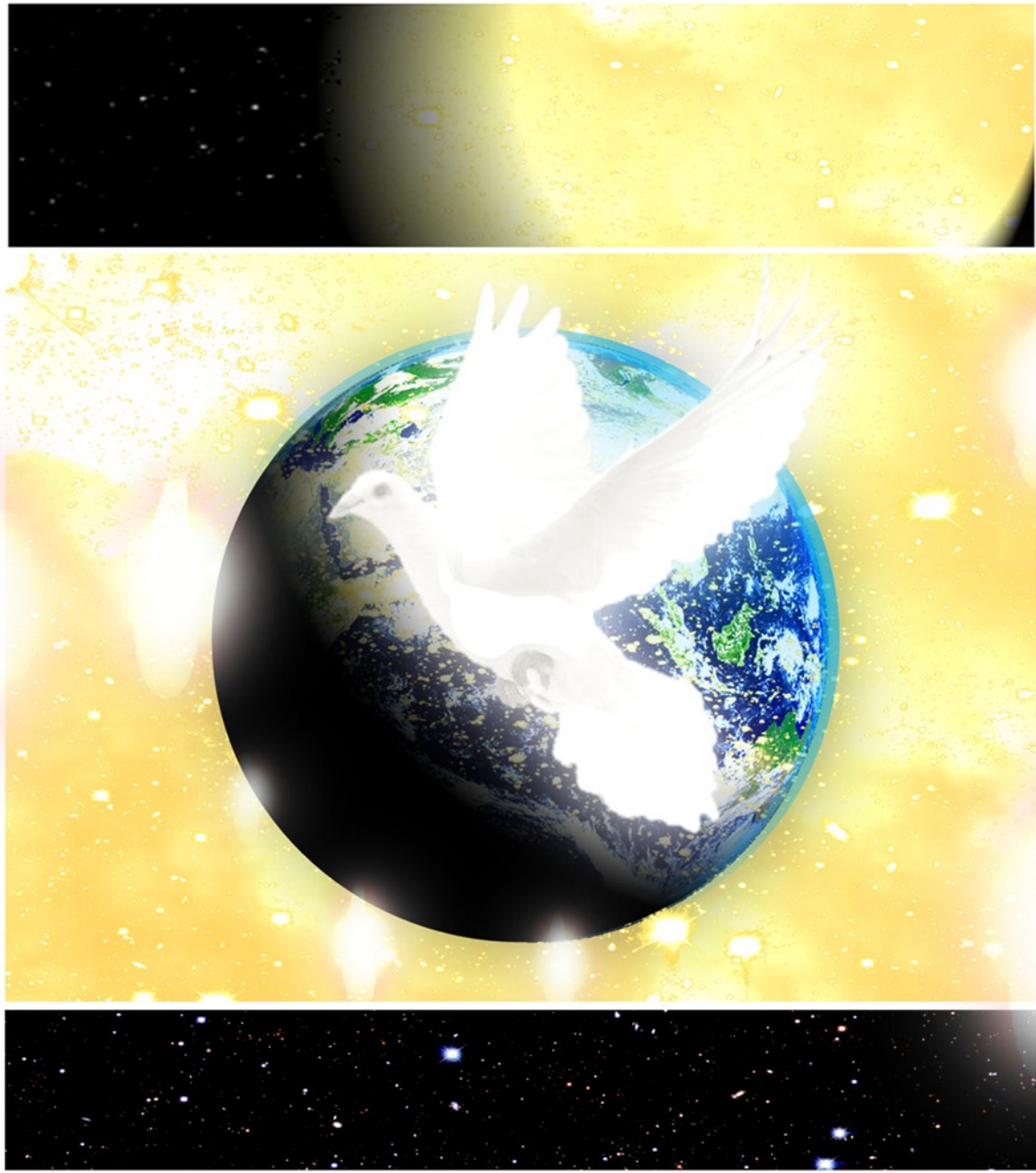


- Holy Spirit -

*"I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
(Luke 3:16b)*



The Berean Lamp
For the Body of Christ.

Vol. 16
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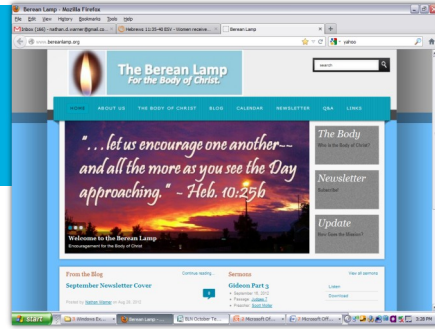
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The Berean Lamp Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Berean Lamp Ministry.

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The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller

Editor-in-Chief: Nathan Warner

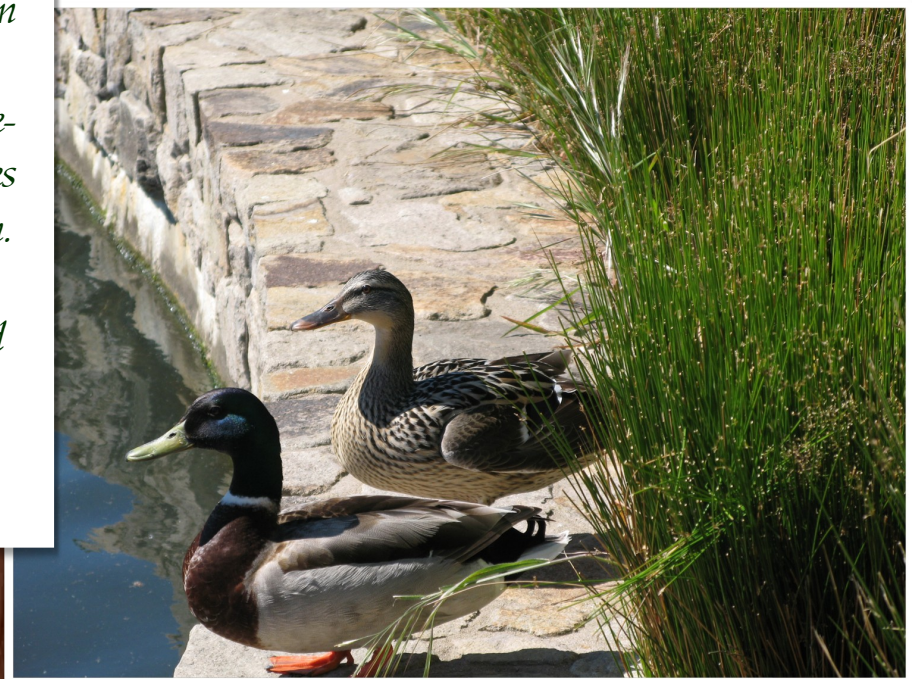
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*"And I will ask the
FATHER, and He will
give you another **HELPER**,
to be with you forever, even
the **SPIRIT** of **TRUTH**,
whom the world cannot re-
ceive, because it neither sees
Him nor **KNOWS** Him.
You know Him, for He
DWELLS with you and
will be in you."
(John 14:16-17)*



By Nathan Warner



Spirit of the World

*"And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the **SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST**, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."*

(1 John 4:3)

*"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the **ELEMENTAL SPIRITS** of the world, and not according to Christ."*

(Colossians 2:8)

Inspiring Spirit

By Nathan Warner

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
(2 Timothy 3:16 KJV)

What sets Scripture apart from all other written works in the world? Scripture is the inspired Word of God. The English Standard Version translates “inspired of God” as “breathed out by God.” What an amazing thought! The Bible you hold in your hands or that sits in your bookcase has come from God’s very mouth, breathed upon us!

The inspiration behind God’s Word comes by the Holy Spirit, for *“when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, 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”* (John 16:13 ESV). The Holy Spirit is God’s voice on earth, speaking through the Word of God, revealing God’s will in our hearts, testifying to Jesus Christ, for *“in Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”* (Ephesians 1:13).

A natural question that arises is if Scripture is spiritually inspired by God, what are other works of writing, speech, and performance inspired by in the world? Are they spiritually inspired, too? They must be, for as Paul said, all mankind fall into only two camps – those who are servants of God or of the devil. *“Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”* (Romans 6:16) Everything we come into contact with in this world has inspiration behind it. So often I have heard people say, “It’s just a movie!” or “Lighten up, it’s just entertainment.” In reality, everything is inspired by and from something, which ulti-

mately is inspired by the spiritual, for as Paul said, the Holy Spirit *“expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons”* (1 Timothy 4:1).

There are many spirits at work around us today. In the 20th Century, we saw the world attempting to “de-spiritualize” reality – working tirelessly to “prove” that flesh and blood alone exists in the universe. How rapidly that is changing in the first decade of the 21st Century. Over the last decade, we have seen genres such as fantasy, horror, and paranormal media take off down the runway of cultural consumption and expression. Now they have sky-rocketed out of the atmosphere in terms of popularity and ubiquity. If you wander around a modern bookstore, you may be stunned to discover that there is a teen “Paranormal Romance” section, promising “dark romance and tales with a thrilling supernatural spin.” Once you recover from this fact, you may be astounded by how incredibly large the selection is, taking up two aisles in many cases. Each year that passes, the genre grows and bloats in size with tales of spiritual possession, vampirism, and sexual unions between spiritual creatures and humankind.

Countless writers, film actors, and artists claim to find inspiration for their work with the help of “spirit guides” or by channeling spirits through them. They may all be remembered as the Washington Post described Mormon author of the Twilight series, Stephanie Meyer: “a spirit-guide travel agent.”¹

This is obvious though, right? The inspiration behind these works is certainly more discernable than when it is behind science, medicine, and technology, but regardless, it is there. Increasingly, for example, the Transhumanist Movement drives our technological advances forward with the promise of making mankind gods, redefining the natural limitations on human nature and the created order – in short, turning the earth upside down. This movement has been the undercurrent of civilization ever since the Flood. Regardless of the subject, spiritual inspiration lies behind it, whether from sin or from righteousness – from spiritual

forces of evil or from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth.

Should it surprise us that the literature, media, and scientific aspirations which the world produces are influenced and inspired by ungodly spiritual forces? It should not, for Paul said Believers *“do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”* (Ephesians 6:12). The emphasis here suggests that in all our interactions with the world around us, we are actually, at some level, interacting with spiritual forces.

Why does Paul say we “wrestle” against the spiritual forces that inspire the world around us? If the world channels “the cosmic powers,” why should we resist? The answer is simple – having been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, baptized by the Spirit, we are now citizens of God’s Heaven, while the denizens of the world are not: *“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error”* (1 John 4:4-6).

Unlike the Holy Spirit, which builds us up to God, the spirit of error, like a solvent, soaks into anything it can, dissolving and breaking apart integrity, holiness, and righteousness through lies and distractions that appeal to the flesh. It animates and energizes anything that would distract us from the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, sapping our growth in Christ. The spirit of error is the main “voice” in movies, books, writings, religions, teachings, cults, “scientific” philosophies, the new age movement, Transhumanism, etc. No matter how well-clothed in excitement, facts, humor, or instruction, the spirit of error speaks its piece. *“This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every*

vile practice” (James 3:15-16).

Today, we wonder how we could possibly see more jealousy, selfish ambition, disorder, and vile practices than we see. No matter what you’re watching on television, listening to on the radio, skimming through on the news, or reading, the spirit of error will speak to you its message. This message is in opposition to the message of the Holy Spirit, which is the Word of God.

John tells us that when we speak what the Holy Spirit has given us to say and no one listens, we are encountering the spirit of error in their lives. As the spirit of error is “broad-band-jamming” us in any way it can, we need discernment in all our interactions with the world. John tells us to test the spirits behind the things we see and experience because many false prophets have come to deceive us: *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already”* (1 John 4:1-3). The spirit of antichrist is everywhere, inspiring the works of the world against the One true God even while the Holy Spirit convicts *“the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment”* (John 16:8b) and inspires Believers in God’s work. As Believers, we wrestle daily with spiritual forces behind the visible.

I would suggest that this “wrestling” Paul speaks of and this “testing” John refers to does not involve us performing spiritual warfare against these ungodly spiritual forces. I do not believe it is our job to go “demon-hunting” – Jesus Christ has conquered all enemies of God in the Cross through His resurrection. *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He dis-*

armed the rulers and authorities ^[a] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him” (Colossians 2:13-15 [a] Probably demonic rulers and authorities).

Jesus has disarmed and defeated the spiritual powers that rule this world in darkness. He fights our battles for us. He does His sovereign work in our lives. “*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33b). We must simply confess Him as Lord and King of our lives. We must not be embarrassed by our adoption as His children, and we must not shrink back from shouting out and confessing to the world our inheritance as sons and daughters of God in obedience to His Word: “*The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved” (Romans 10:8-10). Even so, let us confess our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit inspires us and gives us utterance through His Word. Amen.

“This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.”
(1 John 5:6)

1. “Entering the ‘Twilight’ zone, or a day in the life of Stephenie Meyer” by Monica Hesse – Washington Times, February 21, 2013



The Power That Raised Christ from the Dead

By Ginny Larsen

“I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”
(Ephesians 1:16-21 ESV)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”
(Ephesians 2:4-7)

There is real power behind our salvation. This power is not our will or determination to overcome sin and surrender to Christ. It is not our striving and working that saves us. It is the power of God through the Holy Spirit whom He has given us that draws us, saves us, and dwells in us. The Holy Spirit continually works in us to raise us up to the life He has called us to, even here and now, with the hope that that life will be ultimately realized fully when He raises us up physically to be with Him forever.

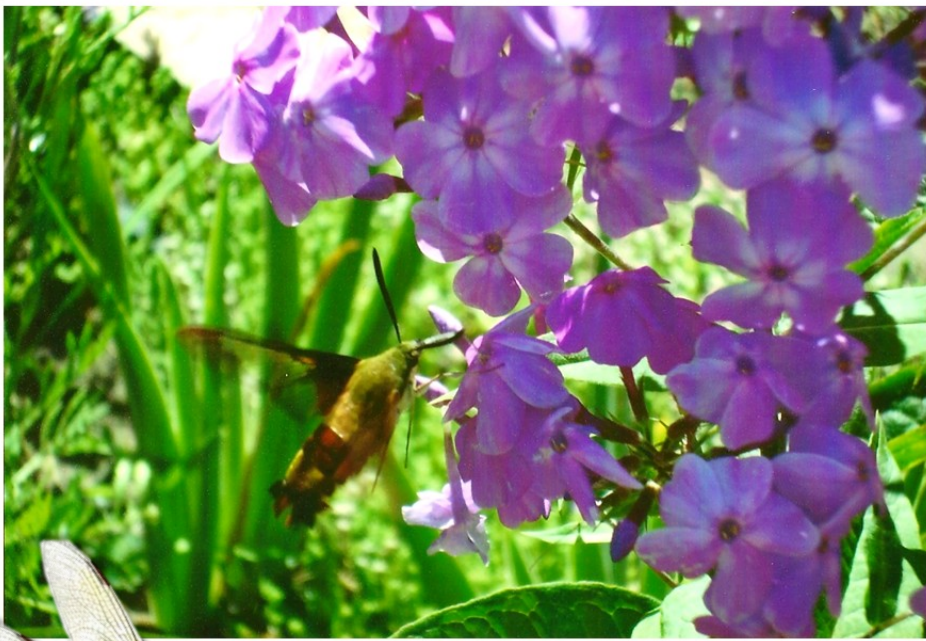
I walked for years in my Christian life not

understanding the indwelling power of His Spirit living in me. I walked in defeat, doubt, and fear because I did not understand that hope to which He has called us as Christians. This hope would be no hope at all if it depended on me. I could only have doubt and fear of never measuring up. But this hope depends on the power of the Holy Spirit – the very same power that raised Christ from the dead. I used to stop at this prayer of Paul's in Ephesians 2:4-7 and pray it for myself, friends, and family over and over again. And God answered – He Who is faithful to answer the prayers that our hearts cry out to Him in hunger for truth and to know Him more. Little by little, He opened my heart to see. Through several dark trials and hard tests in life, I was

always forced again to my knees, and this would be my prayer.

We walk in more abundant life when we realize just how complete, how thorough, and how powerful His salvation is. We also realize that the Spirit we've been given as Believers is our guarantee of that resurrection power to bring us through this life and all we face and must overcome.

Notice in verse 6 of Ephesians 2 that He has *"raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the Heavenly places,"* and that *"raising"* is done *"in Christ Jesus."* When we were placed in Christ, we were raised up with Him. It is past tense. In His eyes, we are seen as already there. What He begins, He carries



By Patty Buswell



through to completion. He knows it is the power of His Spirit that will accomplish it. His Word will accomplish it. His Word can never fail, and His Spirit always carries out His Word. My doubts and fears at one time were caused by not understanding this and not trusting in that power. Looking at the little power I had, I saw my own weakness and failure. I was deeply aware of my inability to make it through one single day without in some way failing God in thought, word, or deed. I had doubts and fears about His love for me and His salvation. But the more I learned of this power that is in me, and the hope of His calling, the more faith I had in Him. Soon, I could not doubt His salvation anymore because I knew it was dependent on Him, not on me. I had faith



*"Now we have
RECEIVED not the spirit of
the world, but the **SPIRIT** who
is from God, that we might
UNDERSTAND
the things freely given us by
God."*

(1 Corinthians 2:12)

and joy in my salvation. I had hope and power in my Christian life to overcome. Many try to drive Christians to live holy lives by condemning them and admonishing them to try harder, struggle more to surrender more, and to cause them to fear constantly that they will fail. But the Lord continually pointed me to Him. He kept again and again pointing me to the power of His cross, to utterly cleanse me from all sin and justify me before Him. He kept pointing me to His resurrection from the dead to see that it was my resurrection as well. The power of His Spirit did something mysteriously, secretly, and quietly as He entered into me and raised me up to newness of life in Him.

His Spirit is His "seed" planted in our hearts to make us His children (1 John 3:9). It is by His Spirit that we have been "*given the power to become children of God*" (John 1:12-13). The Jamieson, Faucet and Brown commentary on the word "power" says: "The word signifies both authority and ability, and both are certainly meant here." Both are needed in order to become a child of God. We cannot become a child of God by our own power, strength, or ability – no more than a baby can bring forth its own existence and birth. It is not simply a decision but a new creation that takes place. The power of the Holy Spirit is what does this. His authority is what says it is so, not any word of man.

So often, we see people disregard the place of the Holy Spirit in this miracle of God called the new birth. Yet these same people are glad to seek all kinds of experiences that seem to be manifestations of power. They seek mystical experiences that make them feel good, or seem to make them feel closer to God, even though they continue living in sin and the true power of God is not evident in them as the Word proclaims. They proclaim another god or another Jesus that is not the Jesus of the Word. They deny the power that raises us out of our old life and what we were, giving us a new nature, and produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. They are not giving glory to Jesus Christ as God and Son by putting faith in religions to save them instead of His death and resurrection. Yet, they claim His power in their lives

as they show signs and wonders in His name. They deny the true power of God, while thinking they have the Spirit and the power of God, *"having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people"* (2 Timothy 3:5), so *"that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:5).

The signs that manifest in one who has the power to become a child of God are written for us to know in His Word. 1 John 2:5 tells us that those who keep His Word are perfected in His love and show that they are of His seed. Those that walk in His righteousness and love (1 John 3:10), as He walked, show that they are of His seed. As His children, we often fail to walk according to that power He has given us. Yet His power in us is continually working to teach us, and correct us by showing us His way, His heart, and His life in us. He brings discipline in our lives through the losses and hardships we endure to teach us of His power and life – to teach us of our own helplessness, that we might learn to trust in Him. The more we mature in our knowledge of Him, the more we see our flesh for what it is, and the more we are able to quickly surrender it to Him and yield to that Spirit of life so that His character is manifest in us and through us. The more we know of His Word and grow in our understanding, the more power grows in our life to live according to it, as we apply that Word by faith. The Spirit of God is what gives life to the Word of God in our hearts to enable us to make it a living powerful Word in us, and the Spirit also gives us the faith to walk in it and overcome our flesh. He gives us the power to "put off the old" and "put on the new." It is never through our own power or determination that we live this Christian life.

The beautiful thing is that all that is required of us is a spirit of humility, to see and confess our sinful self and weakness, and trust in Him to do all He said in His Word when we ask Him to. We don't have to put faith in our ability or determination to overcome. We can humbly see our flesh for what it is and surrender it to His cross and the power of His Spirit to place us "in Christ," where we are crucified

with Him and no longer *"I who live, but Christ Who lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20a). We can live by faith in His promise to do that. It is by His Word, His grace, and our faith in Him that we are saved – not of ourselves. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead that makes it so, and that we can count on. We have more victory when we live by a simpler faith with less reliance on the flesh. We discover more and more that He Who raised Christ from the dead will raise us up also. The more we discover this, the more we'll see that power work in us. Finally, that power will accomplish all. That same Holy Spirit will cause this corrupt body to be changed – to put on incorruption – and we will be made to be like Him. That new creation that He created in us comes forth, and we will be fully free to be all He meant us to be – free of sin, holy as He is holy – as our completed redemption will be a reality. He has promised it in His Word, and we can count on His Spirit to fulfill it and make it so.

"So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory'" (1 Corinthians 15:50-54).

His seed in us is already incorruptible, and soon we will have new bodies that are just as incorruptible. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

*"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He MAKETH me to lie down in green pastures: He LEADETH me beside the still waters."
(Psalm 23:1-2)*



By Naomi Tvedt

*"Thou SENDETH forth Thy spirit, they are created: and Thou RENEWEST the face of the earth."
(Psalm 104:30)*

*"The SPIRIT of God hath made me, and the BREATH of the ALMIGHTY hath given me life."
(Job 33:4)*



Sing A New Song

Words by George Croly

Music by Frederick Cook Atkinson

"Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth"



Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 290

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal. 5:25

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways near;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thou thin - est an - gels love;

wean it from earth, through all its pul - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear;
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all to frame;

to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pen - ing skies;
 I see thy cross - there teach my heart to cling;
 the check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 to the bap - tism of the heav - en de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul to a way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the prayer flame.

WORDS: George Croly, 1867
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE
 10.10.10.

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

By Maggie Moller

"For the One whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit."

(John 3:34)

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

(John 14:26)

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth."

(John 16:13a)

I was first introduced to this hymn through a mother-daughter Bible study that I was involved with during junior high. It is a beautiful hymn with a powerful message. Sadly, I think it is often forgotten as one of the great hymns of the faith: its lyrics *should* be the prayer of every Christian's heart. It tells of one man's earnest desire to know God's will in his life and to love his fellow man with the same love of Christ. How strongly I can relate to this desire! No matter how hard we try in our own strength to love and serve one another, the strength for this kind of self-sacrifice can only come from Christ. I need to constantly remind myself to daily lay down my own will and submit to the will of Christ and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We have assurance from Christ that He will give the Holy Spirit generously to all who ask Him. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always until His return. This is such a comfort to know that we

have the Holy Spirit with us always to guide us and give us direction as we walk the road of life. I am saddened by how often I don't rely on Christ's wonderful gift and try to do things in my own strength. Afterwards, I always end up making a mess and suffering from unnecessary consequences. Then I am reminded how much better the situation would have turned out if I had followed the Holy Spirit's leading from the beginning, rather than testing my plan out first. This hymn reminds me of my need for the Holy Spirit to transform my sinful heart into a heart He can use for His service: a heart unhindered by my own sinful will.

The Lyricist
George Croly

George Croly was born on August 17, 1780, in Dublin, Ireland. The son of a physician, he spent his youth in Ireland and attended Trinity College in Dublin, where he graduated and was ordained in 1804. Mr. Croly worked in ministry in Ireland until moving to London in 1810 to pursue a career in literature. In 1819, he married Margaret Helen Begbie. In 1835, he was approached by the leaders of St. Stephen's Church to help them reopen the church after being closed for more than one hundred years. Despite the church being lo-

cated in one of the worst slums in London, Mr. Croly accepted the challenge. Under his teaching, the church soon began to draw in local residents, and it grew to be a large congregation. In 1851, he published a hymnbook to be used by his congregation titled *Scenes from Scripture and other Psalms*. "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" was published in 1854. Mr. Croly passed away on November 24, 1860, in London, England.

The Composer
Frederick Cook Atkinson

Frederick Cook Atkinson was born on August 21, 1841, in England. After studying music, he served as a choirmaster at various chapels, as well as occasionally working as an organist. The musical score now used for "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" was originally intended for the hymn "Abide with Me." Mr. Atkinson passed away on November 30, 1896, in England.

Works Consulted:

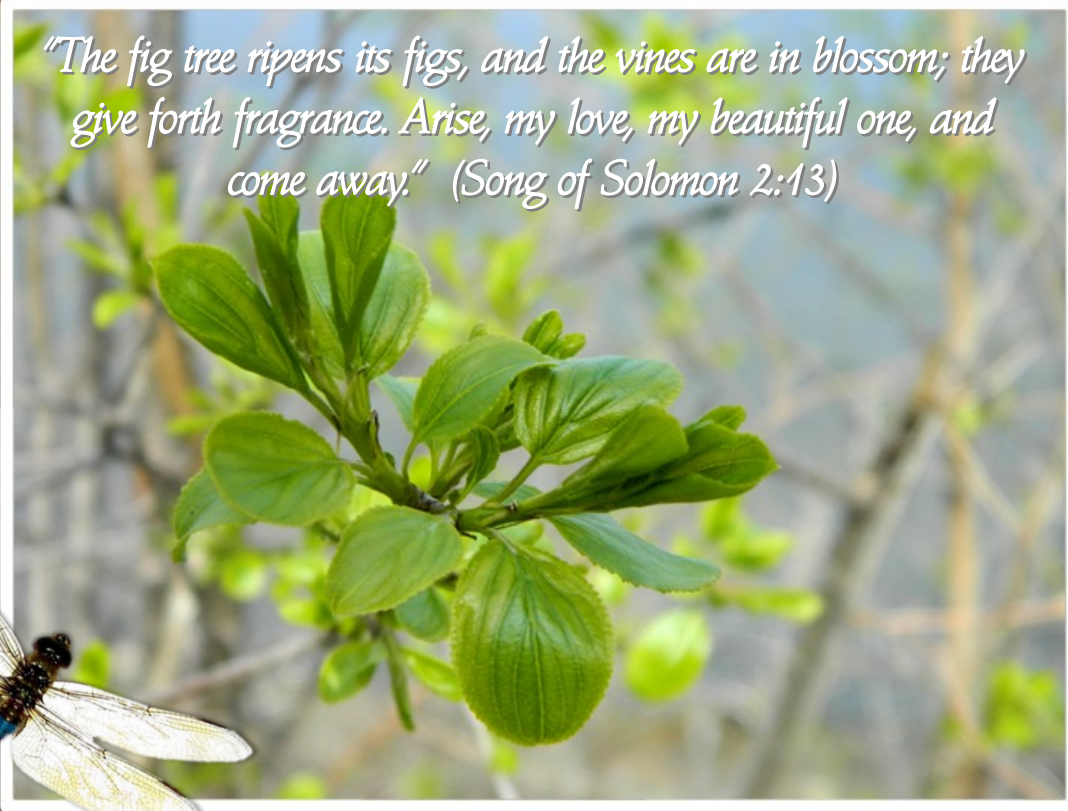
Wikipedia
CyberHymnal
Far Above Rubies: Booklet 7 by Advanced Training Institute International



*"When the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH** comes, he will guide you into all the truth, 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."
(John 16:13)*

Crown of Thorns
By Lynn Warner

"The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away." (Song of Solomon 2:13)



By Ginny Larsen



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)



The Spirit of Truth

By Jane Titrud

Before Jesus left to be with the Father, He promised to send a Helper who would be with us forever. He called this Helper “the Spirit of truth” (John 14: 16, 17 NASB).

*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. (John 14: 16, 17)*

*When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the **Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me. (John 15: 26)*

*But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (John 16: 13)*

This promise was initially fulfilled on the day of Pentecost but applies to every subsequent generation of Believers as well (Acts 2: 33, 38, 39). Upon salvation, the Spirit of truth, also known as the Holy Spirit, comes to live in the Believer (Romans 8: 9) and reveals the things of God (1 Corinthians 2: 12, 13). He is the source of what the apostle John called an “anointing.”

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. (1 John 2: 20, 21)

And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. (1

John 2: 27)

Yet, the fact that we have this “anointing” was never meant to imply that we automatically know everything about “the truth” once we get saved and need no further teaching. Nor does it mean that true Christians cannot fall victim to deception. The Bible indicates that false teaching has been a problem from the beginning and will continue to be so, even in the Church (2 Corinthians 11: 3, 12-15; 2 Peter 2: 1-3).

In 1 John, the apostle was trying to protect Believers from false prophets who were denying that Jesus is the Christ and that He came in the flesh. The Believers whom he was addressing knew the truth as they had to acknowledge these essential elements of the Gospel to become saved in the first place. Hence, John was merely telling them to follow the witness they had heard from the beginning (1 John 2: 24), which was also confirmed by the Spirit’s anointing. He also told them to try the spirits (1 John 4: 1-3). Any spirit that would deny the truth about Jesus is not the Holy Spirit.

John’s advice still applies today under similar circumstances. However, there are other kinds of error that require different approaches. There is also more to understand about the Gospel than just the basics. The complete Word of God establishes a sufficiently broad basis for judging truth, while it also provides greater understanding about God’s plan of salvation (2 Timothy 3: 16, 17).

God gives gifts of the Spirit to individual Believers in order to help educate and equip the Body of Christ, protect it from error, and promote Christian growth as well. When these gifts are functioning properly, they too can lead the Church into a greater understanding of God’s truth.

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the

faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (Ephesians 4: 11-16)

However, the gifts of the Spirit were not meant to downplay the importance of God's Word in understanding and judging truth any more than the Spirit's anointing. People sometimes emphasize the Spirit over the Word by claiming that so-and-so "has such an anointing" or that "the Spirit showed me" this or that. Nevertheless, the ultimate authority rests with the Word, not with the operation of any supposed gifts. The Holy Spirit, after all, played a role in revealing the Word of God in the first place. It is not likely that He would minimize the significance of His own revelation.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1: 20, 21)

Confusion occasionally arises when Christian leaders and laypeople believe and teach different things even though they use the same Scriptures and supposedly follow the same Spirit. This can happen when faulty logic is used to interpret the Bible. Sometimes, it is the result of following the teachings and traditions of men rather than the truth of the Bible. But, whatever the cause, if faulty teachings are hindering an honest presentation of God's Word, the situation needs to be addressed.

The apostle Paul told us to be "diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4: 1-3). However, we must not forget that the same Spirit Who desires unity within the body is also the Spirit of Truth. That is to say, He is not for the promotion of unity *at the expense of truth*. He wants to establish unity *on the basis of truth*. Each of us has to be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit by acting or reacting in the flesh toward others in the Body of Christ with whom we disagree (Ephesians 4: 30-32). But we must not be so zealous about avoiding conflict that we end up stifling the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5: 19-22).

We are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4: 15). At the same time, we must also be diligent about studying God's Word in order to increasingly understand what the truth is and to be able to recognize genuine direction and correction by the Holy Spirit when it happens.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2: 15)



*"But the **HELPER**, 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."
(John 14:26)*



Ministry of the Holy Spirit

By Betty Harstad

On the night of His betrayal and arrest, Jesus was preparing His disciples for the time after He would be crucified, resurrected, and ascended into heaven. During the long farewell discourse which is written in the book of John, He promised that He would send the

Holy Spirit as the Helper to be with them forever. He said many important things about the Holy Spirit but this aspect stands out: *"He [the Holy Spirit] will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you"* (John 16:14-15 ESV).

The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ by showing to us the things of Christ. As we take time to meditate on the Word, the Spirit will remind our hearts that Jesus was sent to be our sin-bearer – the one sacrifice for sin, exalted on high to give repentance and remission. The Spirit will cause us to behold Jesus Christ in all of Scripture, and so we will be changed from glory to glory.

We can test various teachings and movements by the way Jesus is treated by them. Is He left in the shadowy background, while signs and wonders, traditions, or "good works" are at the forefront?

Also, remember what Jesus told the two men on the road to Emmaus: *"O, foolish ones and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself"* (Luke 24:25-27).

After the Father sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter, Stephen, Philip, and later even Paul, were able to understand what Jesus meant – that the whole of the Old Testament was a witness concerning Himself. When preaching, they could interpret with great insight how the Scriptures gave testimony of Jesus as Savior of the whole world, according to God's plan and foreknowledge. *"But when the Helper comes, 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 15:26).

"Stone Age" Definitions From the B.C. (Before Computer) Generation

By Jane Titrud

Spyware - suit, tie, sunglasses, and a trench coat

Sleep mode - semi-conscious state remedied with coffee

Spam - a canned food of questionable origin

Back Up Your Data - verify the gossip before passing it along

Auto Indent - what your car looks like after a hail storm



By Lynn Warner

*"And when they bring you to **TRIAL** and deliver you over, do not be **ANXIOUS** beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is **GIVEN** you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the **HOLY SPIRIT**."
(Mark 13:11)*

July/August Newsletter Theme—Grace
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Theme: "By **grace** you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9), Spirit of Grace (Zachariah 12:10), "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of **grace** and truth" (John 1:14), "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under **grace**" (Romans 6:14), "My **grace** is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" 2 Corinthians 12:9), etc...

Further Out—September: Suffering