this trinitarian God, one God. It's monotheism, not not uh not not polytheism. It's monotheistic. Listen to this. It is central to the Christian faith. Although it is true that we cannot fully comprehend the triune God. We cannot. It is true. God is so good to reveal to us this truth in order that we can better know him. And he reveals all of this to us through what? The word of God. We come to know this triune God. It's so that we can better know him, experience him, love, serve, and obey him as we live out our numbered days here upon the earth. Understanding this incredible truth as to who God is helps us better understand how God is working out his redemptive plan and how he works in and through our lives for our good and for God's glory. God reveals to us through his word that he and he alone is God. The Lord, the Lord, he is one. Scripture says he is one God who exists eternally guys in three distinct personages. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is made up of one eternal immutable God and three distinct co-eternal made up of three distinct co-eternal co-equal fully God not inferior in any way to one another. This Godhead they are in perfect harmony with one another and they consist of one essence but are each different in their functions within the Godhead.

Here's what's amazing to me. I've I've taught this to you in the past. I find it fascinating in Genesis when we look at creation and we realize that we were created in the image and the likeness of God and then it says let us make man in our image. All the way back in Genesis in the creation account we learn that there is actually plurality within the Godhead right there from the very, very beginning and we are made in the image of God. And here's something that you need to think about. Did you know that we are a triune being? We're triune. You are one person with three. And why is that? Because we're created in the image and the likeness of God. You have a mind. You have a body. And you have a spirit. These are evidence to the fact helping us understand. I'm not three persons. I'm one person with three different aspects of my one person. And this is how we can look a little bit at the triune God to help us understand this. It's a pretty poor example because we can't fully understand the triune God any way, shape, form, or fashion. But this is a little way we can grasp it in essence. So God is one. God exists in three persons. And I'm teaching you this for a reason because the third person of the triune Godhead has been so neglected in the church for so many years. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit are eternal. They always have been. They always will be. Christian, there has never been a time when God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit did

not exist together within the Godhead. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit are each fully, totally, completely God. In essence, they are God. They are identical. They're not in identical in essence, not inferior in any way to one another. Yet, they are distinct in their functions and how they actually operate their roles within the Godhead.

Now, let's look at a few examples of this. And I want to just give you quickly a few in Matthew's Gospel chapter 3:16-17. And we're trying to get to the Holy Spirit here. So, we got to roll. So when someone wants to bring up and I see this on the internet a lot that they'll say the trinity is a lie. Where do we go right here is our standard and we use the standard to measure all things that have been taught or that are being taught. And we have others within that would call themselves Christian community who do not believe in the trinity. Well, there's some major problems with that because the standard, the word of truth tells us that there is a trinity without using the word trinity. It tells us by showing and demonstrating this reality. Here we go. Let's look at a few of those. We could spend a long our entire morning going over this. Matthew 3:16-17. Now, we're going to see all three of them present at one time. Here we go. And when Jesus was baptized, who is Jesus? The eternal son of God. Always has been, always will be. He came and took upon flesh by what? The power of the Holy Spirit. He was conceived in Mary's womb. And this is the will of the father, by the way. And Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Here, you're going to notice something happened. Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God, is being baptized by the forerunner of Christ, Jesus uh Jesus uh relative John the Baptist. And he went up out of the water and behold the heavens were opened and he saw John did the what capital S spirit of God. Who is the spirit of God? The Holy Spirit. Now we were seeing the second person of the triune Godhead, John the Baptist. He's baptizing the eternal son of God. Jesus Christ in the flesh, fully God, fully man. John sees the heavens opened when Jesus comes up out of the water. And he notices now there is one who is coming down. Not a dove coming down, by the way, but like a dove descending. And what do we what was it? We saw the spirit of God descending like a dove. Not a dove, but like a dove and coming to rest on him. That is Christ. And behold, now John also hears something else. A voice from heaven. The spirit descends on Christ, the eternal son. We have two. Now John is standing there with Christ. And he hears from heaven. What? This is my beloved son. Who's speaking? When we're dealing with a son, the father is speaking. And the father says, "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased right here in this section of scripture," which there are many of them. We see the triune God here present at one time.

Matthew 28:19. This is interesting. You notice when we baptize, we say that we baptize you in the name of the father, the son, and who? The holy spirit. Why do we do that? We don't do that just because we want to exercise some lengthy little thing to say at the end of a baptism. No, we do that because it's in accordance with the scripture of God. If you go to Matthew 28:19, Jesus now is getting ready to leave and he's giving his disciples their assignment. They're going to be the foundation of the church and the teachings of what Christ has done. And listen, go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And every single one is capitalized for a reason, because we're referring to God.

There's another one. Turn with me in your Bibles to the 14th chapter of the Gospel of John. Now, we're going to get started. Here we go. John. Go to John. You're going to go right from Matthew. You're going to come to the Gospel of John, one of the Apostles of Christ. John chapter 14:15-17. We're going to have to go quickly because I have a lot to cover today, but I want you to hear this. I want you to see it. I want you to mark it. I want you to write it down and

go study it for yourself when you have time this week. John chapter 14:15-17. Jesus said, 'If you love me, speaking to his apostles, he says, 'You will keep my commandments, and I will ask the father and he will give you another capital H helper to be with you forever, even the spirit of truth. So now we know that he's called the helper and the spirit of truth. And notice John Jesus says, whom the world or John says, whom the world cannot receive. Even this is Jesus speaking because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him for he dwells with you and he will be with you. So Christ is going to ask the father and the father will give them a helper. We learned that the word helper is actually the word parakletos in the Greek. It's where we get the word parah. So we've been given something to aid us to help us do what we cannot do for ourselves. Listen, you cannot live your life for the glory of God without walking with the spirit and the spirit of God working through you. We can't do this because we are flesh and bone. We're born again, yes, but we need the Holy Spirit working through us and in us in order that we can live a life that honors and glorifies God. It's very, very important truth. Now the spirit of truth when he comes the world can't receive him because it neither sees him nor knows him. Now the disciples have had enjoyed three years of the life and ministry of Christ. The spirit of God was at work all around them. But after Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus made a promise that he was going to have the Holy Spirit come and indwell them. And the Holy Spirit who was with him would come and indwell him.

We see the same truth in 1 Corinthians 3:16. If you want to write that down, this isn't a very long verse, but if you want to write it down, you can. And if you want to flip there, you're more than welcome to, but you're going to go right in your Bibles. The Apostle Paul here writing his first letter to the Corinthian believers, there's some things going on here that should not be going on in the church. There was sexual immorality and that is actually heterosexual sex by the way as well. All we talk about in the church today, we seem to be pointing at homosexuality a lot. But here's the problem. Heterosexual sex outside of marriage is called fornication. Did you know it's mentioned in the same section of those who will not inherit the kingdom? And that word sexual immorality actually includes the word pornea, pornographic things, porn itself, all of that is part of this. Why? Because Paul says this should not be the way of a true follower of Christ. And he's going to give them something that they need to hear. Here's something that I hear a lot um about people write like all of these steps for people that are hooked on porn like this is going to be like this long process and so on. Listen to me. If you take this verse that I'm fixing to teach you and show you through scripture, if you would let this sink in, you would stop looking at porn right now. Because if you understood who it is that lives inside of you, you would not join Christ to a prostitute. In no way, shape, form, or fashion would you ever do that. See, here's the thing, men. Your eyes and the what you look at will greatly affect the way the spirit works in your life. If you want to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, you just start fixating yourself on pornography. This is so serious. It's not like, well, no one knows. No big deal. Doesn't matter. Oh, it matters so much. Why? Because the very powerful gift of God that lives in you. He is grieved by this. And he will not be working in your life. I'm telling you, this is so big, you don't understand it. First Corinthians, go there with me. We've talked about this in our camps for men, hopefully helping them see and and understand a few things. First Corinthians chapter 3. In fact, I'm going to turn there with you because I want to read more than I actually have down here. If you're living in a fornicative relationship, you are sinning against God. We didn't talk about that in the church. It's like, it's no big deal. Oh, it's so big. It's huge. It's included with homosexuality. All homosexuality is Christian is a perversion twisted more than heterosexual perversion, which is any sex outside of marriage. You have to understand this. Sex was intended to be between one man, one woman in covenant before God for a lifetime. And in the church, it's prevalent today. So many people are living in fornication. And let me tell

you something. God hates sin. And I'm telling you, the Holy Spirit of God living in you is being grieved. You young men, if you can grab this, this will help you a lot. When those moments come and that temptation is there, listen, you remember who it is that lives inside of you. And you would never join Jesus Christ to that type of illicit relationship. You need to hear this. Why? Because these moments will come. Yes, you have. This is going it's going to happen to you when you go to the gym or you go someplace and they're wearing their yoga clothes. Women don't wear anything anymore when they go to the gym and they don't think there's anything wrong with it. It's not true. Christian women, you ought to dress modestly. Why? Don't you be guilty of causing someone to stumble. And your body is for your husband and for him alone. No one else. And let me tell you something. This is so big and it's so serious and it's just like we yawn to it. We just yawn. No, it's so serious. First Corinthians chapter 3. And here's the thing. Paul is basically writing to them because evidently they don't fully understand this. Listen to what Paul says here. Let's look at verse 10. Oh man, if I can should have brought my glasses with me. Oh man, here we go. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation and someone else is building upon it. Let us each take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, each one's work will become manifest for the day will disclose it. Listen, it's all going to be laid bare one day because it will be revealed by fire and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone works his work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Then listen to this. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy and you are that temple. Isn't that incredible? You are that temple.

Now, if you go over to 1 Corinthians chapter 6, I didn't intend on stopping here, but let I want to just reiterate this because this just seems to be as if people are so deadened to this truth. Like they they just don't care anymore. They don't care. In 1 Corinthians chapter 6, start in verse, it's nine, I think. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither the sexually immoral, nor the idolater or adulterous, nor men who practice homosexuality. It's like the only one we want to circus in circle in the church today is that one. That's not all of them. Nor thieves, nor the greedy. People who are just living life worshiping money, greedy for gain, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. Paul says, this isn't my word. This is Paul's word. This is the word of God. And such were some of you, Paul says. That would include probably many people in this church here today. But you were washed. You were sanctified. That means set apart is what that means. You were justified. Set right before God. No longer is your sin being counted against you. It has been nailed to the cross. It has been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. It was stamped paid in full by Jesus. In the name of G in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the what? Spirit of our God, the Holy Spirit.

Now we move on. Listen, let's move over here. Man, I wish I could see. Let's look in verse uh 16. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? This is for the Christian. Shall I then take the member members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never. Paul says, "Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her?" Stop believing the lie that sex is free. It is not. There's something that happens deep inside people when they have sex. It's meant to be a spiritual thing depthwise. They say, "Ah, it's just like changing shoes or socks." No, it's not. Not at all. Or do you not know that he who is joined

to the prostitute becomes one body with her? For it's written, the two will become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Now, listen. Here's the here's the here's the stuff you want to teach your your young men. Teach your young ladies. Here it is. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body. But the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body? Paul says to these Christians in Corinth, listen to what he's telling them. Your body has been joined to Christ. You're members of his body. And then he says this that when we have sexual sin, it's the only sin we commit against our own body where all sins are sins external. And then he makes this. Do you not know that your body is a temple? This is huge. Not just any temple, but it is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you. Whom you have from God. You are not your own for you were bought with a price. So Paul says what? Glorify God with and in in your body. So I just wanted to hit that because it seems to be today that for most Christians I talk to, it's not a big deal, man. And it's uncomfortable and people like to hear this stuff, but let me tell you something. If we don't tell them the truth, how are we going to know? And you take them to the word of God. You don't just stand there and say, "Hey, that's wrong." No, you take him to the word of God and say, "I'm going to show you the standard and why this is wrong or why this is sin." And it will greatly affect our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22, "In him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Acts 1:6-8, we're going to learn when this happened. Oh, we got to hurry. So when they had come together, they asked him, this is in right before his ascension, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel, Jesus said to them, "It's not for you to know the times or the seasons that the father has fixed by his own authority." Now, this is important. You might want to underline this in your in your Bible, speaking to his apostles. He's getting ready to ascend to the father and he's promised he's going to send the one to come and live in them, the Holy Spirit. But notice what he says. Don't worry about all those details, guys. But you will receive what? Power. You want a power-filled life in Christ? Where does it come from? Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And then notice this. And you will be my witnesses. You want a witness for Christ. You want boldness for Christ. You have no boldness, no courage when you're living in sin. Because the power of the Holy Spirit is stifled in your life because you've grieved the Holy Spirit. He says, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria to the ends of the earth." Now, I want to show you something here that I want you to see for every new believer, guys. The power for us to live this life, for the boldness to say no to sin, to live for a a life that glorifies God, to crucify the flesh, and to walk in step with the spirit, and to live a life that brings honor, glory, majesty, and points people to Jesus. You cannot do it without the power of the spirit of God that God gave you who lives in you, who is the Holy Spirit of God. I'm telling you, there's we're getting to a point here of why this deception is so important that you understand this. The Holy Spirit's been given to us for so many reasons. And people who live a perpetual lifestyle of sin against God in unconfessed sin and bitterness and all these different things, let me tell you something. You have stifled the spirit of God in your life and you are at danger of being deceived, especially when we learn what the Holy Spirit does for us.

Now listen, let's look at this. Um, in Acts 1:4-5, we've read that one. Then we go to Pentecost which we can see here. Jesus promised this event in the 14th chapter of John. We looked at that earlier in 50 days after the death, burial, resurrection of Christ. We have what? We have

Pentecost which would be what is known as as the feast of weeks. And Pentecost happens at the end of the feast of weeks.

When all the Jews would come to Jerusalem and they were celebrating this feast that they were to do perpetually. And at Pentecost, we have the the the the the men that were and the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem because Jesus says, "Go to Jerusalem and you're to wait there." In fact, he says that earlier in Acts 1:4-5. He says, "But wait for the promise of the Father, which he said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

And then we read about it taking place here in Acts chapter 2. Let me read this to you out of 1-4. When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind. Now a sound like this. And it filled the entire house where they were sitting. That is the disciples and the apostles were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each of them. And they began and they were excuse me and they were what? Filled with the Holy Spirit. And they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In John 14:26, Jesus said, "This is what's going to happen when you get here to Acts chapter 2 1-4. This is when it happened." And he said in 14:26, "The helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things. He will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Now, here we go. We're going to back up three verses in John 14 to verse 23. Here we go. Jesus answered them, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him."

So, let's look at a few things here that I want you to see. God the Father wills. In fact, Jesus said in John 6:38, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will, but to do the will of him who sent me, the father." God the Son works and accomplishes or fulfills the will of the father. And he did that in redemption, creation, and we can go down the list of things. Number three, the Holy Spirit applies the will of the Father through the finished work of the Son to, in, and through the lives of people.

In John 15:26, I'm going to go over, we're going to get rolling here. But when the helper comes, Jesus said, "Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."

John 16:7-11. If you guys are okay, we're just going to we're going to roll through here. You can write them down and look them up later. You won't be able to probably keep up with the time that we have. In John 16:7-11, nevertheless, I tell you, it is to your advantage, Jesus says that I go away. Can you imagine that? Hey guys, it's going to be good for you that I go away. They're like, what is going on here? For if I do not go away, the helper, here he is again, will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict, this is so important, he will convict the world concerning sin.

Do you remember what happened after the apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit? After they were filled with the spirit, Peter goes out and preaches. And we have 3,000 who were cut to the heart and were convicted and they believed the message that Peter proclaimed. You

notice that the Holy Spirit is the one who brings conviction to the person. The Holy Spirit does. He will convict the world concerning sin. Not social justice sin. Jesus did not come to be your heroic social justice warrior. Jesus came to die and give his life for sin. That is why all the problems of injustice are a symptom of the root cause for all the un the unw world the the horrible things in the world everything sickness disease disasters wars everything you can think about they are symptoms of the root and no one wants to talk about the root problem today man has a sin problem you imagine AI Oh, we'll just go ahead and make sure that we don't let it go rogue. Who's developing AI? Men and women. And it's it's learning from all mankind as we do our searches, as we look up things, as we do different things. It's learning from men. And scripture says that the what? The heart of man is wicked. Don't bet for yourself that AI won't be wicked. It's wicked because of the wickedness of man. It will be absolutely I will send him and he will come and convict the world of sin. The concerning sin and righteousness. Oh man, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Thank God that we became aware of our sin and the righteous standard of the holy God and that we didn't measure up and that we were what going to receive next concerning judgment. That the wages of our sin was death and judgment. When you preach the gospel, men hear all these things. They're convicted of their sin. They are learning and understanding and quickened in their mind to understand the righteous holy God and that they have fallen so short of his glorious standard and their sin according to scripture and the justice of God would be met only through their death for their sin. Everyone wants justice but no one wants the justice of God done to them. No one can be saved without the working of the Holy Spirit in salvation. That's how important this is.

Now, the work of the Holy Spirit, I want you to notice something in scripture. The Holy Spirit is called by he, him. This is a pronoun and it speaks of a personage. Okay? The Holy Spirit is not like we read about in Star Wars some force. No, the Holy Spirit is a personage with a mind with will and with emotions. The Holy Spirit is not an it. That's why we can have a relationship with God because it's personal. It's not religion. He is a personage that scripture declares some things about. He is actively involved in our salvation Christian and in our sanctification. Yes, we were set apart. That's one way the sanctification word is used. But the process of what we read in scripture where God is transforming us into the image of his dear son is a process called sanctification. And the Holy Spirit is actively working to bring about our sanctification. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, we read these things. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom? We already went through this. But you were washed. You were sanctified. That means set apart. And you were justified in the name of the Lord. We read this a little while ago. and by the spirit of our God. See, the Holy Spirit is working to bring these Christ performed it all. It is finished. It is done. The Holy Spirit is working these things in our life. Titus 3:5 says, "He saved us not because of the works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit plays an active role in our regeneration, our regeneration. That is being born of the spirit, being born again. The Holy Spirit, these believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 15, for John baptized with water, speaking to his apostles, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

The Holy Spirit identifies us as belonging to God. Romans 8:9-11. Just write these down because I'm going to go through a bunch. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if in fact the spirit of God dwells in you, anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you through the spirit, although the body is dead because

of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness, if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you. He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you.

The Holy Spirit teaches John 14:26, "But the helper of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." We need the Holy Spirit to teach us the truth of scripture. You can also write down 1 Corinthians 2:10-16. We learn in this passage that people that do not know Christ, they cannot understand the things of God. They can't because they're spiritually discerned. And you must have spiritual discernment today in order that you can what? Understand all the things that are going on. We need this discernment.

The Holy Spirit guides us. I've never had a guide in the back country, but I'm sure it would be pretty handy. John 16:13, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he who for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears, he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." You and I need the Spirit's guidance in all things in our life. We need the guidance. Did you know the Holy Spirit that lives in you guides you? He teaches you. He identifies you as being in Christ. Did you know that he was working to bring about your salvation? Did you know that he was working about bringing your regeneration and your rebirth and your newness of being in Christ? Romans 5 says this.

Oh, he comforts us. How many of you have ever received the comfort of God? It's real. The Holy Spirit brings us comfort through many ways, through the word and other ways. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort by which we re ourselves have been comforted by God. For as sure for as we share abundantly in Christ's suffering, so though Christ through Christ, excuse me, we share abundantly in comfort, too." In fact, Romans 5:5 says, "And hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who he who has been given to us."

He intercedes. Oh, this is a big one. He intercedes. To intercede means you go on behalf of a person and you and this is in prayer. Did you know the Holy Spirit is praying for you and interceding on your behalf? This is huge. Romans 8:26-27 says, "Likewise, the spirit helps us in our weaknesses, in your weakness." You ever feel weak? How do you think we gain strength because when we are weak, Paul says, we're strong. How do we find that strength? Through the spirit of God. And it says here, "For we do not know what to pray for as we ought." How many of you know you wish you could pray better, and you knew how to pray better for certain things, and maybe you don't even know how to pray anymore for that son or that daughter or the husband that's weward. Maybe you don't even know how to pray for whatever it is in your life, but you're praying and you're going to God the Father. Listen to this. But the spirit himself, the Holy Spirit who lives in you, God the Spirit. Now listen to this Christian, he intercedes for us, with groanings too deep for words. Have you ever prayed with groanings? The Holy Spirit, this is with emotion here. This isn't an it or a force. This is a personage who is praying and interceding for you on your behalf. And what does he do? He searches hearts and he knows what is the mind of the spirit. This is what the father does because the spirit intercedes for the saints. Listen to this. This ought to encourage you for the weak. He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Because why? The spirit knows the mind of God. So the you wonder why things work out the way they work out that you didn't know they would work out

the way that they worked out. This is a result of something you're not even seeing that's going on on your behalf. You ever wondered how you married up so well? You ever wonder how you were how God has through your life just directed you? How you ended up where you're at and what you're doing? Have you ever wondered how all of these things are going on? And what we have here is we have the spirit of God who lives in us. The one who has been given to us and he knows the mind of the father and the father knows the mind of the spirit and the spirit is able to pray for you according to the will of God that it would be done in your life. Think about that. That's incredible. This one that we know so little about. The one we offer no no praise to, no gratitude for, no no love towards, the one we reject, the one we resist, the one that we grieve. He prays for us. He intercedes for us.

He seals you. Oh, this is beautiful. He's the down payment for you until the fullness of your salvation would be revealed. God in first in f in in in uh first in Ephesians chapter 1, excuse me, says this, in him you also when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. This is all a work of the spirit in your life. going through this process of hearing, understanding sin, understanding righteousness, looking and understanding of judgment. It's all a work of the spirit of God by the will of the father through the working and the fulfilling of the son. Says this right here, "And when you believed in him, Christ, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit." He's your seal, Christian. You have a seal on you, the Holy Spirit.

He bears witness with our spirit. Oh, this is a good thing. Aren't you thankful for conviction? If you ever stop being convicted, it's time to concern yourself. He bears witness with our spirit. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit himself bears witness." In other words, he makes it known with our spirit that we are the children of God. You ever have those moments of doubt where you're doubting and your faith is struggling and you don't know what does the Holy Spirit do? He bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of the living God.

He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. We talked about that. He can be resisted. Did you know that you can resist the Holy Spirit? Acts 7:51. You stiff necked people, uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. He guides, he declares, he speaks, he knows things to come, and he glorifies Christ. John 16:13-14, when the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. Christian, if you want to not be deceived today, you need to be walking in step with the Holy Spirit. You need the spirit powerfully working in your life. You need to be living your life for the glory of God in obedience to the word of God. Following the directive and the leading of God's spirit living in you. Why? So that you are not deceived in this generation. Why? Because he's been given to teach you the truth. And he does it through the word. He does it through the word. He will guide you in all truth. I need a guide in truth. Someone that guides me through the scriptures and teaches me. Someone that helps me navigate all the garbage that's out there today. When you're listening to it and you have that check and it's like that's just not right. The Holy Spirit is guiding you. He guides us in so many other ways and so many other things. But he will not speak on his own authority. Think about the gentleman that we have here in the spirit of God. He's not out to exalt himself. He will only say what he hears and he will declare to you, these apostles, the things that are yet to come. He knows things that are yet to come. He's God and he will glorify me. Jesus says spirit will glorify Christ and he will take what is mine and he will declare it to you.

Holy Spirit warns us. You ever felt that check of the spirit in your life? He warns us. He constrains us and he testifies. Listen to this. Acts 20:22-23. And now, behold, I'm going to Jerusalem, Paul says, constrained or warned by the Holy Spirit, not knowing what will happen

to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me that in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

The Holy Spirit provides the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives gifts to the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Now there are variety of gifts but the same spirit and there are a variety of service but the same Lord and there's a variety of activities but the same God who empowers them all in everyone to each is given the manifestation of the spirit that's gift of the spirit giftings for the common good. For to one is given through the spirit the utterance of wisdom. Aren't you grateful for those people who have a very great godly wisdom? And to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same spirit. To another faith by the same spirit and another gifts of healing by the one spirit. To another the working of miracles and another prophecy and the ability to distinguish between spirits. To another various kinds of tongues. To another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same spirit who portions to each one individually as he wills. The gifts that you have that God has given you have been given them to you by the spirit. And when you operate in those gifts, they are done by the power of the spirit working through you through the gifts that he has given you. For the glory, not of man, for the glory of God.

But you know, the Holy Spirit can be grieved. I'm almost done. I promise. This is important. The restaurant food will wait. This can be life-changing for you all. Ephesians 4:30 says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." How do we grieve the Holy Spirit of God? Sin. Resisting. There's lots of ways in which we do that, but primarily sin. We grieve the spirit who lives in us. That's why when you sin, you feel conviction. Where does that conviction come from? The Holy Spirit. And what is that conviction meant to do? It's meant to convict you so you set things right with God. Why? So that you can have the power of God working through your life. So you can be in communion with the father through the son by the spirit. So that god can be working in your life through your life for his glory. It's why we want to check ourselves and see are we living in unrepentant sin. The danger of this is if it continues to go on. Did you know it gets harder and harder to hear when you reject the spirit of God? He doesn't shout, but he'll convict you. He's not doing it because he's got ill intent. It's for your good, Christian, and for God's glory. If you're here this morning and you're living in a lifestyle or in a in a in a continual perpetual state of sin, listen, I know we're saved by grace through faith, but you can live a absolutely defeated, joyless life as a Christian. It's because we grieve the spirit.

He can be quenched. Literally means to take and put out the fire. You remember the fire you I don't mean this to be weird, but do you remember the passion when you first came to faith in Christ? Do you remember what that was like? The forgiveness you felt, the joy of the Lord, the unbelievable, exuberant joy that you could not even understand. You remember, it's why we need to continually be filled with the spirit of God so we can live lives like this. Jesus hasn't changed. God the Father hasn't changed. The Holy Spirit hasn't changed. You've changed in your relationship to them. It's because of quenching and grieving the spirit of God. Says, "Do not quench the spirit." That's in 1 Thessalonians 5:19.

He can be blasphemed, which we've learned before. Mark 3:29, "But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of eternal sin." These are just a spattering of what the Holy Spirit is doing and what has been sent to do in the life of every single Christian. When's the last time you really thought about the Holy Spirit? We need the

Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: Why is the Holy Spirit often not taught or emphasized in churches today?

A: Several factors contribute to this neglect: the unbiblical practices of the early Charismatic movement which caused many to recoil from the topic; the rise of pragmatism and the church growth movement which prioritized man-made programs over the Spirit's power; and the modern consumerist mindset that treats faith as a commodity, often sidelining the Spirit's role.

Q: What is the significance of the Holy Spirit indwelling believers?

A: The Holy Spirit indwelling believers is a promise from Jesus and is essential for salvation itself (regeneration). This indwelling provides believers with the power to live a new life in Christ, honor God, and fulfill His purposes. Without recognizing and walking in this power, believers can live defeated lives.

Q: How can Christians test the spirits or teachings they encounter?

A: Christians are commanded not to believe every spirit but to test them. The primary method is to measure everything against the Word of God, which is the ultimate standard of truth. Additionally, a key test is whether a spirit confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, as per 1 John 4:1-2.

Q: What does the Bible teach about the Trinity?

A: The Bible teaches that there is one God who eternally exists in three distinct, co-equal, and co-eternal persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. This doctrine is central to Christian faith and is revealed through scripture, including the account of Jesus' baptism.

Q: What is the meaning of 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'?

A: This phrase, mentioned by Paul, signifies the indwelling presence of Christ within believers through the Holy Spirit. It represents the hope of experiencing God's glory and the transformation that comes from His presence living within us.

Q: Can you explain the illustration of the Trinity at Jesus' baptism?

A: At Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16-17), all three persons of the Trinity are visibly present: Jesus (the Son) is being baptized; the Holy Spirit descends like a dove; and a voice from heaven (the Father) declares, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' This event demonstrates their distinct roles and unity.

Q: Why is baptism performed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

A: Baptism is performed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as per the commandment given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19. This practice signifies the unity and co-equality of the three persons of the Trinity, indicating that believers are dedicated to all three divine persons.

Q: What is the role of the 'helper' Jesus promised to send?

A: The 'helper' Jesus promised is the Holy Spirit, also referred to as the 'Spirit of truth' or 'paraclete.' He is sent by the Father to be with believers forever, to teach them, bring to their remembrance Jesus' words, and empower them. The world cannot receive Him because it does not know or see Him.

Q: Can a person live a life that glorifies God without the Holy Spirit?

A: No, it is impossible to live a life that truly glorifies God without the Holy Spirit. As humans, we are flesh and bone and need the Holy Spirit to work within and through us to enable us to live according to God's will and honor Him.

Q: How does sexual immorality affect a believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit?

A: Sexual immorality, including fornication and pornography, is considered a sin against one's own body, which is described as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Engaging in such acts grieves the Holy Spirit and hinders His work and presence in the believer's life.

Q: What does it mean to be a 'temple of the Holy Spirit'?

A: Being a 'temple of the Holy Spirit' means that the Holy Spirit resides within believers. Therefore, their bodies are considered holy and are to be used for God's glory. Destroying or defiling this temple through sin has serious consequences.

Q: What is the significance of Pentecost for believers?

A: Pentecost is the event where the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, fulfilling Jesus' promise. This empowerment enabled them to speak in other tongues and become witnesses for Christ, marking the beginning of the church's mission.

Q: What is the Holy Spirit's role in convicting the world?

A: The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. He makes people aware of their sin, the righteousness of God, and the consequences of their actions, leading them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Q: Is the Holy Spirit a person or an impersonal force?

A: The Holy Spirit is a divine personage, not an impersonal force like 'the Force' in Star Wars. Scripture uses personal pronouns ('he,' 'him') for the Holy Spirit, indicating that He has a mind, will, and emotions, and can be related to personally.

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help believers in their prayer life?

A: The Holy Spirit helps believers in their weaknesses, especially when they don't know how to pray. He intercedes for them with groanings too deep for words, praying according to the will of God on their behalf.

Q: What does it mean that the Holy Spirit 'seals' believers?

A: The Holy Spirit acts as a seal or a down payment, guaranteeing the believer's inheritance and the future completion of their salvation. This seal signifies ownership by God and assures believers of their eternal security in Christ.

Q: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in understanding spiritual concepts like sin and righteousness?

A: The Holy Spirit is instrumental in helping individuals understand concepts such as sin, righteousness, and judgment. This understanding is part of the spiritual work initiated by God, facilitated by the Father and accomplished through the Son.

Q: How do I know if I am truly a child of God?

A: When you believe in Christ, you are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit, confirming your identity as a child of God. This is further supported by Romans 8:16, which states that the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit.

Q: Is it possible to resist the Holy Spirit?

A: Yes, it is possible to resist the Holy Spirit. Acts 7:51 describes people as stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, who always resist the Holy Spirit.

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help Christians avoid deception?

A: The Holy Spirit guides believers into all truth. To avoid deception, Christians need to walk in step with the Holy Spirit, live in obedience to God's word, and follow the Spirit's leading. The Spirit teaches truth through the Word.

Q: What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ?

A: The Holy Spirit does not speak on his own authority but declares what he hears from God. He takes what belongs to Christ and declares it to believers, thus glorifying Christ.

Q: Can the Holy Spirit warn or protect believers?

A: Yes, the Holy Spirit warns and constrains believers. An example is Paul, who was constrained or warned by the Holy Spirit about the imprisonment and afflictions awaiting him in Jerusalem (Acts 20:22-23).

Q: What are the 'fruits of the Spirit' mentioned in the Bible?

A: The fruits of the Spirit are listed as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, as found in Galatians 5:22-23.

Q: What are spiritual gifts, and who gives them?

A: Spiritual gifts are abilities given by the Holy Spirit to believers for the common good of the church. These include gifts like wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation, all distributed by the Spirit as he wills (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Q: How can a Christian grieve the Holy Spirit?

A: A Christian can grieve the Holy Spirit, primarily through sin and rebellion against God. This is mentioned in Ephesians 4:30, which warns against grieving the Spirit by whom we are sealed.

Q: What happens if a Christian consistently grieves or resists the Holy Spirit?

A: Consistently grieving or resisting the Holy Spirit can lead to a defeated, joyless Christian life. It also becomes harder to hear the Spirit's voice, and the power of God may not be as evident in one's life.

Q: What does it mean to 'quench' the Holy Spirit?

A: To quench the Holy Spirit means to extinguish or put out the spiritual fire or passion within a believer. This can lead to a loss of the initial fervor and joy experienced when first coming to faith.

Q: Is there any sin that cannot be forgiven by God?

A: Yes, the Bible states that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin, as mentioned in Mark 3:29. This is considered eternal sin.

Q: Why is it important for Christians to understand the work of the Holy Spirit?

A: Understanding the work of the Holy Spirit is crucial because He empowers believers, guides them, seals them, and transforms them into the image of Christ. Living without actively engaging with the Spirit leads to a less effective and potentially joyless Christian life.

Q: What is the difference between the 'old man' and the 'new man' in the context of spiritual transformation?

A: The 'old man' refers to the unregenerate self, living according to the flesh, which leads to death. When born again, believers become a 'new man' in Christ, and the Holy Spirit transforms them into the image of Jesus Christ, the second Adam.

Q: What is the ultimate purpose of the Holy Spirit's work in a Christian's life?

A: The ultimate purpose is for God's glory. The Holy Spirit works in and through believers to transform them, empower them, and enable them to live lives that reflect Christ, bringing glory to God.