

The Holy Spirit & Spirituality

Lesson #9 The Holy Spirit and the Church

Eph 1:22, 23; 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 6:3-7; Acts 17:11; Eph 4:5-6; Acts 2:4-11

Ephesians 4:3–5 (NASB) “Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism”.

The Holy Spirit Unites Us With Christ

John 13:34–35 (NKJV) *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*” **Spirit enters and infuses us the attributes of Christ.**

Colossians 3:14–15 (NKJV) *But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Notice – evidence for the spirit is love, peace and thankfulness.

***Ephesians 1:22–23** (NKJV) *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,* ²³ *which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* **How does Jesus fill us?**

Ephesians 5:23 (NKJV) *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

Ephesians 2:18–22 (NKJV) *For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.* **The Holy Spirit is the mortar.**

1 Peter 2:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ *Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”* ⁷ *Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,”*

1 Corinthians 3:11–13 (NKJV) *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ¹² *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* ¹³ *each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare*

it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.

The Holy Spirit Unites Us Through Baptism

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

Some people want to be baptized and not join the church. This is incompatible with what we’re reading here.

Acts 2:47 (NKJV) ⁷ *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

You can be a Christian without joining a church:

- ... if you can be a bee without a hive
- ... if you can be a soldier without an army
- ... if you can be a salesman without customers
- ... if you can be a politician who is a hermit
- ... if you can be a football player without a team

***John 3:5** (NKJV) *Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

Romans 6:3–7 (NKJV) *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*

⁴ *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* ⁵ *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,* ⁶ *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.* ⁷ *For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

“Baptism is a most solemn renunciation of the world. Self is by profession dead to a life of sin. The waters cover the candidate, and in the presence of the whole heavenly universe the mutual pledge is made. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, man is laid in his watery grave, buried with Christ in baptism, and raised from the water to live the new life of loyalty to God.”—Ellen G. White Comments, *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1074.

I picked up a hitchhiker in the desert with a bag of books.

The Holy Spirit Unites the Church Through the Word of God

Acts 17:11 (NKJV) *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

John 5:39 (NKJV) *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

John 5:46–47 (NKJV) *For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*

John 8:31–32 (NKJV) *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

***John 17:17** (NKJV) *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

Psalms 119:160 (NKJV) *The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*

"We cannot purchase peace and unity by sacrificing the truth. The conflict may be long and painful, but at any cost we must hold fast to the Word of God" EGW (Historical Sketches 197).

"To secure peace and unity they (the early Christians) were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war" (GC 45).

The Holy Spirit Unites the Church in Faith and Doctrine

Acts 8:27–30 (NKJV) ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. ²⁷ So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **He is taught and baptized**

Romans 12:18 (NKJV) *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

***Ephesians 4:3–4** (NKJV) *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

"We have one Lord, one faith, one baptism. The gospel of Christ is to reach all classes, all nations, all tongues and people. The influence of the gospel is to unite in one great brotherhood. We have only one Model that we are to imitate in character building, and then we all shall have Christ's mold; we shall be in perfect harmony; nationalities will blend in Jesus Christ, having the same mind, and the same judgment, speaking the same things, and with one mouth glorifying God."—Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 171.

The Holy Spirit Unites the Church in Mission and Service

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 2:4–11 (NKJV) ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Acts 2:42–47 (NKJV) *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

They were united in food, prayers, praise, signs and wonders, church attendance, gladness of heart, sacrifice of possessions, church growth.