

## Sabbath School Lesson #7 – Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Prayer – 9-15 May 2015

**C**hrist said: “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Luke 11:9-10). In this sealing time, sealing as in settling into truth as it is in Christ, so that we are “grounded and settled, and be not moved away from” (Colossians 1:23) Christ who will “never suffer the righteous to be moved” (Psalm 55:22), we study this week’s Lesson in a context of knowing the truth that the Holy Spirit was not Christ’s “constant companion,” but His very integral life.

Lest we receive a spirit of Satan when we pray, “Father, give us Thy Spirit,” we must know the revealed biblical identity of the Holy Spirit. The disciple “whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23), and to whom Jesus revealed deepest things, warns: “believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). For Christians seeking to be “sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13), it is vital to understand that Holy Spirit of God.

Of spirits, there is only “one Spirit” (Ephesians 4:4) that is holy; that one Spirit is “the Spirit of your Father” (Matthew 10:20); God is everywhere by and in that one Spirit, as the psalmist tells us that God’s own Spirit is His presence, “Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” (Psalm 139:7); that one Spirit is an integral part of God just as the spirit of man is an integral part of man, for we are told, “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:11); that one Spirit is which God gave to His Son, Christ, “for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him” (John 3:34); hence that one Spirit is shared by the Father and His Son as their Spirit, that is why Paul interchanges this by saying, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9); that one Spirit the Father gives us as the Spirit of His Son, “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6); it is that one Spirit, as an integral inner part of Christ, that He breathed out to His disciples, “And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost” (John 20:22); that one Spirit of Christ, as an integral part of Christ, when in us, is Christ Himself, for “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17); and as the Father and Son share that one Spirit, when that one Spirit is in us, Father and Son are in us, for Christ said: “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

The Old Testament clearly reveals that “the Spirit of God” belongs to God. A few texts will suffice. “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). “And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him” (Numbers 24:2). “And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim” (Judges 3:10). “But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him” (Judges 6:34). “And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man” (1 Samuel 10:6). “And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them” (1 Samuel 10:10). “And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly” (1 Samuel 11:6). The Holy Spirit clearly belongs to and is an integral part of God.

Christ said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:15-17). Jesus said very plainly that He would send *another* Comforter to comfort His people after His departure. To understand this, we apply the rule: “precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little” (Isaiah 28:10). Consider another usage of the word *another*. “And the Spirit of

the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. ... And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day" (1 Samuel 10:6, 9). Saul became *another* man; yet bodily he was still the same. His experience made him *another*.

Christ explains: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18). Christ said that He would come to His disciples as *another* Comforter. This is quite appropriate since the Bible plainly tells us who the Comforter is. The Greek word *parakletos*, translated "Comforter," is used five times in the Bible. Four times the word is translated "Comforter" and the other time it is translated "Advocate." Here the Bible clearly states who the Comforter is: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate [*parakletos* = Comforter] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). Thus the Bible has revealed that Jesus Christ is our Comforter.

Christ our Lord is that very Comforter who comes to us who the Bible refers to as the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). Who is the Holy Spirit? The Bible answers: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17). The Lord is that Spirit, yet who is the Lord? The Bible answers: "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (1 Corinthians 8:6). So, Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Lord is that Spirit, and therefore Christ is that Spirit that God sends as "the Spirit of his Son" (Galatians 4:6) as our Comforter – and the only *Parakletos* mentioned in Scripture is Christ Himself.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). Mind or Spirit, that was in Christ – the Holy Spirit of His Father: "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him" (John 3:34). Let that Holy Mind of Christ be your mind. "Lord is that Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17) and is able to comfort us in all our temptations because He was tempted just like us: "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour [or help] them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). It is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Because Jesus has suffered being tempted, and comes to us in a different way than He ever did before, He can truly be called, "another Comforter." Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you" (John 14:18).

The Holy Spirit was to come and convict the world of sin. "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). "Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:26). It is Jesus, after His resurrection, who comes to us to turn us from sin. Jesus Christ is that Comforter who knows what we are going through because He has been there Himself; the Comforter is not a third individual of the mysterious trinity gods. Would you rather have a Comforter who knows what you are going through because He has been there Himself, or the mysterious one who has never been tempted? "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45). In other words, "the last Adam [Jesus Christ] was made [after His resurrection] a quickening spirit." After resurrection, Christ comes in His Spirit (Galatians 4:6). Christ once came in the flesh, He still come in the flesh, even in our flesh, for He is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8), and hence His life in us must be the same that it was about two thousand years ago in Judea and Galilee.

Those who are sanctified by the truth and follow Christ by faith in the holiest, receive the Spirit of God; we are told: "Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, 'My Father, give us Thy Spirit.' Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In That breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace" (EW 55.1).

Those who are not sanctified by the truth, rejecting "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), and have separated Christ from His Spirit making His Spirit into a mysterious god, receive a spirit of Satan; we are told: "I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, 'Father, give us Thy Spirit.' Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace" (EW 56.1).