

- I THE BEGINNING
- II HE CREATES
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- V HE CONVERTS
- VI HE CONSECRATES
- VII HE COMFORTS
- VIII HE COMMITS.
- IX THE CHALLENGE

Purpose of This Study

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to

know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19 NKJ)

It is exciting to know that fullness. We are not required to be mystical to have that fullness. It is available as we realize the tremendous love of God, His perfect plan revealing His power through the Holy Spirit, that we experience the deeper things of God.

THIS COURSE CONTAINS:

Some INFORMATION, but that is not the purpose of this study.

Some INSPIRATION, but that is not the purpose of this study.

It contains INFORMATION plus INSPIRATION with much APPLICATION which is the purpose of this study, thus, the title - - **The Holy Spirit APPLIED.**

Billy Graham wrote some challenging words in his book The Holy Spirit:

"If you believe in Jesus Christ, a power is available to you that can change your life, even in such intimate areas as your marriage, your family relationships, and every other relationship. Also, God offers power that can change a tired church into a vital, growing body, power that can revitalize Christendom. As a friend of mine has said, 'I need Jesus Christ for my eternal life and the Holy Spirit of God for my internal life.' Unfortunately, this power has been ignored, misunderstood, and misused. By our ignorance we have short-circuited the power of the Holy Spirit." (Page 14)

THE HOLY SPIRIT APPLIED

Can the Holy Spirit be any other way, than applied? Yes, regretfully, He can be neglected, slighted, ignored, winked at, just studied, done despite to, refused, spurned, denied, and the list goes on which is a sad commentary on what was meant to be a love relationship between Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and us.

What does the Holy Spirit seek to appropriate to our lives? His power, love for Jesus, and the will of God!

On Monday morning, April 25, 1907, people going to work in London, England, were shocked to see chalked on the front of the famous City Temple the word ICHABOD. The newspapers carried pictures of the unspeakable desecration in their afternoon editions. A week or so later a house painter came forward voluntarily to admit that he had chalked the word there early that Monday morning. Asked in court why he had done such a sacrilegious thing, the painter replied, "Dr. Parker told me to do it!" Dr. Joseph Parker, the former pastor, was long since dead. The puzzled court asked for an explanation. The painter explained that he was a Christian and regular attendee at the City Temple during the days when Dr. Joseph Parker was the preacher. He told how Dr. Parker had said that if ever the false "gospel" of the higher critics was preached in that place, ICHABOD, which means "The glory is departed" (I Samuel 4:21) should be written over the front of the building." I did what Dr Parker asked me to do, sir."

The POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT is often dissipated by church leaders and individuals by knocking the SUPER out of super NATURAL, so "ICHABOD"--the glory has departed may become an epitaph for churches and individuals of the 20th century.

May this be our goal and prayer in this course-- "Help me blessed Holy Spirit to open my mind and heart to You as I study this course, so Jesus will be more and more Lord of my life. In Jesus Name--A-men!"

Prayerfully for You
Wilbur S. Johnson

"So he said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.'" (Zechariah 4:6)

EXERCISE 1:

The following exercise will assist us in seeing how the Holy Spirit is often removed from contemporary life. Below are two columns, *natural* and *supernatural* which illustrate the above scripture. Select words phrases from the list on the next page to fill in the *supernatural* column. The first one is completed to provide you an example.

	NATURAL	SUPERNATURAL
	<i>"might and power"</i>	<i>"but by my Spirit"</i>
MEMBERSHIP	People joining church	<i>People being born again into the Kingdom</i>
PRAYER	Saying / reading words	_____
WORKS	Mere social acts	_____
WORSHIP	Ritual void of meaning	_____
WITNESS	Glorifying self and/or institutional church	_____
TEACHING	Just a theological dissertation	_____
PREACHING	Just words (plain or oratory)	_____
MONEY	Laying up treasure on earth	_____
MUSIC	That which glorifies the composition and composer	_____
BUILDINGS	Temples of wood and stone	_____

Words / phrases which suggest SUPERNATURAL acts to be placed in right hand column of Exercise #1.

- * *Sharing gifts-ministry in Jesus' Name*
- * *Praise directed to God - life changing experience*
- * *Word taught - lives changed!*
- * *Introducing people to Jesus with Word and invitation*
- * *God's Word presented in power of Holy Spirit*
- * *Words spoken to God which bless and change lives*
- * *Music shared which glorifies Jesus and edifies people*
- * *Place of prayer and power*
- * *People being born again into the Kingdom*
- * *Laying up treasure in heaven*

GROUP-CLASS PROJECT:

Spend some time discussing HOW the "supernatural" gets displaced by the "natural" in your church or life. Mostly consider what can be done to prevent such in the future. Dwell mostly on the positive side of these subjects--*

- * Conversion (are we teaching people prior to and after baptism?)
- * Worship (how can we keep form from displacing Spirit?)
- * Prayer (are we doing all we can to teach people how to pray?)
- * Money (how can we better make giving a spiritual act?)
- * Teaching (how can we make this statement a reality?
"The lesson is not taught until the life is changed.")
- * Works-service (how can we better include Jesus in these?)

THE NATURE OF *SPIRIT*

PURPOSE: So we can learn that---

1. God is *spirit* - *Holy Spirit* is *spirit*,
2. The *spiritual* is true reality,
3. We are surrounded by *spiritual* forces.

"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him?
In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

(I Corinthians 2:11)

1. God is *spirit* - *Holy Spirit* is *spirit*

Here at the end of the twentieth century with much knowledge which of the following concepts can we define?

EXERCISE 2:

Draw a circle around the ones that we can define: LOVE ... TRUTH ... FIRE ... GOD ...
LIGHT ... DEATH ... SLEEP ... ELECTRICITY ... MAGNETISM ... SPIRIT

It seems redundant to say that the nature of the blessed Holy Spirit is *spirit*; but, that is precisely true! It is this lesson about His nature that we must first emphasize and learn if we are to allow Him to apply his plan and purpose to our lives.

Jesus said "God is Spirit." (John 4:24). Now spirit defies an absolute definition. This was emphasized in a conversation I had with a science professor while sharing in a Faith Alive Revival at Valley Center, Kansas. This Christian professor was head of the physics and chemistry department at Wichita State University. I like to ask science-minded people certain questions, so I said; "Professor, may I ask you some scientific questions?" "Yes, but I can't guarantee you all the answers." "I am interested in a definition of fire." She responded: "So am I. What else do you want to know?" "Can you give me a definition of electricity?" She smiled and said, "Now, Preacher, there are a great many hypotheses which have been established about fire and electricity but no absolute definition can be given. Ask me something that I do know." I congratulated the wise professor on possessing true wisdom and told her she was the first among many, in my search, to acknowledge that no absolute definition exists.

Which is more real? An apple which we can SEE, TOUCH, HEAR, SMELL and TASTE or a SPIRIT? Our humanistic materialistic oriented society may cause us to answer the former, an APPLE; but the latter is the only right answer from a Biblical perspective.

ANSWER to the concepts you circled above: all should be circled for none of these concepts can be defined in an absolute sense. We know only limited statements of truth about them-- hypotheses.

I observe for your thinking and consideration that no absolute definition can be established for LOVE, TRUTH, LIFE, DEATH, LIGHT or SPIRIT. The reason may be that the Bible declares-- "God is a FIRE (Hebrews 12:29); LIFE (John 1:4, 14:6; Acts 17:28); LOVE (I John 4:8); LIGHT (John 1:5); SPIRIT (John 4:24). You see, if we could define these words in an absolute, final sense, then we could define God. But the Bible says that God and His ways are past finding out (Romans 11:33). Since God's essential nature is SPIRIT he operates on a plane that cannot be discerned by our senses. Even though spirit is ethereal, yet His work is very real! Jesus compared being born again of the water and spirit to the wind when He said, "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound but cannot tell where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). This matter of the new birth being compared to the wind is a strong indication, much to the consternation of our logical mind set, that the total work of the Holy Spirit cannot be traced like a line on a map, or measured by pounds and ounces. *He is spirit!*

2. The *spiritual* is true reality

One doubt that plagued me for years was the thought, "Spirit isn't real". The Lord led me to see that to the contrary, **s-p-i-r-i-t is r-e-a-l-i-t-y**, and that which we see and touch all around us is NOT reality. I owe this insight to my college science professor at Oklahoma City University (OCU). Dr. Hammer could be rather dramatic in illustrating his teaching. As we started a new semester, he jumped up on his desk and stomped on it. "How many of you think this desk is solid? Is it real?" Everyone raised their hand and he said, "You're wrong. The atoms in this desk are only more dense than those of the air you breathe. Given enough time, many thousands of years, all the atoms that are now flying off this wood desk will leave nothing in its place." He got our attention, and with that, we started our study of atomic science.

What Professor Hammer was teaching was given Christian application by my Bible college professor, Howard Hayes, six blocks down the street at Midwest Christian College in pointing out that this "atom" concept was first stated in Hebrews 11:3 and Colossians 1:16,17. In these verses the truth is established that the unseen atoms, "things which are not seen", are God's

building blocks. Further II Peter 3:10 states that this material earth will in God's time, dissolve, but the real world of the spirit will go on and on. Interesting too is that we were taught at OCU and today that which holds the atom together is dubbed "atomic glue." God gives the atomic glue a name--"He (Jesus) is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

(Colossians 1:17)

Now, we have said all this to impress upon our minds that this area of the "spirit" and in particular the Holy Spirit as related to our spirit is MOST important! Since we are not evolutionists, humanists or materialists, we remind ourselves that the *spirit* and the *unseen virtues of the Spirit* are true reality. Matters of the Spirit---joy, peace, love, mercy, righteousness, etc. will never cease. **"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."** (II Corinthians 4:18)

3. We are surrounded by *spiritual* forces.

EXERCISE 3:

As you study this point take time to LISTEN to all the sounds around you, then list them.

1) List the SOUNDS which your ears hear.

2) Now, list all the "silent" sounds traversing the space around you--- those sounds your ears cannot perceive, yet we know exist. Example: tv channel signals

This illustrates that there is a great unseen world all around us; but, our ears and eyes are "holden" (see Luke 24:16 KJ and ASV), and **not** hear these. **Just so the HOLY SPIRIT is *unseen and unheard*; yet, His Mighty Presence and Power is all about us, and within us providing we have received Jesus into our hearts. So, "tune in" with desire and prayer!**

"Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

ANGELS in this world

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"
(Hebrews 1:14)

In the realm of earth life, where we live and serve, servants do more if asked. I concluded that since God's Word declares angels are ministering spirits sent by God to serve the Saints, they might serve more if I talked to God in prayer about the matter. I rejoice in the Lord to report that they are blessed servants of the Saints by God's request. It does make a difference if we ask for special angelic assignments on various occasions.

Lisa, our mentally-challenged daughter, was often gawked and stared at by people. This upset Lisa as it would any human being. I found on such occasions that if I asked the Lord to send angels to detract the gaze of the person or persons, that in seconds they became busy staring at someone else or eating their own food.

EXERCISE 4:

In the following Scriptures underline the words phrases which address the *unseen* forces of God and the devil.

Hebrews 1:13-14

"To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Revelation 16:14

"They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty."

Ephesians 6:11-12

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 2:1-2

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Ephesians 3:10

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,"

Colossians 1:16-17

"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Here is one of a few places in the Bible where we get to "see" behind the eternal scene.

1. II Kings 6:8-18: Elisha was singled out by the King of Aram to be eliminated because he knew what the king was going to do, even what the king was saying in his own bedroom (vs. 12). Elisha and his servant stayed in Dothan, and during the night the King of Aram surrounded their house with horses and chariots. The Bible records the next morning: "When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." vs. 15-17. And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." With his natural *eyes* the servant could not *see* the *unseen* forces of God ready to do battle. This strange battle matched the SEEN against the UNSEEN, and all of the Arameans were struck blind. For the final strange conclusion read verses 18-23.

Just so, I remind us, we too, are surrounded by *unseen forces* be they called angels, ministering spirits, heavenly forces, cloud of witnesses, heavenly host, army of God, etc.

Over three hundred times in the Bible these *unseen forces* are recorded doing service, battle, or prevailing on behalf of God's people.

EXERCISE 5:

2. Job 1:1-2:10 - Write down a few key words which speak about the "unseen side" of this story. _____

