

# **A Summary of Lessons on the Holy Spirit**

## **1. Introduction**

- a. This is the last in a series of eleven lessons concerning the Holy Spirit. The ten lessons we have covered include:
  - i. Introduction to the Holy Spirit.
  - ii. The Work of the Holy Spirit in Conversion
  - iii. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
  - iv. Filled with the Holy Spirit
  - v. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - vi. The Work of the Holy Spirit
  - vii. Sins Against the Holy Spirit
  - viii. The Leading of the Holy Spirit
  - ix. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
  - x. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- b. My prayer, my aim is to let the scriptures speak on this study – a subject that has been challenging, even confusing, to many people.
- c. Though it is not an easy subject, it is needed because of the diversity of views held by people.
  - i. Some make claims that the Holy Spirit leads them in some particular way.
  - ii. Some base their faith upon what they believe the Spirit tells them.
  - iii. Contradictory beliefs indicate that something is not right.
- d. Part of the difficulty may be a failure to distinguish between the temporary work of the Spirit, which was unique to the beginning of the church, and the ongoing work of the Spirit, which will continue until Christ returns.

## **2. The Holy Spirit Then**

- a. Was promised
  - i. by God (via Joel)
    - 1. Joel 2:28-29 - [28](#) “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. [29](#) Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
  - ii. by John the Baptist
    - 1. Matt. 3:11-12 – [11](#) “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will

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baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [12](#) His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

2. Mark 1:8 – [8](#) I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

3. Luke 3:16 - [16](#) John answered them all, saying, “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.

iii. by Jesus Himself

1. Acts 1:4-5 - [4](#) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; [5](#) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

iv. The fulfillment of the promise occurred on Pentecost

1. Acts 2:1-22, 32-33 -

b. The Work of the Spirit

i. As defined by John the Baptist – Matt. 3:11-12

1. To serve as a winnowing fan in the hand of the Lord

2. Separating the wheat from the chaff, gathering the wheat into the barn

ii. As defined by Jesus to His apostles

1. To guide them into all the truth

a. John 16:12-13 - [12](#) “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13](#) 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.

b. By teaching them all things

i. John 14:26 - [26](#) 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.

c. By reminding them what Jesus told them – John 14:26

d. By bearing witness together with the apostles

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- i. John 15:26-27 - [26](#) “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. [27](#) And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.
2. This the Spirit did through signs and wonders, confirming the Word
  - a. Mark 16:17-18 – [17](#) And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; [18](#) they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
  - b. Heb. 2:2-4 – [2](#) For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, [3](#) how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, [4](#) while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.
3. To convict the world
  - a. John 16:7-11 – [7](#) Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. [8](#) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9](#) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [10](#) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; [11](#) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
    - i. Of sin – John 16:9 –
    - ii. Of righteousness – John 16:10 –
    - iii. Of judgment – John 16:11 –

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- b. This the Spirit did through the preaching of the gospel
  - i. Acts 24:24-25 - [24](#) After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. [25](#) And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.”
- c. The Blessings of the Spirit
  - i. The gift of the Spirit
    - 1. Promised to all who obey
      - a. Acts 2:38 – [38](#) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
      - b. Acts 5:32 – [32](#) And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
  - ii. The gifts of the Spirit
    - 1. Miraculous manifestations of the Spirit
      - a. 1 Cor. 12:1, 4-11 – [1](#) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ... [4](#) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5](#) and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6](#) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7](#) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [8](#) For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, [9](#) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, [10](#) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. [11](#) All these are empowered by one and

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the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

2. Imparted by the laying on of the apostles' hands
  - a. Acts 8:14-19 – [14](#) Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, [15](#) who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, [16](#) for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [17](#) Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. [18](#) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, [19](#) saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
  - b. Acts 19:1-7 – [1](#) And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. [2](#) And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." [3](#) And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." [4](#) And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." [5](#) On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6](#) And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. [7](#) There were about twelve men in all.
  - c. Rom. 1:11-12 – [11](#) For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— [12](#) that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.
  - d. 2 Tim. 1:6-7 – [6](#) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you

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through the laying on of my hands, [7](#) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

3. Enjoyed by some, but not all
  - a. Not all could heal, speak in tongues
    - i. 1 Cor. 12:29-30 – [29](#) Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30](#) Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
  - b. Some were "ungifted" (NASB)
    - i. 1 Cor. 14:16, 23 – [16](#) Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ... [23](#) If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?
4. For the benefit of all, not just the possessors of the gifts
  - a. To reveal the truth
    - i. 1 Cor. 14:6 – [6](#) Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?
  - b. To confirm the truth
    - i. 1 Cor. 14:22 – [22](#) Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.
5. Temporary in their duration
  - a. To cease when knowledge is complete
    - i. 1 Cor. 13:8-12 – [8](#) Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. [9](#) For we know in part and we prophesy in part, [10](#) but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. [11](#) When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I

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became a man, I gave up childish ways. [12](#)  
For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then  
face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall  
know fully, even as I have been fully  
known.

b. While faith, hope and love will remain

i. 1 Cor. 13:13 – [13](#) So now faith, hope, and  
love abide, these three; but the greatest of  
these is love.

d. The anointing of the Spirit

i. Spoken of by Paul

1. 2 Cor. 1:21-22 – [21](#) And it is God who establishes us with  
you in Christ, and has anointed us, [22](#) and who has also  
put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a  
guarantee.

ii. Spoken of by John

1. 1 John 2:20, 27 – [20](#) But you have been anointed by the  
Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ... [27](#) But the  
anointing that you received from him abides in you, and  
you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as  
his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true,  
and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

a. Enabling one to know all things

b. Not needing to be taught by anyone

iii. Probably referring to those who possessed the gifts of the Spirit

e. Many of these blessings were related to the process of revealing  
God's Word.

### 3. The Holy Spirit Now

a. The promise of the Spirit

i. Promised by Jesus

1. John 7:37-39 – [37](#) On the last day of the feast, the great  
day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let  
him come to me and drink. [38](#) Whoever believes in me,  
as<sup>f</sup> the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow  
rivers of living water.’” [39](#) Now this he said about the  
Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive,  
for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus  
was not yet glorified.

2. To all who believe in Him

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3. A special dispensation of the Spirit, unlike any before; therefore different from...
  - a. The miraculous workings of the Spirit
  - b. The normal influences through the Word
- ii. Promised by Peter
  1. Acts 2:38-39 – [38](#) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39](#) For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”
  2. Acts 5:32 – [32](#) And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
  3. To all who repent and are baptized
  4. To those who obey God
- iii. These promises of the Spirit relate to His indwelling and accompanying blessings.
- b. The work of the Spirit
  - i. To convict the world through the gospel
    1. To convict them of sin, righteousness and judgment
      - a. John 16:7-11 - [7](#) Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. [8](#) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9](#) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [10](#) concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; [11](#) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
    2. Done through the gospel
      - a. The instrument designed to produce faith
        - i. Rom. 10:17 – [17](#) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
        - ii. Col. 1:3-8 – [3](#) We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, [4](#) since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have



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for all the saints, [5](#) because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, [6](#) which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, [7](#) just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf [8](#) and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

b. God's power to save

- i. Rom. 1:16-17 – [16](#) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. [17](#) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
  - ii. 1 Cor. 1:18 – [18](#) For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
  - iii. 1 Thess. 2:13 – [13](#) And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.
  - iv. Heb. 4:12 – [12](#) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
  - v. James 1:21 – [21](#) Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- ii. To regenerate those who respond

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1. Saving them through the washing of regeneration (baptism)
  - a. Titus 3:4-7 – [4](#) But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5](#) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6](#) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7](#) so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
  - b. Acts 22:16 – [16](#) And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'
2. Causing them to be reborn, in conjunction with the Word
  - a. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 – [22](#) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23](#) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
- iii. To sanctify those who are saved
  1. A process begun when washed and justified
    - a. 1 Cor. 6:11 – [11](#) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
  2. A process that continues with the aid of the Word
    - a. John 17:17 – [17](#) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
    - b. Acts 20:32 – [32](#) And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
    - c. 1 Thess. 5:23 – [23](#) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
    - d. 2 Tim. 2:21 – [21](#) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a

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vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

- iv. This work of the Spirit is age-lasting, accomplished with the aid of blessings involving the Spirit
- c. The Blessings of the Spirit
  - i. The gift of the Spirit
    - 1. Acts 2:38-39 - [38](#) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39](#) For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”
    - 2. Acts 5:32 - [32](#) And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
  - ii. Indwelling the Christian
    - 1. Rom. 8:9-11 - [9](#) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10](#) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11](#) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus<sup>d</sup> from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
    - 2. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - [19](#) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20](#) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
  - iii. Enabling us to overcome the flesh
    - 1. Rom. 8:12-13 - [12](#) So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13](#) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
  - iv. Strengthening us in the inner man
    - 1. Eph. 3:14-21 - [14](#) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15](#) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16](#) that according to the riches of his

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glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17](#) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18](#) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19](#) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20](#) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21](#) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

2. Phil. 2:12-13 - [12](#) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13](#) for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
3. Phil. 4:13 - [13](#) I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

### v. Interceding in our behalf

1. Rom. 8:26-27 - [26](#) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. [27](#) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### vi. Serving as a seal and an earnest

#### 1. A seal marking us as belonging to God

- a. Eph. 1:13 - [13](#) 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,
- b. Eph. 4:30 - [30](#) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- c. 2 Cor. 1:21-22 - [21](#) And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, [22](#) and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

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2. An earnest or guarantee as a promise of our inheritance
  - a. Eph. 1:14 - [14](#) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
  - b. 2 Cor. 1:22 - [22](#) and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
- vii. The fruit of the Spirit in our lives
  1. Leading those who walk in the Spirit
    - a. Gal. 5:16-18 - [16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17](#) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. [18](#) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
    - b. Rom. 8:5-6 - [5](#) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. [6](#) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
  2. Producing the graces of Christ-like conduct
    - a. Gal. 5:22-26 - [22](#) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](#) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24](#) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [25](#) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. [26](#) Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
  3. Engendering a deepening love for God as our Father
    - a. Gal. 4:6 - [6](#) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
    - b. Rom. 8:15-17 - [15](#) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" [16](#) The Spirit himself

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bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17](#) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### 4. Filling us with hope

- a. Rom. 15:1313 - [13](#) 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.

viii. These blessings the Spirit provides both internally (via His indwelling) and externally (via the Word of God)

## 4. Conclusion

- a. The Spirit's promise, work, and blessings at the **beginning** of the Christian age...
  - i. Included the necessary process of revealing and confirming God's Word
  - ii. Was accomplished by special offices (apostles, prophets) and gifts (signs, wonders)
  - iii. Once the Word was fully revealed, the miraculous manifestations came to an end
- b. The Spirit's promise, work, and blessings **throughout** the Christian age...
  - i. Includes the important process of convicting, regenerating, and sanctifying souls
  - ii. Is accomplished by preaching the gospel, and the gift of the Spirit given to those who obey
  - iii. While not a miraculous manifestation, it is a Divine operation nonetheless
- c. Many challenge the notion that miraculous manifestations of the Spirit ceased when the Word was completely revealed and confirmed...
  - i. But the burden of proof rests upon those who affirm that such gifts continue
  - ii. There are many people in numerous health care institutions who could be helped through such miraculous manifestations.
  - iii. All they need to do is to demonstrate that they do indeed possess the gifts
  - iv. For such was the purpose of the gifts, to convince unbelievers!

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1. 1 Cor. 14:22 - [22](#) Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

d. In reacting to many false claims about the Holy Spirit, we must be careful not to...

- i. Quench the Spirit by denying His work in our salvation
- ii. Grieve the Spirit by failing to seek His aid in living holy lives

e. Closing thoughts

- i. Gal. 5:25 - [25](#) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- ii. Rom. 15:13 - [13](#) 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.
- iii. 2 Cor. 13:14 - [14](#) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.