

## **“THE HOLY SPIRIT.....GOD’S SUPERNATURAL GIFT”**

### **John 14: 15-21**

The word “Church” doesn’t refer to a physical building of wood and stone – It refers to the building of God, composed of believers as “Living stones”. It’s the Holy Spirit who makes “Living stones” into “Believers” – A church without life, is a church without The Holy Spirit. It’s like a portable-radio without batteries – It can’t serve a meaningful purpose – There’s a story of a young man who left his parent’s home to live on his own, and the very first thing he bought was a refrigerator that he immediately stocked with his favorite drinks and food. The next morning, he opens the fridge and reaches for a drink – It was warm, and looking in he sees that all the food he bought was spoiling – He was really annoyed, so he called the store where he made the purchase to complain – The appliance department asked him, “When you open the door, does the light come on?” “No it doesn’t”, he angrily replied – “Well, put your ear close to the back, can you hear the hum of the motor?” “No – There’s no sound at all”, shouted the man. “Well, go to the back again, and look for the cord, and see if it’s plugged in?” The man realizes he had not plugged in the cord, and after a long pause, he comes back on the phone to say, “Well, considering the ridiculous amount of money I had to pay for this fridge, it should’ve worked anyway!” The church without The Holy Spirit, is like a fridge without electricity – It doesn’t matter how glitzy or swanky things might look – without the force of the Holy Spirit, our Christian-lives won’t achieve a thing. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers the church, and without the Spirit, our lives would seem senseless and empty....Fulfilling no purpose, least of all, pleasing God. God knows how much we need spiritual assistance, and the Holy Spirit.....is God’s supernatural gift! Jesus did not save us, then leave us alone as orphans – Jesus gave us everything that was necessary for a successful and victorious spiritual-life.....And Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit – As it is only as we are empowered by the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, that we will produce what our lives are supposed to produce. The Holy Spirit indwells in every believer the moment he or she accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit – An integral part of the Trinity which identifies us believers as genuine children-of-God – Our body as a child of God becomes a temple for The Holy Spirit, which is evidence of God’s seal of ownership in our lives. The Holy Spirit testifies that we no longer belong to ourselves, but that our lives have been given to God, which means that anyone dealing with us, is actually dealing with God! The Holy Spirit is the heart and soul of our Christian faith and the victorious Christian-Life. Without our faith in the Spirit, we will continue to experience defeat after defeat – You see, the Christian-Life is a supernatural life – It’s the life of Christ, lived out in every believer by means of the in-dwelling Holy Spirit who guides us in everything we say or do. Many believers are not enjoying the supernatural-life because they concentrate on living in the flesh, and not in the Spirit! It’s easy to distinguish a true disciple of Christ from the other people of the world – Because the true disciple of Christ keeps Christ’s word – The keeping of God’s word is the supreme test of the disciple’s love for God and the supreme cause of God’s love for the disciple. It is through God’s word, as it is kept and obeyed, that Christ manifests himself to the disciple – It is through God’s word that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit come into the life of the disciple and establishes their enduring home with the disciple. And only The Holy Spirit can make us keep God’s word – the Spirit is also present and ready to offer and guide us to Christ in the first place by revealing the truth about sin, and reminding us that we had broken God’s commandments. The Spirit was the one who convicted us and led us to salvation. The Holy Spirit is the power we continue to need if we are to grow in our spiritual maturity – And it is the power of the Spirit that can make us feel what Christ felt, and see what Christ saw, and know what Christ wants us to do. The Spirit reveals the words and life of Christ to the church, which is dictated by love! If Christ so loved us that he gave his life for us, ought we not also love one another? Just as Jesus revealed God to us being the expression of God in human-form, so are we also able to reveal Christ to others, being the expression of Christ. This expression of Christ is seen in us, when we love others the way Christ

loved us.....Jesus said, "If you love me, then you will obey my commands." In other words, love produces obedience, or obedience to Christ's commands, is the result of genuine Christian-Love, and this is the love that makes an impression on unbelievers, as it acts to free them from the bondage to sin. The Spirit enables us to impact the lives of sinners through our love, the word, and prayer. Love is produced by obedience and our love flows out of obedience. All of us who are parents know that our children will obey us for many different reasons.....They obey us to get something they want – Other times they obey us because they were afraid of being punished – Sometimes we actually force them to obey us – But the best feeling as a parent is to know that our children obey us simply because they love us! Do we obey Jesus Christ because we love him? The Spirit's focus is only on Christ, and the Spirit reveals the wisdom of God and enables us the believers to understand God's revelations – Without the Spirit, we believers cannot make anything eternal out of the opportunities that life offers. The Holy Spirit enables us to live according to God's revealed will, and the will of God is designed for believers to be Christ-like, and the evidence is our love for Jesus and our obedience to Jesus' commands. The tongue is very important if we are to enjoy this abundant-life. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and if we use our tongue properly, it will be a "Tree of Life." But if we use our tongue improperly, then the result is death – What we say with our tongue gives an indication of our true spiritual condition – There is a direct correlation between the heart and the mouth.....and Jesus refers to the heart as the tree, and the words from our mouth, as the fruit – And the kinds of words that come out of the mouth indicate the condition of the heart. If the heart is good, then out of the mouth will come words that are good. But, if the heart is evil, then out of the mouth will come words that are hurtful. Each one of us eats the fruit of our own tongue – If the fruit is sweet, we will eat sweet fruit....If the fruit is bitter, we will feed on bitter fruit. We may deceive ourselves about the state of our heart, with all sorts of ideas about our own goodness, purity, or righteousness – But the reality is what comes out of our mouth – In the words of Jesus, "You cannot have bad words out of a good heart, and you can't have good words out of a bad heart." It doesn't matter how spiritual we claim to be – We may attend church, sing hymns, and do what is expected of us religious people – But, if we do not keep our tongue under control, our spirituality is worthless and unacceptable to God. We will determine our destinies by the way we use our tongues – We need to be very careful of what we say – The root of every problem that affects our tongues is in our hearts. So, in order to deal with the problem that affects our tongues is in our own hearts – So, we must first deal with the problems of our hearts.....And we must acknowledge that the problem is with sin! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, so God will only deal with us on the basis of truth. Just like the pastor who was greeting folks at the door of the sanctuary after the church service – An elderly woman said, "Pastor, that was a very good sermon!" The pastor replied, "Oh, I have to give credit to the Holy Spirit!" To which the woman replied, "It wasn't that good!" You know the definition of a good sermon? It should have a good beginning.....It should have a good ending.....and they should be as close together as possible! Those of us who love Christ, will obey his commands, and if our obedience is the result of pleasing those with authority over us – Then, we are serving men, not Christ. However, it is only when we whole-heartedly respond to Christ with a willing heart, that we are truly serving Christ. Our love of Christ should make us want to obey Christ willingly and without question – The Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life that is filled with love, compassion, and care – The Spirit is the power who can change us to become what God wants us to be – A people who demonstrate the life and character of Jesus Christ.....The Holy Spirit.....God's Supernatural gift! Let us make an impact on our world as the church of Jesus Christ, by allowing The Holy Spirit to guide us into fulfilling God's divine purposes! In the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.....Amen!