

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORD



by Bruce Woolard



WONDER 3: THE SPIRIT

There is much about the teaching of the Spirit that conjures up a false image or misunderstanding about God. Every sect, religion or cult holds to some teaching on the spirit of their beliefs.

God is a spirit, *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth," John 4:24.*

N.B. : ZEITGEIST – Spirit of the age.

DISCERNMENT

We are instructed in **1 John 4:1** to test the spirits whether they are of God or not.

SPIRITS

Angels are ministering or serving spirits not to be worshipped. The fallen angels, along with Lucifer, are deceptive spirits. Aliens and UFOs are most likely demonic.

SCRIPTURES

The most reliable authority on this subject is the Bible. Let us explore the wonder of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was inspirer of Scripture. Hundreds of passages indicate, either directly or indirectly, that God the Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the Bible. We do not know exactly how He imprinted His message on the minds of those He chose to write His Word, but we know He did lead them to write what He wanted.

"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

THE ILLUMINATION OF THE SPIRIT

That the writers of the Old and New Testament were inspired by the Holy Spirit is one part of the story. In addition, He illumines the minds and opens the hearts of its readers. We find spiritual response to the Word of God described in scores of ways. Jeremiah said, *"Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O Lord of hosts," Jer. 15:16.* Furthermore, Isaiah said, *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever", Isa. 40:8.*

Jesus warned the Sadducees of His day that they entertained many errors in their teachings because they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God, **Matt 22:29**. This links the Scriptures to the power of the Holy Spirit who effects change through the Bible. Moreover, John records Jesus' words, *"the Scripture cannot be broken," John 10:35.* Jesus also said, *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you," John 15:3.*

So, through the Bible the Holy Spirit not only gives us doctrinal and historical truth; He also uses it as a vehicle for speaking to our hearts.

THE SPIRIT BROODS

In **Genesis 1:2** it states that the Holy Spirit moved over the waters that covered the earth. The word for moved in Hebrew is "**rachaph**" which means brooding or hovering. The Bible implies that the Holy Spirit was ready to drive away the darkness of earth and begin the great creative work of creation or restoration. This is a beautiful picture of the redemption of the soul.

THE HUMAN CONDITION

The Holy Spirit broods over a lost world, gripped in the clutches of evil and darkness

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." 2 Cor. 4:3-4

Just as the Holy Spirit resurrected to life a dead planet so He is able to ignite new life in the soul of those who believe and heed His prompting **Romans 8:9** says it well.

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." Romans 8:9

The Hebrew word "**ruach**" means spirit and the Greek equivalent is "**pneuma**." Although the Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testament and in the earthly ministry of Christ, the Holy Spirit came to implement the New Testament on the day of Pentecost.

False doctrine of subsequence.

SALVATION AND SPIRIT BAPTISM

When God's spirit convicts us of sin and we repent and receive Christ as Saviour a number of things occur simultaneously:

1. The Holy Spirit baptises or identifies us with Christ by immersing us into the Body of Believers.
2. We are forgiven and saved.
3. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in our human spirit.
4. We are made new creations with the potential to live new lives to God's glory.
5. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit. This means ownership.

THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Billy Graham says: To see it, we must first recall that we all believe salvation is past, present and future. We have been saved (justification), we are being saved (sanctification) and we will be saved (glorification). Between the time we are justified and the time we shall be glorified falls that period in our pilgrim journey we call sanctification.

THE WITNESS

Romans 8:16, "*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*" this reminds us of the inner witness of the Spirit.

NO EXPERIENCE

No experience, no matter how much it may mean to us, or how impressive it may seem to be, must take the place of God's Word in our lives. Our experiences must always be judged in the light of the Bible; we must not judge the Bible by our experiences. God the Holy Spirit has given us the Bible, and no gift which is truly from the Holy Spirit will contradict the Bible.

AUTHENTIC LIVES

The fruits of the Spirit manifest and reveal our spirituality.

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Ephesians 1:13

SPIRIT FILLED

Ephesians 5:18 *"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.*

Every believer has the Spirit resident but not all have Him as president. To be filled means to be controlled and influenced by the Holy Spirit.

THE FALSE

Counterfeit spirits deceive.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works,"* reminds us of false teachers.

Matthew 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* reminds us of their rejection.

THE GIFTS

Some of the gifts that operated in the past functioned to validate the messengers of God. Now that a more perfect or completed revelation has come, namely the completion of the Scriptures, we have an authority or gauge by which things can be measured, in terms of truth and error. The context of **1 Corinthians 13:8-11** confirms this fact.

When Paul, the Apostle, declares in **1 Cor. 13** that tongues, prophecy and knowledge will cease, he attaches this statement to the following: **"that which is perfect is come then that which is imperfect is done away."** The question many ask is what is meant by "perfect" and what is meant by "imperfect." In terms of the context of these statements the Apostle makes reference to childhood and growing up into adulthood. **The "childhood stage" is the imperfect phase of the development of knowledge, truth and revelation, for the Church. The "adulthood stage" is symbolic of perfection, in terms of full maturity.** Therefore, Paul suggests that the reader understands that when he wrote to the Corinthian Church, the Body of Christ, was in the childhood stage of development and, therefore, tongues, prophecy and revelatory knowledge were necessary. Now that God has given to the Church a complete and full revelation, perfection and completion, to the Church is a reality. In other words, **prophecy in the childhood stage was given in part not in fullness.** Prophecy and knowledge **were partially imparted to Believers, but now that the full revelation has come, through the completion of the Word of God, the Bible, prophecy as a foretelling, tongues as a sign/gift and revelatory knowledge have ceased.** If this was not the case, then the revelation of God's word to the Church would still be in flux, and, and the Bible incomplete.

Modern day Believers have departed from Biblical authority and have embraced a new authority based on experiential manifestations. We are reminded in **1 Timothy 2:5** that there is only one mediator between God and Man and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. When we trust in the word of a prophet, he becomes the conduit of so called "blessing." This is an insult to the Word of God and will result in spiritual bankruptcy. As a former Pentecostal pastor, I have seen many families and individuals wrecked and destroyed through trusting in the word of "seers." **The enemy of your soul will always offer a trade-off for blessing.** In other words, the devil will give you what you are asking for if you will allow him to take part of your soul and destroy your confidence in truth. A false pseudo-authority is the blight of modern-day Churches. The Lord will hold leaders accountable for misleading innocent and naïve believers who have a sincere desire to serve God. Do not replace Jesus as your mediator with some modern day "prophet," or spiritual guru. Do not trade with a counterfeit! Use the genuine product.

In the long term it will bring you great blessing and comfort.

(Extracted from Dr Bruce Woolard's booklet – Counterfeit Spirits).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **Galatians 5:22-23**

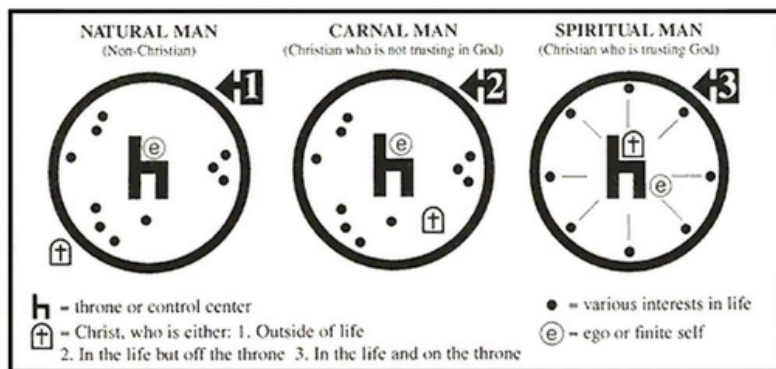
"Paraclete" is a prominent title for the Holy Spirit in Christian theology, translating the Greek word *paraklētos* to mean "one called alongside". Found primarily in the Gospel of John, it describes the Spirit's role as a divine Advocate, Helper, Comforter, and Counsellor who guides, strengthens, and dwells within believers.

Rooted in the "Farewell Discourse" (**John 14–16**), Jesus promises to send the Paraclete after his departure so his disciples will not be left alone. This term carries several layers of meaning regarding the Holy Spirit's ministry:

- **Advocate:** In ancient Greek culture, the word often referred to a legal assistant or defence attorney. The Holy Spirit advocates on our behalf and defends the truth.
- **Comforter:** He provides emotional and spiritual support during times of trouble, persecution, or grief.
- **Guide and Counsellor:** The Paraclete leads believers into all truth, teaches them, and reminds them of Jesus's teachings.
- **Empowered:** By coming "alongside" believers, the Holy Spirit gives them the courage and spiritual gifts needed to live out Christ's teaching

DEFINITION OF SPIRITUALITY:

God Consciousness: The presence of God's Word and the absence of sin.



FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS (NIV Bible):

JOHN 16:7: "But very truly I tell you, it is for that I am going away. Unless I go away, the will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13: "For we were all by Spirit so as to form—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the"