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THE RAUCH OF GOD

A Study of the Holy Spirit  
Concord Church of Christ  
October – December 2021  
Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Holy Spirit, who or what is it? We don't often talk about or study the Holy Spirit. In a recent survey by Dr. George Barna of the Cultural Research Center, 62% those who self-identified themselves as born-again Christians contend that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being but is merely a symbol of God's power, presence, or purity. Many think that this subject is so deep and mysterious that it's futile to study it, while others fear to emphasize the Spirit because of extreme views held by some religious groups. Despite all of that the real question is what are we missing out on?

The Bible describes the Spirit as the Comforter, the Helper, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of grace, which are all descriptions directed towards us. If this is how God describes the Spirit, then consider how much we would gain by having an intimate knowledge of Him and His working in our lives. This is the purpose of this study, to understanding who the Holy Spirit is, how He has worked throughout time and how He is working in our lives today.

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# 1 Introduction

To understand the Holy Spirit, we first need to ground ourselves in the idea and meaning of "spirit". The Bible speaks of two basic kinds of substances: physical and spiritual things. Both physical and spiritual things are real substances, but spiritual things are not bound by the realm of the physical.

## **"spirit" is nonmaterial**

1. Spiritual substance is real but completely different from physical matter. From these verses what 3 kinds of beings are called spirit?
  - 1) Matt. 26:41; 2Cor. 5:6; 1Cor. 5:5
  - 2) Heb. 1:14; Mk. 1:23-25; Acts 19:11-13
  - 3) Jn. 4:24; Gen. 1:2
2. What does it mean that "spirit" is immaterial? See Lk. 24:36-43; Isa. 31:3

## **"spirit" is invisible**

3. What are some material things that are invisible to the "naked eye"?
4. What are some realities that can't be seen with the human eye? Jn. 3:8; 2Kg. 6:17; Col. 1:15; Jn. 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:15-16

## **"spirit" is living**

5. Define what it means to be living or alive. Gen. 2:7; Jas. 2:26
6. How is life in an uncreated, divine spirit different from life in a created physical being or created spiritual being? Jn. 5:26, 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:5-6; Rom. 8:2

## **"spirit" is personal**

7. It has been said that "an impersonal spirit" is a contradiction in terms. The idea in this statement is that all spiritual beings are personal beings. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

8. As we think about being a “person”, there are four elements that describe our personhood. Define these four elements of personhood.
- 1) Rational consciousness
  - 2) Self-consciousness
  - 3) Self-determination
  - 4) Interpersonal relationships

### **“spirit” is powerful**

9. All personal beings have a certain amount of power, the ability to act and influence one's surroundings. Compare the power of physical beings to created spiritual beings and to uncreated divine spiritual beings. See examples: Gen. 11:1-9; Mk. 5:2-4; Lk. 1:18-20; Ex. 15:8; Gen. 1:3

### **Notes:**



## 2 Force or Person?

As we further investigate what is revealed about the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures there is an overarching question that we must answer. Is the Spirit a divine person or an impersonal power that is available for our use? How we answer this question makes all the difference in how our spiritual journey unfolds on a daily basis.

### Personal Qualities

If the Holy Spirit is a person then we would expect the Scriptures to show the qualities of personhood to be associated with the Spirit.

1. Explain how the Spirit is described in doing personal things.
  - Intellectual activity: Jn. 16:7-8; Rom. 8:26-27; 1 Cor. 2:10-11
  - Volitional acts (the will of a person): Acts 13:1-4; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; Heb. 2:4
  - Communication: Acts 8:29, 10:19-20; Jn. 15:26, 16:13; Heb. 3:7
  - Instruction: Jn. 14:26, 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:12-13
2. Describe the actions that are being done towards the Spirit in the following passages.
  - Acts 5:3-4,9
  - Eph. 4:30
  - Heb. 10:29
  - Matt. 12:31-32

### Divine or Not

So far, the Scriptures have shown us that the Holy Spirit is a person that demonstrates qualities of personhood. We have also seen that He has emotions and is treated as a person by other personal beings. Now we must go further to see if the Holy Spirit is just another spiritual being like the angels and demons or is He a divine person. In short, is the Holy Spirit God?

3. In the following passages what attributes are ascribed to the Holy Spirit that are only said of God?
  - Heb. 9:14
  - 1 Cor. 2:10-12
  - Acts 5:3-4
  - Eph. 5:18-20

4. The Scriptures also reveal to us that the Holy Spirit is a distinct divine person that is part of the Godhead. Describe the distinct divine aspect of the Holy Spirit in the following passages.

- John. 14:16,26
- Matt. 3:16-17; Jn. 1:32-34
- Titus 3:4-6
- 2 Cor. 13:14
- Matt. 28:19

The Bible reveals to us that the Holy Spirit is a divine person that is part of the Godhead and not an impersonal force available for our use. As we think of the implication of this important fact, I like what R. A. Torrey said. "If we think of the Holy Spirit as so many do as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, 'How can I get more of the Holy Spirit,' but if we think of Him in the Biblical way as a Divine Person, our thought will rather be, 'How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?'"

**Notes:**



# 3 The Holy Spirit & Creation

For many people the work of the Holy Spirit remains a mystery and yet in God's revelation of Himself to us, we see the Spirit working on the first page of the story. Throughout God's word we see the Spirit at work both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. So, let's start at the beginning and see how God's *Ruach* (Hebrew word for wind, breath, spirit) worked in the wonderful action of creation.

## Read Genesis 1:1-3

1. Who is there in verse 1? Who is mentioned in verse 2? What action is done in verse 3?
2. What is the Spirit doing in Genesis 1:2? How would you describe the state of the "earth" or creation at this point?
3. From verse 2 to verse 3 what happens? (See also Ps. 33:4-8)

## Read Genesis 2:4-8

4. How is the creation of man different from what God has already created?
5. In Genesis 2:7 what two things make up or form "man"?
6. How does Job depict life in Job 27:3?
7. In Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 what happens at the death of "man"?
8. Read Ps. 104:24-30. What is said about all living creatures and the Spirit? (See also Job 33:4, 34:14-15)
9. From reading the passages above what would you say is the Spirit's primary role "in the beginning"?

**Notes:**



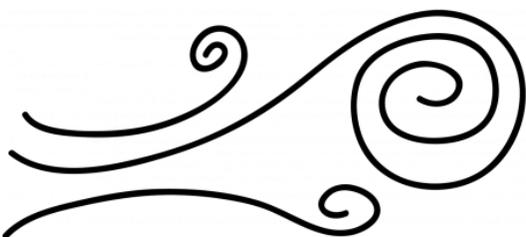
# 4 The Holy Spirit & Empowerment

As we continue to progress through the Old Testament, we see the *Rauch* of God acting in a different way. We now see the Spirit equipping certain people with special ministries, skills and abilities so they could work in service to God's will. Three areas in which the Spirit empowered people were as prophets, craftsmen, and administrators.

1. What was Joseph able to do and how was he able to do it? Gen. 41:14-16, 25, 38-40
2. A prophet is one speaking for God an inspired message to other people (Neh. 9:30). In the following passages consider who is the prophet and how the Spirit empowers them.
  - Gen. 20:7; Ex. 15:20-21; Num. 11:17, 25
  - Num. 24:2-4
  - 2 Sam. 23:1-2
  - 2 Chron. 15:1-2
3. What happens to Samson when the Spirit comes upon him? Judg. 14:19, 15:14-15
4. Read the account of Saul in 1 Samuel 10:1-11. For what purpose did the Spirit come upon Saul? Considering the Spirit's role in creation was to bring order out of chaos, what happens to Saul when the Spirit departs from him? See 1 Sam. 16:14-16
5. How did the Spirit work with Isaiah and Micah to bring about the Lord's will? Isa. 2:1-4, 8:1-4, 59:21; Mic. 3:8
6. The Holy Spirit also equipped certain people with skills of craftsmanship and artisanship. In what way did the Spirit equip Bezalel and Oholiab in Exodus 31:1-6?
7. According to Exodus 35:34-35 the Spirit not only equipped Bezalel and Oholiab with expertise to work, but also to do what?

8. The Spirit also empowered certain people with the abilities of leadership and administration in the service of God. In the following passages explain what the person was empowered to do.
- Num. 11:16-17; Isa. 63:10-12
  - Num. 27:18-20
  - Judges 3:10
  - 1Sam. 16:13
9. After David's sin with Bathsheba and knowing what had happened to Saul, what does David pray to God about in Psalm 51:11?

**Notes:**



# 5 The Holy Spirit & Inspiration

“Communication is the transfer of data, thoughts, ideas, and concepts from one mind to another. God desires to communicate with those whom He has created in His own image, i.e., He desires to transfer certain data and concepts from His mind to our minds.”<sup>1</sup> Throughout time God has used different means to communicate with us, His creation. The most effective way and the means which He has used most often is by words.

Having looked at the Holy Spirit in creation and empowerment of people, let's look a little deeper at how men were empowered to speak the words of the *Ruach* of God. One of the greatest blessings we have is how the Holy Spirit worked to bring us God's communication of His knowledge to us in the form of written words. So let's look at the Holy Spirit's role in the origin of Scripture (the Latin word *scriptura* means “something written”).

1. At the very basic level what is the primary intention of the Bible?

## Revelation and Inspiration

Revelation (Grk. noun, *apokalupsis*) means an unveiling, an uncovering, a disclosure; the verb form (*apokalupto*) means to unveil, to uncover, to lay bare, to make known. God has revealed or made known Himself and His will to man.

2. In the following passages describe how God revealed His will to man.

- Gen. 2:16-17; Ex. 3:4-6
- Ex. 20:1-22
- Gen. 28:10-16; Num. 12:6,
- 2 Sam. 12:1-15; Acts 2:14-39
- Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:26-28
- Ex. 31:18; Dan. 5:5, 24-28
- Jonah 1:7; Acts 1:24-26

Much of God's will has been given to us indirectly through a prophet, one who speaks for another, a spokesman. The prophet took God's revelation and respoke it either orally or in written words. The way God ensures that His message is transmitted to others exactly as He desires is through inspiration.

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<sup>1</sup> Power From On High, Jack Cottrell, p. 49

"Inspiration is the name given to God's own active participation in the human act of transmitting or mediating a message (oral or written) from Himself to others. It is a divine influence exerted upon the prophet, and influence that includes whatever it takes to make sure the message is communicated correctly."<sup>2</sup> Scripture shows us that inspiration was the role given to the Holy Spirit.

(Note the word "inspire" comes from the Latin *inspiro*, which means to blow on or in, to breathe into, to inspire.)

3. Consider the following passages. What is said of the Spirit and His role of inspiration.

- Neh. 9:30
- Isa. 59:21
- 2Sam. 23:2
- Jn. 16:12-13
- 2 Pet. 1:20-21

4. In 1 Corinthians 2:9-13 Paul shows the Spirit working in both revelation and inspiration. Who was given revelation and how did inspiration come about?

5. Concerning the prophecies about Christ from 1 Peter 1:10-12 what two things did the Holy Spirit do?

6. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 what is said about all Scripture in verse 16?



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<sup>2</sup> Power From On High, Jack Cottrell, p. 51

# 6 The Prophetic New Role of the Spirit

We have seen the Spirit at work in creation and empowering people in the Old Testament to bring about God's will. As we progress through the Old Testament we start to see a new thread unfolding. Through the prophets we see a new role that the Spirit will take on as God works to fulfill His promises to deal with the problem of sin.

## God's King and the Spirit

1. Read Isaiah 11:1-11 about the promise of a coming King filled with the *Ruach* of God. Then answer the following questions.
  - What will this King bring about?
  - How will creation change as a result of this King? (v. 5-9)
  - How will this King bring about this kingdom? (v.2)
2. What imagery is used by the prophets to depict the Spirit's new role?
  - Isa. 32:15,
  - Isa. 44:3-4,
  - Isa. 43:19-20
  - Zech. 12:10

## God's Spirit and new creation

God's King who is permeated by God's *Ruach* will usher in not just a new kingdom, but a new creation. This means that for God's people to be part of this kingdom they will be recreated and have God's *Ruach* permeate them in a similar way.

3. Read Ezekiel 36: 22-28 and answer the following questions.
  - What does God plan to do to His people in verse 26?
  - What is different about the role of God's *Ruach* (v.27)?
  - What transformation does God say will take place in His people?

4. Ezekiel 37 gives us a great word picture of recreation. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14.
  - What type of decay and disorder is pictured?
  - What is Ezekiel told to do?
  - How does God's *Ruach* bring order out of chaos?
  
5. The prophet Joel gives us a different picture of the new role of the Spirit. Read Joel 2:28-32
  - What physical depiction is God's *Ruach* associated with in verse 28? (see also Zech. 12:10, Isa.44:3-4)
  - How does Joel say this will be different from the way the Spirit has worked before?
  - Who can be delivered from the day of the Lord and how?

**Notes:**



# 7 Jesus and the Holy Spirit

We have seen the Holy Spirit working in the lives of people in the Old Testament to bring about God's will. Now we will see how the Holy Spirit worked in the life and ministry of Jesus.

## Preparing for the Messiah

1. The Spirit prepared the way for Jesus through prophecies about the Messiah. What is specifically said about the interaction of the Holy Spirit and the coming Messiah in the following passages: Isa. 11:1-2, 42:1-4, 61:1-2

2. How did the Holy Spirit work with the following people to be "prophets" of the coming Messiah?

- Zacharias Lk. 1:67-79
- Elizabeth Lk. 1:41-45
- John the Baptist Lk. 1:13-17
- Simeon Lk. 2:25-28
- Anna Lk. 2:36-38

**The birth of Jesus:** Lk. 1:30-35; Matt. 1:18-20

3. While we have limited knowledge of the incarnation, what was the role of the Holy Spirit in the incarnation?

**Jesus' Baptism:** Matt. 3:13-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Lk. 3:21-22; Jn. 1:32-34

4. Explain what the Holy Spirit did at/after the baptism of Jesus.

5. Read Ex. 29:7, 1 Sam. 16:13, 1Kgs. 19:16 and Acts 10:37-38. What was the purpose of the display of the Holy Spirit at Jesus baptism?

**Jesus' Temptation:** Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13

6. Who led Jesus into the wilderness and why was He led into the wilderness?

7. Considering what happens in the wilderness, why was Jesus full of the Holy Spirit?

**Jesus Ministry:** Matt. 12:25-29; Lk. 4:17-21; Jn. 3:34; Heb. 9:14

8. List some things that happened in Jesus' ministry that show us the role of the Spirit in His ministry.

9. What promise grows out of Jesus' resurrection by the Spirit? Rom. 1:4, 8:9-11

**Notes:**



# 8 The Pouring Out of the Spirit

The Old Testament looks forward to something new from the very first pages of Genesis – the promise of a new age. Covenant promises were made to Abraham that spoke of something better. The prophets spoke of God doing something new (Isa. 42:9, 43:19-20). When Jesus, the anointed Son of God, comes into the world He brings about the fulfillment of those promises (Gal. 3:16-22) and by His death He ushers in a new age of salvation from sin. In this new age comes a new and different role for the Holy Spirit.

## Looking Forward

1. According to the following passages what “new” things characterize this new age. In what way are they new?
  - Jer. 31:31-34, Heb. 8:8-13
  - 2Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; Ezek. 36:26-27
3. With Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension comes the ushering in of a new creation. Jesus being the firstborn from the dead (Col. 1:18), He was raised into a new kind of existence, a new dimension of physical creation (Rom.6:9). According to Romans 1:4, 8:11 and 1 Timothy 3:16 who was involved in this act of creation?
4. How did Jesus speak of the coming new role of the Holy Spirit?
  - Jn. 4:10, 13-14
  - Jn. 7:37-39
5. Read Galatians 3:9-14. What is singled out as a main element of the promised Messianic blessing? See also Ephesians 1:13. Why is this important?

## Pentecost and the Outpouring

All the prophecies and promises of God beginning a new phase of His redemptive plan are pointing ahead to the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Peter ties together Joel's prophecy of the outpouring of the Spirit and the promise of the Spirit (Acts 2:33) and shows that this is the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts. 2:38-39).

6. In Acts 1:4-8 there are two promises given concerning the Holy Spirit. What was the promise given by the Father and what promise does Jesus give His disciples?
  
7. Read Exodus 40:38. What did the cloud and fire symbolize to Israel?
  - Considering what we know about the meaning of *Ruach* and *Pneuma*, and what is described in Acts 2:1-8, what do you think God is seeking to show us?
  - Which promise from Acts 1:4-8 is fulfilled in Acts 2:1-8?
  
8. Read how Peter connects ideas together in Acts 2:16-21, 33, and 38-39. Who will be able to access the promise of the Holy Spirit?
  
9. Compare Ezekiel 36:26-27, 2 Corinthians 3:1-9 and Titus 3:4-7, then answer the following questions.
  - Who writes upon our hearts?
  - What is written upon our hearts?
  - What act of new creation is the Holy Spirit involved in?
  - How would you describe the ministry of the Spirit in the new covenant?

**Notes:**



# 9 Regeneration by the Spirit

Under the New Covenant God has promised that the Holy Spirit will work in a new way. Prophets spoke of the Spirit like water being poured out. But what does the pouring out of the Spirit involve? Let's look at His involvement in our conversion.

Our decision to rebel against God and sin does two things to us. Sin first brings us under the guilt of law. We broke God's law and are liable to pay the penalty – eternal condemnation. Second, sin brings about a weakness of our soul, a death sickness, that inhibits our ability to serve God. God's salvation through Jesus not only saves us from the guilt of sin but also saves us from its power. This saving work is known as regeneration and sanctification. This is the Spirit's new work in the New Covenant.

Regeneration is spoken of in the Bible with different word pictures. Read the following texts and answer the questions about these word pictures.

1. Death and resurrection – Read Romans 6:1-14 and Colossians 2:12-13
  - What dies at baptism?
  - What immediately follows this death event?
  - Whose power is involved in resurrection?
  
2. Rebirth – Read John 1:12-13, 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:3,23
  - Those who are given the right to be children of God are born of what? Why is this significant?
  - What two elements are involved in rebirth?
  - What is being reborn?
  - How is rebirth connected to resurrection?
  
3. New Creation – Read Romans 4:17, 8:2; 2 Corinthians. 3:6, 5:17; Galatians 6:12-15; Ephesians 2:10
  - How is the Spirit described (specifically in Rom. 8:2 and 2Cor. 3:6) that gives us insight into His new role?
  - What is being recreated?

- For what purpose is it being recreated?
  - Consider the Spirit's role in the beginning. How is the Spirit's new role similar to what He did in the beginning?
4. Circumcision – Read Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 2:28-29
- What is being circumcised?
  - Who is doing this act?
5. Regeneration and renewing – Read Titus 3:4-7
- What is being regenerated and renewed?
  - When does this regeneration and renewing take place?
  - Compare Titus 3:4-7 to Ezekiel 36:25-27. How is this a fulfillment of God's promise?
6. Read Acts 2:38-39; Galatians 3:2-3, 13-14; Romans 8:5-14 As a result of our regeneration what do we gain and what are we now able to do?

**Notes:**



# 10 Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Let's take a slight detour and talk about a phrase that has had a lot of controversy associated with it through the years. The phrase "baptism in the Holy Spirit" or "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is quick to bring up a disagreement in religious circles and even in the body of Christ. "The main point of disagreement is whether it refers to a conversion experience and thus applies to all believers, or whether it is a nonconversion experience and applies to some but not necessarily all believers."<sup>3</sup> Some view the baptism in the Holy Spirit in connection with a miraculous experience involving speaking in tongues. Others see it as only a two-time event that happened during the beginning period of the church. Our goal is to look at God's word and see what is said about the baptism in the Holy Spirit and its meaning for us today.

1. Read Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16, and John 1:33. How does John the Baptist describe his baptism and how does he describe the baptism that Jesus will do? Who is John's audience when he speaks these words?
2. In John 3:5 through what means does Jesus say that rebirth comes about?
3. What promise does Jesus refer to in Acts 1:5? When is this promise fulfilled?
4. What is the promise that Jesus gives in Acts 1:8? When is this promise fulfilled?
5. Look through Acts 2:3-36. Is there anything new about how the Spirit works that is not seen in the Old Testament? Explain your answer.
6. Read the account of Cornelius' conversion in Acts 10:34-48 and Peter's recounting of it in Acts 11:1-18.
  - As Peter tells the gospel to Cornelius and his household what happens to them and what do they do as a result of this?

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<sup>3</sup> Power From On High, Jack Cottrell, p. 289

- As he witnesses this event what does Peter immediately do for them?
  - What connections does Peter make as he sees all this unfold? (See Acts 11:15-17)
7. Read Acts 19:1-6. What was Paul's first question to the disciples from Ephesus?
- Based upon their answer what was his second question?
  - What connections can you draw from this?
8. Consider what Paul says about the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.
- What does Paul say has happened to all who believe in Jesus?
  - Read John 4:10-14, 7:37-39 in conjunction with 1 Corinthians 12:13. What does it mean that we were all made to drink of one Spirit?
9. According to Ephesians 4:5 how many baptisms are there?
10. Read John 3:5; Hebrews 10:22; and 1 Peter 3:20-21. How many elements are involved in our rebirth?
11. What conclusions have you made about baptism in the Holy Spirit from the passages you have studied?

**Notes:**



# 11 Sanctification in the Spirit

"I've been regenerated in baptism, but what now?" God calls us to walk in good works that He prepared beforehand (Eph. 2:10), but how do we do that? We are told to be holy as God is holy (1Pet. 1:15), but can we really be holy in all our behavior? The answer is yes, but not by ourselves. We need the Spirit's help. So now the question is, how does the Holy Spirit work within our lives after we have become Christians?

## The Spirit's Indwelling

1. How is the prophecy in Ezekiel 36:26-27 fulfilled in the following passages?
  - Acts 5:32
  - Galatians 3:5
  - 1 Corinthians 6:19
2. Consider Romans 8:9-11, 2 Timothy 1:14 and Hebrews 6:4. What do the terms "dwell" and "share" mean to you?
3. From what you have studied so far, is the Spirit's dwelling in us different from the Word of God dwelling in us (Col. 3:16, 1 Jn. 2:24)? Explain your answer.

## The Purpose of the Spirit's Indwelling

The Hebrew writer says "*Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.*" (12:14). Sanctification at its root means to cut, divide, to separate. It is joined to the concept of holiness. So our sanctification is how we become holy.

4. According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, Titus 3:5, Colossians 1:13-14 when were we sanctified?

As saints our relationship and status with God has changed, but we still struggle with sin in our lives. There must be a continuing transformation of our inward character and outward behavior. This is the purpose of the Spirit's indwelling.

5. What does Paul pray for in Ephesians 3:16?
6. Consider the following passages: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Hebrews 12:10-14; Philippians 2:12-13. Who is responsible for our sanctification?

7. How does the Spirit indirectly guide us in sanctifying knowledge? (1 Cor. 2:10-13; 2 Pet. 1:19-21, 2Tim. 3:16-17)
8. Connecting Ephesians 3:16 with Romans 8:12-14 what does the Spirit directly help us to do?

### **Images of the Spirit's Power**

While we don't understand exactly how the Spirit dwells within us, God gives us depictions of the ways the Spirit works in our lives. He seeks to transform us in the ongoing process of being more and more separated from sin.

9. How are we sealed with the Holy Spirit and what does it mean that He is our pledge? (See 2 Cor. 1:21-22, 2 Cor. 5:5, Eph. 1:13-14, Eph. 4:30)
10. Read Romans 8:1-14, Galatians 5:16-26. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit, live by the Spirit or walk by the Spirit? What is produced as a result?
11. In Romans 8:26-27 what does the Spirit do for us regarding our prayers?
12. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18?
13. What are the things we can do negatively towards the Spirit? (Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19, Heb. 10:29) What is the correlation with these things and being filled with the Spirit?



**Notes:**

