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## THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS CREATE

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (Genesis 1:2,26)

Having made ourselves familiar in the previous section with the nature and reality *of the Holy Spirit*, we now press on to learn of His works, fruits, and gifts, and how to be empowered with his presence and power.

### The unseen Holy Spirit makes the difference

First century Christians, controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit and filled with His love, turned the world upside down. As the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they received a divine, supernatural power that changed them from fearful men into radiant witnesses for Christ. They were used of God to change the course of history. And that omnipotent power, the power of the Holy Spirit, is available to us, to enable us to live a holy and fruitful life for Jesus Christ. Yet, tragedy of tragedies, there are multitudes of Christians who do not even know who the Holy Spirit is, or, if they do, they do not know how to appropriate His power. Consequently, they go through life without ever experiencing the abundant and fruitful life which Christ promised to all who trust Him

Again and again I am reminded of the great contrast between the church today and His church in the first century. In J. B. Phillips' introduction to the Letters to the Young Churches, he says:

"The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters (New Testament epistles), is that to us, it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code or, at best, a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly, the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them."

This same first century power, the power of the risen, living, indwelling Christ made known through the Holy Spirit is still available to us today. Do you know this power in your life? Are you a victorious, fruitful witness for Christ? If not, you can be. For this reason, I believe the most important message that I could give to Christians is the applied material in this study of The Holy Spirit Applied!

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."  
(Act 1:8)

## EXERCISE 6

We begin this section with an excellent illustration of the *unseen presence* and work of the Holy Spirit as found in **John 15:1-8**. Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is never named in these verses, yet **23 times** His work is named or alluded to. Many times the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit are identical, and there are several duplicates. Draw a circle around those 23 words-phrases which speak of His *unseen-silent* work.

### John 15:1-8

- 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser."
- 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."
- 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."
- 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."
- 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."
- 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." (NKJ)

The next seven sections of our study will point out the work of the Holy Spirit.

This life long labor of the Holy Spirit has been compared to a "hound" on the trail of its prey from conception to the crown of glory. Francis Thompson draws such a beautiful picture in his poem.

## THE HOUND OF HEAVEN

*by Francis Thompson*

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways  
    Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears  
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.  
    Up vistaed hopes I sped;  
    And shot; precipitated,  
A down Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,  
    From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.  
    But with unhurrying chase,  
    And unperturbed pace,  
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,  
    They beat--and a Voice beat  
    More instant than the Feet  
All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.

After a long pursuit covering many years, and through a myriad of fears, this Unseen Pursurer-The Holy Spirit-brings his man home. Here are the final words.

Now of that long pursuit  
Comes on at hand the bruit;  
The Voice is round me like a bursting sea:  
"Save Me, save only Me!"  
"All which I took from thee I did but take,  
Not for thy harm,

But Just that thou mightest seek it in My arms.  
All of which a child mistakes  
As fancies lost. I have stored for thee at home:  
Rise, clasp My hand, and come!  
We' re headin' Home!"

**Unseen He is**, and yet, **Reality** personified. We need Him! Must have Him! Therefore, He seeks us like this "Hound of Heaven" from the cradle to the crown where His work will be completed when He commits us back to the Father, and we are crowned on that Last Day!

## 1. The Holy Spirit assists in Creating our LIFE.

### EXERCISE 7

#### Genesis 1:1-2

What was the Holy Spirit doing in the "beginning?" \_\_\_\_\_

#### Genesis 1:26

What two pronouns in this verse suggest creation was a joint venture?

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#### John 1:1-3

Name the three who were included in what I dub "God's Creation Crew."

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### THINK about Adams' creation:

#### Job 33:4

"The Spirit of God has \_\_\_\_\_; the breath of the Almighty \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Genesis 1:26

"Then God said, "Let us make man in **our image**, in **our likeness**, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

## Genesis 1:26-28

"Man was made in **God's image** and after **His likeness**, two words to express the same thing and making each other the more expressive; **image** and **likeness** denote the same image, the nearest resemblance of any of the visible creatures. Man was not made in the likeness of any creature that went before him, but in the **likeness** of His Creator; yet still between God and man there is an infinite distance. Christ only is the express **image** of God's person, (Hebrews 1:3) as the Son of his Father, having the same nature. It is only some of God's honor that is put upon man, who is God's image only as the shadow in the glass, or the king's impress upon the coin. **God's image** upon man consists in His nature and constitution, not those of his body (for God has not a body), but those of His **soul**. This honor indeed God has put upon the **body of man, that the Word was made flesh, (John 1:1-4) the Son of God was clothed with a body like ours and will shortly clothe ours with a glory like that of His. And this we may safely say, That He by whom God made the worlds, not only the great world, but man the little world, formed the human body, at the first, according to the platform He designed for himself in the fullness of time. But it is the soul, the great soul, of man, that does especially bear God's image. The soul is a spirit, an intelligent immortal spirit, an influencing active spirit, herein resembling God, the Father of Spirits, (Hebrews 12:9) and the soul of the world. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. The soul of man, considered in its three noble faculties, understanding, will, and active power, is perhaps the brightest clearest looking-glass in nature, wherein to see God. Seed thoughts from Matthew Henry's Commentary, pg. 3**  
Great is the mystery of Creation and so well expressed by the Holy Spirit in (Acts 17:24-28)

**THINK about OUR creation:**

## Psalm 139:13-16

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

## EXERCISE 8

**Consider** the implication of "I am fearfully and wonderfully made":

Doctors, S.A. Lewin and John Gilmore, gynecologists, reveal to us that when a baby is conceived there are 100,000,000 (one hundred million) male sperm (my word is "baby seeds") available. Only one of these will fertilize the female egg to produce a baby. Consider the

mathematics of this:

$$100,000,000 \text{ sperm} \\ - 1 (\text{_____}) \text{ fill in your name} \\ = 99,999,999$$

Who makes this selection of one out of one hundred million? Scientists say it is "blind biological chance." I assert it is "Divine selection." Any one of the other 99,999,999 sperm would have produced a *different person*. So, we can join our voice of praise with David "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139:14)

And the scientific community further spells out the wonder of our creation!

### FACTORIES IN A HUMAN CELL

You may recall that **human cells** are so small that some **30,000** of them would fit inside the letter "o". So you would consider the cell to be small, wouldn't you? Probing a little deeper, we find that there are molecules in the cell, which perform its varied functions. There are as many as **200 trillion molecules** in each cell! Those **molecules** are in turn made of **atoms**, which are composed of a variety of atomic particles. Some **molecules** are simple and small. The water molecule, as we have seen, is made of only three atoms: two of hydrogen and one of oxygen. In contrast, some of the molecules which make up the chromosomes in the nucleus of a human cell -- known as **DNA molecules** -- are composed of **many hundreds of atoms** in long winding chains. They are among the most complex of living substances. Now we are discovering how relative are the words "large" and "small." We have many **large molecules** in a very **small cell**. To show this more clearly, consider that all of the **DNA molecules** in **all of the cells of the human body** could be compressed into a volume of one cubic inch -- about like an ice cube! Yet, if **all of these molecule chains** were **joined end-to-end** they would **stretch a distance** 800 times as far as from the earth to the sun -- **nearly 75 billion miles!** **Are they small or are they large?**

### EXERCISE 9

**Take time for some moments of meditation, and spoken praise to our Creator!**

#### **Enemies of the Holy Spirit's creative work:**

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are

wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand." (Psalm 139:13-18)

## EXERCISE 10

Name two great enemies of the creation of life process. One at the beginning and one at the end.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSIDER ABORTION:

Does aborting a fetus harm a human being? \_\_\_\_\_

The w-o-r-k of the Holy Spirit begins in the life of a human even before we are born. This was true with me in being an unwanted pregnancy in 1931. It was the days of the Big Depression and one more mouth to feed and person to clothe was not desirable. As my Mother drove down the seventeen miles of dirt road into Medicine Lodge to get an abortion, a voice spoke to her, "Turn back! Turn back!" And she did! I believe it was the Voice of the Spirit speaking. And, Jehovah God breathed into my nostrils the breath (Hebrew for spirit) of life, and I was born on June 4th. (Genesis 2:7)

## EXERCISE 11

**Is man qualified to choose life or death** for a human being, either by abortion or euthanasia? \_\_\_\_\_

Consider this true example:

Situational ethics is now being taught in many schools. However, one teacher who wanted to illustrate the faultiness of human reasoning gave the following true situation to a class of students.

How would you advise a mother who was pregnant with her fifth child based on the following facts:

"Her husband had syphilis. She had tuberculosis. Their first child was born blind. Their second child died. Their third child was born deaf. Their fourth child had tuberculosis.

"The mother is considering an abortion. Would you advise her to have one?"

In view of these facts, most of the students agreed that she should 'have an abortion.

The teacher then announced, "If you said 'Yes,' you would have just killed the great composer Ludwig van Beethoven, world-renowned composer.

## **2. THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**We are a *spirit*.**

Scripture establishes clearly that we are *spirits*, we have a *soul* and live in a *body*. (II Thessalonians 5:23) Here are succinct words by Dr. Robert Schuller which speak to this truth: "Secular humanism has told us we are human beings only. The truth is we are spiritual beings on a human journey with eternal dimensions." Hour of Power TV, August 9, 1998.

### **EXERCISE 12**

Draw a line under the phrase or sentence in the following verses which speak of the "spirit of man".

Zechariah 12:1

"This is the word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him,"

I Corinthians 2:11-12

"For who among men knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the things of God none knoweth, save the Spirit of God. But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God."

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind."

Hebrews 12:22-23

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the



first-born, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect."

Proverbs 20:27

"The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being."

Watchman Nee speaks clearly about man's *spirit*:

"The ordinary concept of the constitution of human beings is dualistic--soul and body. According to this concept, soul is the invisible inner spiritual part, while body is the visible outer corporal part...Such an opinion comes from fallen man, not from God; apart from God's revelation, no concept is dependable. That the body is man's outward sheath is undoubtedly correct, but the Bible never confuses spirit and soul as though they are the same. Not only are they different in terms; their very natures differ from each other. The Word of God does not divide man into two parts of soul and body. It treats man, rather, as tripartite spirit, soul and body. (I Thessalonians 5:23) "May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Is it a matter of any consequence to divide spirit and soul? It is an issue of supreme importance for it effects tremendously the spiritual life of the believer.

According to the teaching of the Bible and the experience of believers, the human spirit can be said to comprise three parts; or, to put it another way, one can say it has three main functions. These are conscience, intuition and communion. The conscience is the discerning organ which distinguishes right from wrong--intuition is the sensing organ of the human spirit, and communion is worshipping God. The organs of the soul are incompetent to worship God. God is not apprehended by our thoughts, feelings or intentions, for He can only be known directly in our spirits. Our worship of God and God's communications with us are directly in the spirit. 'God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.' (John 4:24)" Watchman Nee (1903-1972) The Spiritual Man. (Part 1, pg. 21)

## EXERCISE 13

What do the following verses teach us about *spirit*---ours and God's?

Romans 8:15,16 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 6:17,19,20 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Our *spirit* and our body.**

"While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Acts 7:59

From my e-mail comes a true story which illustrates in a beautiful way both the "body" and "spirit" side of man.

### **The Birdies**

**"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:10**

Only when we die to self do we hear and see the birdies, and enter into the plan of our designer. Thank you Deborah Fougrousse for sharing this awesome story. This is a true story that occurred in 1994 and was told by Lloyd Glen. Throughout our lives we are blessed with spiritual experiences, some of which are very sacred and confidential, and others, although sacred, are meant to be shared.

Last summer my family had a spiritual experience that had a lasting and profound impact on us, one we feel must be shared. It's a message of love. It's a message of regaining perspective, and restoring proper balance and renewing priorities. In humility, I pray that I might, in relating this story, give you a gift my little son, Brian, gave our family one summer day last year.

On July 22 nd, I was enroute to Washington D.C. for a business trip. It was all so very ordinary, until we landed in Denver for a plane change. As I collected my belongings from the overhead bin, an announcement was made for Mr. Lloyd Glenn to see the United customer service representative immediately. I thought nothing of it until I reached the door to leave the plane and I heard a gentleman asking every male if they were Mr. Glenn. At this point I knew something was wrong and my heart sunk. When I got off the plane a solemn-faced young man came toward me and said, "Mr. Glenn there is an emergency at your home. I do not know what the emergency is, or who is involved, but I will take you to the phone so you can call the hospital.

My heart was now pounding, but the will to be calm took over. Woodenly, I followed this stranger to the distant telephone where I called the number he gave me for the Mission Hospital. My call was put through to the trauma center where I learned that my three-year-old son had been trapped underneath the automatic garage door for several minutes, and that when my wife had found him he was dead. CPR had been performed by a neighbor, who is a doctor, and the paramedics had continued the treatment as Brian was transported to the hospital.

By the time of my call, Brian was revived and they believed he would live, but they did not know how much damage had been done to his brain, nor to his heart. They explained that the door had completely closed on his little sternum right over his heart. He had been severely crushed.

After speaking with the medical staff, my wife sounded worried but not hysterical, and I took comfort in her calmness. The return flight seemed to last forever, but finally I arrived at the hospital six hours after the garage door had come down. When I walked into the intensive care unit, nothing could have prepared me to see my little son laying so still on a great big bed with tubes and monitors everywhere. He was on a respirator. I glanced at my wife who stood and tried to give me a reassuring smile. It all seemed like a terrible dream. I was filled in on the details and given a guarded prognosis. Brian was going to live, and the preliminary tests indicated that his heart was okay--two miracles, in and of themselves. But only time would tell if his brain received any damage. Throughout the seemingly endless hours, my wife was calm. She felt that Brian would eventually be all right. I hung on to her words and faith like a lifeline. All that night and the next day Brian remained unconscious. It seemed like forever since I had left for my business trip the day before. Finally at two o'clock that afternoon, our son regained consciousness and sat up uttering the most beautiful words I have ever heard spoken. He said, "Daddy, hold me," and he reached for me with his little arms. [TEAR BREAK...smile]

By the next day he was pronounced with no neurological or physical deficits, and the story of his miraculous survival spread throughout the hospital. You cannot imagine our gratitude and joy. As we took Brian home we felt a unique reverence for the life and love of our Heavenly Father that comes to those who brush death so closely. In the days that followed there was a special spirit about our home. Our two older children were much closer to their little brother. My wife and I were much closer to each other, and all of us were very close as a whole family. Life took on a less stressful pace. Perspective seemed to be more focused, and balance much easier to gain and maintain. We felt deeply blessed. Our gratitude was truly profound.

**[The story is not over] (smile)**

Almost a month later to the day of the accident, Brian awoke from his afternoon nap and said, "Sit down mommy. I have something to tell you." At this time in his life, Brian usually spoke in small phrases, so such a large sentence surprised my wife. She sat down with him on his bed and he began his sacred and remarkable story. "Do you remember when I got stuck under the garage door? Well it was so heavy and it hurt really bad. I called to you, but you couldn't hear me. I started to cry, but then it hurt too bad. And then the "birdies" came. "The birdies?" my wife asked puzzled. "Yes," he replied. "The birdies" made a whooshing sound and flew into the garage. They took care of me." "They did?" "Yes", he said. "One of the birdies came and got you. She came to tell you I got stuck under the door." A sweet reverent feeling filled the room. The spirit was so strong and yet lighter than air. My wife realized that a three-year-old had no concept of death and spirits, so he was referring to the beings who came to him from beyond as "birdies" because they were up in the air like birds that fly. "What did the birdies look like?" she asked. Brian answered. "They were so beautiful. They were dressed in white, all white. Some of them had green and white. But some of them had on just white." "Did they say anything?" "Yes," he answered. They told me the baby would be alright." "The baby?" my wife asked confused. And Brian answered. "The baby laying on the garage floor." He went on, "You came out and opened the garage door and ran to the baby. You told the baby to stay and not leave."

My wife nearly collapsed upon hearing this, for she had indeed gone and knelt beside Brian's body and seeing his crushed chest and unrecognizable features, knowing he was already dead, she looked up around her and whispered, "Don't leave us Brian, please stay if you can."

As she listened to Brian telling her the words she had spoken, she realized that the spirit had left his body and was looking down from above on his little lifeless form. "Then what happened?" she asked. "We went on a trip." he said, "far, far away." He grew agitated trying to say the things he didn't seem to have the words for. My wife tried to calm and comfort him, and let him know it would be okay. He struggled with wanting to say something that obviously was very important to him, but finding the words was difficult. "We flew so fast up in the air. They're so pretty Mommy." he added. "And there is lots and lots of "birdies".

My wife was stunned. Into her mind the sweet comforting spirit enveloped her more soundly, but with an urgency she had never before known. Brian went on to tell her that the "birdies" had told him that he had to come back and tell everyone about the "birdies". He said they brought him back to the house and that a big fire truck, and an ambulance were there. A man was bringing the baby out on a white bed and he tried to tell the man the baby would be okay, but the man couldn't hear him. He said the birdies told him he had to go with the ambulance, but they would be near him. He said, "they were so pretty and so peaceful, and he didn't want to come back. And then the bright light came." He said that the light was so bright

and so warm, and he loved the bright light so much. Someone was in the bright light and put their arms around him, and told him, "I love you but you have to go back. You have to play baseball, and tell everyone about the 'birdies'." Then the person in the bright light kissed him and waved bye-bye. Then whoosh, the big sound came and they went into the clouds."

The story went on for about an hour. He taught us that "birdies" were always with us, but we don't see them because we look with our eyes and we don't hear them because we listen with our ears. But they are always there, you can only see them in here (he put his hand over his heart). They whisper things to help us do what is right because they love us so much. Brian continued, stating, "I have a plan, Mommy. You have a plan. Daddy has a plan. Everyone has a plan. We must all live our plan and keep our promises. The birdies help us to do that cause they love us so much."

In the weeks that followed, he often came to us and told all, or part of it again and again. Always the story remained the same. The details were never changed or out of order. A few times he added further bits of information and clarified the message he had already delivered. It never ceased to amaze us how he could tell such detail and speak beyond his ability when he spoke of his "birdies."

Everywhere he went, he told strangers about the "birdies." Surprisingly, no one ever looked at him strangely when he did this. Rather, they always got a softened look on their face and smiled. Needless to say, we have not been the same since that day, and I pray we never will be. Don Waybright -- Tyson Foods, Inc. -- Springdale, Arkansas 72762

## EXERCISE 14

Circle the words in the following verses which speak of the eternal essence of a person.

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them'-- Remember him before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the *spirit* returns to God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7)

"While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my *spirit*.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 7:59-60)

"Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more." Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." . . . . . When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. 2 Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her *spirit* returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened." (Luke 8:40-42, 49-56)

"Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my *spirit*." When he had said this, he breathed his last. .... Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body." (Luke 23:46, 50-52)

"See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a *spirit* hath not flesh and bones, as ye behold me having. And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet." (Luke 24:39-40 ASV)