

CHAPTER 14

THE MEANINGFUL TRUTH OF PENTECOST AND GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED FOR YOU

*“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”
~ Immanuel*

God told His disciples to “wait” in Jerusalem, until they were “imbued from on high” (Luke 24:49). While Peter denied Jesus three times, after he received God’s Holy Spirit, he was empowered to faithfully and boldly preach the words of God, even at great personal risk.

Pentecost was, and is, a precious day of Spiritual *revealing*. It was the day on which God gave His Ten Commandments, and on which He began to teach His Statutes to man. Also, He poured out His Holy Spirit on His repentant children on Pentecost. The Decalogue was written on stone but God’s Laws are written on men’s hearts by His Holy Spirit (Ezek 11:19, 36:26, Heb 10:15-16). There is a clear correlation between these two events; the gift of God’s Holy Spirit is a profound consummation of what was begun on Mount Sinai.

Although Israel had the Gospel with God’s just laws taught to them (Heb 4:2), they were limited by their carnal unbelief. God’s Spirit is called the *Spirit of power* and of a *sound mind* (2 Tim.1:7), because it enables us to have the steadfast faith to truly obey and trust God! Jesus called the

Holy Spirit, “the helper,” and said it would bring things to our remembrance (John 14:26). Jesus said the Holy Spirit was “the Spirit of truth” that would enable us to understand difficult things that we could not otherwise bear (John 16:12-13). Paul said the Holy Spirit of God would enable us to understand spiritual things, which the unconverted carnal mind could not understand (1 Cor 2). Mankind is composed of flesh; God is composed of Spirit (John 3:6) and we must learn to worship God in Spirit and in His Truth (John 4:23-24). God’s Spirit is *His Power* (Acts 1:8) and God’s Spirit is His GIFT (Acts 2:38).

**“The Holy Spirit is like God’s powerful “spiritual DNA,” through which He impregnated Mary, and through which WE are now begotten and grow until the fullness of our spiritual birth as sons of God! This is why God’s Word calls God’s Holy Spirit His Holy “Seed”(1 Pet 1:23,1 Jn3:9).”
~Don E. Haney**

God’s Holy Spirit is His very essence. Through His Spirit, God projects His Power and Will. The Holy Spirit is like God’s “spiritual DNA,” or Holy Seed (1 Pet 1:23, 1 John 3:9) through which He impregnated Mary, and through which WE are now begotten and grow toward the fullness of spiritual birth as sons of God!

GOD’S SPIRIT – THE HOLY SEED

IS THE (SPERMA) OF GOD

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

The word translated “born” that Peter used is the Greek word “*gennao*,” meaning *begotten*. It is chiefly used of men. For example in genealogy, Abraham begot Isaac; Isaac begot Jacob and so forth. Secondly it also refers to the birth process. At baptism and at true repentance and conversion, we are not yet born again, but God’s Spirit starts the process leading to this new spiritual birth.

The Holy Spirit is called God’s incorruptible seed. This word “seed” is the Greek word “*sperma*,” literally meaning MALE SPERM. The Holy Spirit is actually God the Father’s spiritual, LITERAL sperm – IMPARTING SPIRITUAL LIFE ETERNAL, AND MAKING US HIS CHILDREN!

This is why Jesus said He would not leave us Fatherless – because the Holy Spirit, the Holy Seed, makes God, our personal Father (John 14:17-18).

The apostle John also referred to God’s marvelous Holy Spirit as the “seed” of God. I think you’ll particularly enjoy these translations:

1 John 3:9 Whoever has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him, and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God. (Darby)

1 John 3:9 Whoever is a child of God does not continue to sin, for God's very nature is in him; and because God is his Father, he cannot continue to sin. (TEV)

The Greek verbiage is 1 John 3:9 is *PRACTICE*. It's not that a person with God's Spirit *cannot* sin – it's that if they were to continue to *PRACTICE* sin they would quench God's Spirit from their lives! (When we do sin, we repent, learn from it, and with God's help, improve and overcome – that's different from practicing sin). A person with God's Spirit no longer ignores God's rule over their lives. Instead of continuing to practice sin, God's Spirit leads them to begin to *PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS*. To persistently practice sin will drive God's Spirit out of our lives, like it did Saul's!

God's Holy Spirit imparts the very nature of God into us and **WE BECOME THE FIRST FRUITS OF GOD** (Rom 8:23). This is a prime lesson from keeping the Feast of First Fruits.

Jer 2:3 "Israel was holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; 'Disaster will come upon them,' says the LORD."

Just as it is humanly possible to have a miscarriage, so it is also possible to quench the life-giving-Seed of God's Holy Spirit (1 Thes 5:19). Please don't do that! God's Spirit, the spirit of power, is also loving and gentle. It does not control. Evil spirits try to possess people. God's Spirit must be followed, as "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (1 Cor 14:32). Having God's Holy Spirit is not

enough; we must be *led* by it, which means we must follow it – pursue it! “For as many as are LED by the Spirit, these are the sons of God (Rom 8:14).”

When our Passover and High Priest provided the forgiveness and atonement to the Father for our sins (Heb 8:1-5), He (Yeshua the Christ) was then able to offer us up to God as the “firstfruits” of their increase. Please understand, a first fruit offering is made up of fresh newly-grown grain or produce. Christ could not be first fruits in that way, as He has lived forever (Rev 1:8).

Once we have this life-giving seed from our Father, if we appreciate and nurture it, we will become a “new person.” But we have our part to do. Paul told Timothy to “fan the flames” of the Holy Spirit, to keep it burning brightly (2 Tim 1:6). As the ten virgins of Matthew 25 discovered, “We must use it or lose it!” This is why John said a person with God’s Spirit cannot ignore that gift by continuing to practicing sin!

One of the conditions of receiving the Holy Spirit is to “REPENT” of sin and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Then God will help us live His new way of life, by aiding us with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 3:19). Repenting from sin is to acknowledge and cease from sin. Sin is the transgression of God’s Laws (1 John 3:4). After coming out of Egypt, Israel was brought to Mount Sinai and taught the true and faithful Laws of a Godly society (Ex 19 – 20), and Christ will help us learn and apply God’s loving Laws by living His life in us as we yield to Him (Gal 2:20). Paul said Christ actually lives in us!

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (KJV)

God's Laws, including His Statutes teach us how to show love toward God and neighbor (1 John 5:3, Rom 13:10). This is why both the Law and God's Spirit (which writes His Laws on our hearts) were given from God on Pentecost – as they are intricately tied together!

“YOU MUST ACT! If you don't take advantage of all that power and apply the brake, you 'crash and burn!' The same is true with the Holy Spirit. We must step out in obedient faith and APPLY – utilize – God's Holy Spirit through trusting obedience (Acts 5:32)!”
~ Don E. Haney

The Holy Spirit will write God's Statutes on our hearts (Ezek 36:26), if we appreciate and use it. We will soon see that when we yield to God's Spirit and avoid quenching it, we can be made “into another man” and be given “another heart.”

HOW EXACTLY DOES GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT WORK IN US?

I liken Christ living in us through the POWER of the Holy Spirit, to the power of hydraulics such as in a massive hydraulic earthmoving excavator or crane, or even like the brakes on your car.

Hydraulic systems, by themselves, CAN DO NOTHING. Neither can we, of ourselves, do anything. Once the operator of the excavator begins to pull the levers, an incredible tonnage of power is available to them! So it is with hydraulic brakes. A small 98-pound person can stop a loaded Mac Truck, with a little push on the brake pedal. The hydraulic advantage GREATLY MAGNIFIES the power of your foot on the brake. The result – you stop! It's really quite amazing. But what happens if YOU do nothing?

Here's how hydraulics work:

Pascal's law states that the pressure exerted on a liquid is the same in all directions. Because force equals pressure multiplied by area, forces can be greatly amplified by having liquid enclosed between two movable pistons of different area. If, for instance, one piston has a unit area of 1 and the other a unit area of 100 (or 100 times more area), a unit force of 1 applied to the smaller piston, is multiplied by the correspondingly larger area that the fluid is forced into – producing a force 100 times greater in the larger piston. This mechanical advantage can be used in hydraulic actuators such as those in the brake on an automobile where the relatively small force applied at the pedal is greatly multiplied to produce a large force at the brake shoe.

The result: You can stop a loaded 30-ton truck with only the light pressure applied by your foot!

What does this have to do with the Holy Spirit? MUCH! You see, unless YOU begin the process by exerting pressure on the brake pedal of your car – YOU WILL NOT

BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF ALL THAT BRAKING POWER! YOU MUST ACT! The power depends upon YOUR ACTIONS! If you do not apply the brake, you “crash and burn!” The same is true with the Holy Spirit. It will not do the work for us, we must step out in obedient faith and APPLY – utilize – God’s Holy Spirit through trusting obedience (Acts 5:32)!

A Christian could NEVER overcome sin and obey God by his own power, but he can, if he will use the POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! God’s Holy Spirit STRENGTHENS our power of character. It leads us, but God has made it subject to us (1 Cor 14:32)!

God’s Spirit is the Spirit of self-control – empowering us (1 Tim 1:7) like a massive hydraulic system giving the extra power we need to compensate for our weaknesses. Since God Has put the Spirit in subjection to us, we must ACTIVELY follow it, in order for it to be positively productive in our lives (Rom 8:14).

Isn’t that what Paul said: *“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me” (Phil 4:13)(KJV).*

Notice the TWO separate parts of this sentence – BOTH taking credit for the accomplishments! Paul said, “I can do all things.” But Paul also said “Christ who strengthens me.”

Christ made PAUL STRONGER, but He did not do the work for Paul! That’s why Paul shared in the credit for His progress by saying “I CAN...(Phil 4:13)”, And so can we, through Christ, if we too obediently apply God’s Spirit. I

hope, by God's help, that we are getting this, as it is crucial!

Paul said, "I can do..." It required Paul's effort. He had to be the initiator of the good works! THEN, God would help by strengthening Paul!

No, we can't do it of our own power. But if we don't hit the brake pedal, we will crash and burn! Our part is to take the first step and the responsibility for change. The GRACE OF GOD IS NOT LICENSE TO SIN (Rom 6:1)!

To simply say, "I yield," is not enough, for God's Word *does not* say that as many as *HAVE* the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. It says, "*as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.*"

YES, by all means, we do need to yield to God. God accomplishes all good things. BUT GODLY CHARACTER requires our active participation! We must ACT, if we want our salvation to be assured!

*2 Peter 1:3 as His divine power (Holy Spirit) has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature (Holy Seed), having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,
6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,*

7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

We must USE God's Spirit to develop self-discipline. As we "persevere" in by changing our *practices*, we will abound with fruits of godliness, kindness and godly love (2 Pet 1:6-7). As we follow God's Spirit into this kind of growth, our entrance in the Kingdom of God will be assured (2 Pet 1:11)!

Peter continues in verses 10 – 12:

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things,...

Peter was not negligent in reminding God's people of their need to develop Godly character. Fellow disciples, neither will I be negligent in this way. We must USE God's Spirit with "diligence" adding to our "faith" the quality of "virtue and to virtue knowledge." This is what we have been doing, adding "virtue" and "knowledge," by studying and teaching the knowledge and precious Truth of Pentecost, both how to number it, and what it means, and about God's precious Holy Spirit! As Peter said, we are to USE God's Spirit to develop "self-control (verse 6)."

Paul taught Timothy that God's Spirit was the Spirit of power, and of "self-control" or "self-discipline."

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (NLT)

Paul said this process of character development produces the hope in us which disappoints neither God nor us!

**“Christ empowered PAUL. He did not do the work for Paul! That’s why Paul shared in the credit for His progress by saying ‘I CAN...(Phil 4:13)’, and so can we, through Christ, if we too obediently apply God’s Spirit.”
~Don E. Haney**

*Rom 5:3 “...knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.
5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Those who preach licentiousness would have you believe God’s laws are too hard, and therefore you are freed, by Christ’s blood, from obeying them! **JUST THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE!** Rather than doing away with God’s law, Christ came to empower us – to enable us to obey and please God with the help of His Spirit! But we must **ACT!**

GOD GIVES HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIM (ACTS 5:32)

The action on our part is clearly evident from Acts 5:32, “God gives His Holy Spirit to those WHO OBEY HIM.” Once you begin to obey, that’s like your foot on the brake pedal. THEN, God gives His Holy Spirit to help us follow through and complete what He has started in us. Once we begin to obey, He gives us the Holy Spirit, empowering us to obey more completely.

- God didn’t save Daniel from the lion’s den, until Daniel’s obedience to God caused him to be thrown in!
- God did not save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, from the fiery furnace UNTIL AFTER they demonstrated their obedience to the 2nd Commandment.
- God does not give His Holy Spirit UNTIL AFTER repentance and belief in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Remember the scripture says: “The spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets (1 Cor 14:32).”

CHRIST LIVES IN US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

One more thing to realize: It has been shown above that the Holy Spirit is called the “sperma” or seed of God. How is this seed implanted?

1 Pet 1:23 Being born again, (“gennao” = beget) not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word (“Logos”) of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (KJV)

Who is the Logos? Who is the LIVING Word, the living Logos?

John 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, was the Word of God – the “LOGOS.” That is why Paul said “Christ lives in me (Gal 2:20). Jesus is the seed of the Father sent into us. He is a Spirit, and He is the Son of God! We need to realize this is a great truth.

God’s principle is that each seed reproduce after its kind; He said, “cattle after the cattle kind” “birds after the bird kind” etc., and then God (Elohim – the plural form) said: “Let Us make man in Our image and in Our likeness (Gen 1:26-27). As part of the very seed, Christ has His part in that creation – for God said “let US...” The creation is yet continuing by the giving and growth of God’s “sperma” – His Holy Seed – in us!

Is that seed growing and producing spiritual fruits in you? Each year, on the 2nd Day of Unleavened Bread, do you have “fresh growth” to be “offered up” to God? Each Pentecost, do you rekindle the fire of God’s Spirit that

writes His laws upon our hearts, and thus offer up “spiritual fruits” to God?

Do you USE God’s Holy Spirit? Or are you like the man who wasn’t willing to throw his talent away, but neither was he willing to put forth the effort to INVEST and USE IT. Instead, he BURIED IT, keeping it around for later (Matt 25:14-28). Growth and character take time. Let’s redeem the time, friends!

HOW WE CAN QUENCH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1Thes 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

How can we quench (literally “extinguish”) God’s Spirit in our lives? How do we “quench” Satan’s spirit? Answer: The nurtured seed grows! Just as we can starve out God’s wonderful Holy Spirit from our lives, so also as we starve out Satan’s influence.

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (KJV)

We quench Satan by our faith in God, and then by ACTING on that faith by “practicing righteousness” (1 John 3:7). We can quench God’s Spirit in the same way – by a continual LACK of faith, and LACK of religious PRACTICING OF GOD’S TRUTH. Those who practice the works of the flesh, will not inherit the Kingdom of God

(Gal 5:19-21). Those who practice the works of the Spirit will inherit the Kingdom of God (Gal 6:22-23, 2 Pet 1).

We quench God's Spirit *OVER TIME*, that is, by persistently suppressing our conscience against what we know to be God's will – and doing our will instead.

If we FOLLOW God's Spirit, it can transform us into "another man," (a better more godly man), and it can give us "another heart," (a converted heart). It's AWESOME! Listen to what the prophet told King Saul would happen to him, when he received the precious gift of God's Holy Spirit. Then we'll cover the sorrowful and unnecessary way that Saul repeatedly quenched (doused) out the fire of God's Holy Spirit, until it was completely extinguished:

1 Sam 10:6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.

8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

9 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

God had given Saul some of His precious Spirit, and WOW! It turned Saul into another man, and gave him another heart! That is so wonderful!

So what went wrong? Why did Saul later lose the priceless Holy Spirit? Even more importantly, what could cause YOU, dear friends, to lose God's loving Holy Spirit?
Answer: A lack of repentance and by PERSISTENTLY SINNING.

Ezek 14:13 "Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, ("grievously" (KJV)) I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it."

Commentaries agree that grievous sins differ from other sins, in that they are persistent and unrepented of sins, even against God's warnings.

God's Spirit should be bringing positive CHANGE and growth into our lives. But, eventually, the process of repeatedly quenching God's Spirit and ignoring God's Words can take its toll, and God could take back His LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT! Don't ignore God, His Laws, His Testimonies or any of His Words! Doing so CAN KILL YOU! The fire of spiritual zeal can be doused and put out or it can be allowed to simply burn out! Trees that repeatedly – year after year even after being fertilized – do not produce fruit will be burned (Matt 3:10). God is patient, but He is not mocked (Gal 6:7).

Consider the PERSISTENT and HABITUAL sins of King Saul. When faced with his sins, instead of repenting like David did, Saul consistently made excuses and tried to lie to God and His prophets while and continued to do his own will (2 Sam.12:13),.

- Saul didn't obey God in the matter of waiting for Samuel to make the offerings. 1 Sam 13:8-14
- Saul didn't obey God in the matter of the Amalekites or their livestock ...1 Sam 15:1-11
- Worse – Saul repeatedly tried to argue with Samuel and God to justify his disobedience.
- Saul's repentance was a false repentance, not based upon works that demonstrated true repentance, and not repentance from his heart.

Saul only had PARTIAL obedience and partial repentance. That attitude cost him dearly!

Now notice how this kind of PERSISTENT SINNING – PERSISTENTLY QUENCHING GOD'S SPIRIT and quenching one's conscience can bring A TERRIBLE FATE:

1 Sam 16:13 "...and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him."

Friends, this need never happen to any of us! God's Spirit is the Spirit of power, all right. But, it cannot be hidden in a napkin, and it ought not be quenched. God's Spirit is fluid. IT MUST BE APPRECIATED AND USED! "Still waters go stagnant!"

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

I'm sure we need or need more of God's loving, precious Holy Spirit – the very Nature of our Father – the very sperm of God, making Him our AWESOME DAD! HALLELUJAH! Praise the LORD our Great Father!

- We have learned from the Scriptures that God's Holy Spirit comes from the Father.
- We've learned that Christ LIVES IN US through the Holy Spirit.
- We've learned that because of the Holy Spirit we are not orphans – we're not left Fatherless.
- We've learned that the Holy Spirit is a SPIRIT OF POWER which teaches, guides, and comforts us.
- We've learned that the Holy Spirit MUST BE FOLLOWED. We're led by it, but it is subject to us. Not all to whom it has been given continue to appreciate it – and not all continue to follow it!

- We've learned that the Holy Spirit **REQUIRES OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION**, in order for it to effectively lead us into growth and overcoming, much like the massive power of hydraulic brake systems. It empowers **OUR EFFORTS**. But without our foot on the brake, we crash and burn. **AFTER** we begin the process of obeying God He gives us His Life-Giving Spirit.
- We've learned that we can do **NOTHING** of ourselves – but neither will God do it for us without our active participation.
- We've learned that “Faith without works is dead!”
- We've learned that God's Holy Spirit can “TURN US INTO ANOTHER MAN” and “GIVE US ANOTHER HEART”! WOW, that's inspiring!
- Yet, we have also learned that even then, because “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (1 Cor 14:32)” – in our personal lives, God's Spirit is subject to us. Just as Saul **QUENCHED** the Holy Spirit from his life, so can we! Don't do it!
- We've learned, with an abundance of proof, how to count Pentecost properly.
- We've learned that Pentecost was to be numbered in anticipation daily, from the 2nd Day of Unleavened Bread, for 7 full weeks – culminating with the beautiful day of the original Giving of God's Holy Law and Spirit – begetting God's sons and daughters with His Holy Seed – and making us His free children indeed!

- We've seen that Israel and God's Church are called the firstfruits.

We have covered much about Pentecost and the Loving and Powerful Holy Seed - the "Sperma" from the Father – His marvelous powerful Holy Spirit through which God projects Himself, His Love and His Will.

Now what will you do with this precious knowledge?