

SPIRIT-
EMPOWERED
CLASSICS

The Spirit Himself

*This powerful study of the person and work of the
Holy Spirit can dramatically change your life.*



RALPH M. RIGGS

SPIRIT-
EMPOWERED
CLASSICS

The Spirit Himself



RALPH M. RIGGS



Gospel Publishing House

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Scripture quotations marked ASV are from the American Standard Version, 1901.

Scripture quotations marked RV are from the Revised Version, 1885.

Scripture quotations marked Moffatt are from *The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments, a New Translation*, by James Moffatt, 1922.

28th Printing 2015

© 1977, 1949 by Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri 65802-1894. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the copyright owner, except brief quotations used in connection with reviews in magazines or newspapers.

ISBN: 978-0-88243-590-9

Printed in the United States of America

THE SPIRIT HIMSELF

*beareth witness with our spirit, that we are
children of God. . . . And in like manner
the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we
know not how to pray as we ought; but*

THE SPIRIT HIMSELF

*maketh intercession for us with groanings
which cannot be uttered.*

—Romans 8:16, 26, ASV



Preface

The ministers of the Pentecostal Movement have been so busy preaching the truths vouchsafed to them in these last days, that not many writers have taken time to set down in systematic form “these things which are most surely believed among us.” There are now thousands of students in our Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges who must be taught, among the doctrines of Christianity, the distinctive doctrines of our Church. Our ministers likewise are in need of additional material relating to our distinctive testimony. Our laymen, too, may profit by having a new book concerning Pentecostal doctrine. To all these we ascribe and dedicate the following pages.

The notes from which this book has been written were prepared as studies in “Pentecostal Truth” for use in the 1948 Michigan Ministers’ Seminar. To the ministers who constituted the class at this seminar goes credit for profitable discussion of the many matters which are dealt with herein.

We acknowledge assistance and guidance received from the authors mentioned in the Bibliography, many of whom we have quoted in these pages. Above all, to the Spirit Himself go our deepest gratitude and sincerest praise for the revelation of the truths which we believe He has granted us in this treatise.



Contents

Introduction	xiii
Paul's Defense and Ours; Pentecostal People Are Orthodox; They Are Counted Heretical; The Explanation; Our Appeal	
1. The Person of the Holy Spirit.....	1
Scriptural Proof of the Trinity; Reasonable Proof of the Trinity; Personality of the Holy Spirit; Difference Between Personality and Corporeity; Need for Genuine Faith in His Personality; Mistake to Use "It" with Reference to the Holy Spirit; Deity of the Holy Spirit	
2. The Names of the Holy Spirit	7
He Is Humble and Self-Effacing; "Holy Spirit" Preferred to "Holy Ghost"; Four Major Names: Holy Spirit: Emphasis on Holiness; Spirit of God: Draws Men to Christ, Reveals Truth, Guides, Disciplines; Spirit of Christ: Imparts Christ-Life, Produces Christ-Fruits, Reveals Things of Christ, Imparts Power of Christ, Takes Place of Christ; Comforter: Paraclete, Communion of the Holy Spirit	
3. The Seven Spirits of God	17
There Is One Spirit; There Are Seven Spirits; The Spirit of Grace; The Spirit of Life: The Spirit of Life in Our Bodies; The Spirit of Adoption; The Spirit of Holiness: Holiness Is a Spirit; The Spirit of Supplications; The Spirit of Truth: Teaching, the Work of the Spirit; The Spirit of Glory	

4.	The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament	27
	Throughout the Old Testament; At Creation; With Antediluvians; Joseph and Bezaleel; Moses, Joshua, the Seventy Elders, and the Judges; Saul and David; The Prophets; The Holy Spirit Prophesied; He Was with All Israel; Prediction of General Outpouring; Messiah to Be Spirit-Filled; Summary	
5.	The Holy Spirit in the Time of Christ	33
	At the Birth of John the Baptist and of Jesus; In Jesus' Ministry; Prediction by John the Baptist of General Outpouring; Christ's Prediction of the Spirit's Coming; Christ Breathed the Holy Spirit Upon the Disciples.	
6.	The Holy Spirit in Conversion	37
	The Holy Spirit Begins the Process of Conversion: He Completes the Process; Other Descriptive Terms for Conversion; All Believers Have the Holy Spirit; John 20:22: "With You and Shall Be In You."	
7.	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit Distinguished from Conversion	41
	All Believers May Be Baptized in the Spirit; Christ's Relation to the Spirit; The Disciples' Relation to the Spirit; The Samaritan Converts' Relation to the Spirit; They Later Received the Holy Spirit; This Experience More Wonderful Than the Miracles; Paul's Relation to the Spirit; The Ephesian Disciples' Relation to the Spirit: They Believe and Then Receive the Spirit; Relation of the Converts on the Day of Pentecost to the Holy Spirit; Feasts of Passover and Pentecost as Types; The Blood and the Oil as Types; The Oil In and Upon the Meal Offering as a Type; 1 Corinthians 12:13; A Better Exegesis of This Passage; Statements by Torrey, Cumming, and Murray; Summary and Confirmation.	
8.	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit—Distinctive Names and Description	53
	Salvation Described by Different Terms; The Spirit's Coming Likewise Described; Different Terms for One Experience; Receiving the Spirit; Falling Upon Them; the Figure of Baptism; The Figure Applied; Almost Baptized; The Figure of Baptism in a Cloud; This Figure Applied; Filled.	

9.	The Baptism in the Spirit—Symbols Describing It....	61
	Anointing: Jesus’ Anointing; Our Anointing; Sealing: Christ’s Sealing and Ours; An Earnest; Other Symbols: Fire; Wind; Water; Rain and Dew; Dove	
10.	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit—Its Nature and Importance	69
	The Coming of the Holy Spirit; The Coming of Power from on High; The Coming of Our Head and Leader; The Coming of Divine Equipment; Its Importance	
11.	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit—the Initial, Physical Evidence	73
	Need for an Evidence; Prophecy, the Evidence before Pentecost; Instances of Prophecy; Tongues, the Evidence at Pentecost; Tongues Are Continuation of Prophecy as Evidence; The Evidence at Cornelius’ Household; The Evidence in the Experience of Paul, the Ephesians, and the 1 Corinthians; Tongues, the Evidence Today.	
12.	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit—Available for Us Today.....	79
	If Old Testament Saints, Why Not We? Predictions of General Outpouring Included All; Outpouring to Come in These Latter Days; Quotation from Robert C. McQuilkin; The Baptism in the Spirit for the Whole Church Age; Testimony of A. J. Gordon and A. Mahan; Sign Value of the Gifts; Signs Are Needed Today; Gifts Are for All Who Believe; Tongues Shall Cease When Jesus Comes	
13.	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit—How to Receive It.....	89
	Let Us Now Receive; We Must First Be Saved; We Must Obey; Rejectors Are Not Obedient; We Must Ask; We Must Ask Importunately; We Must Believe; Elements of Faith; Faith Rejoices; Faith Receives; Apostles Prayed and Praised; Samaritans Believed and Were Prayed For; Paul Prayed and Was Prayed For; Cornelius’ Household Received Suddenly; Ephesians Believed and Were Prayed For	

14. The Gifts of the Spirit	99
We Should Study Spiritual Gifts; Gifts Classified; Wisdom Greatest in Its Class; Faith Greatest in Its Class; Prophecy Greatest in Its Class; Prophecy Greatest of All; Teaching and Exhortation; Ministering, Ruling, Giving, Showing Mercy; Other References to Gifts; Gifts of the Spirit Distinguished from the Gift of the Spirit; All Believers Receive His Nature; Gifts Not an Evidence of Holiness; Gifts Not to Be Despised	
15. The Word of Knowledge	107
Knowledge Before Wisdom and Teaching; An Illustration of This; Why the “Word” of Knowledge? God’s Knowledge; Knowledge of God; Knowledge of Happenings; This Gift Imparted by the Spirit	
16. The Word of Wisdom	113
God’s Wisdom; God’s Advice; Personal Guidance; Anointed Preaching; Church Government; Personal Revelation; Holy Spirit Defense; Wisdom Is Pure	
17. The Discerning of Spirits.....	119
Important Part of Knowledge; Two Realms of Spirits; Satan’s Strategy; Demon Possession; Instances of the Operation of This Gift; Peter Also Had This Gift; Last-Day Demons	
18. The Gifts of Healings.....	123
Gifts of Power; Healings Most Frequent of Power Gifts; It Is Jesus’ Power to Heal; Sickness Is a Result of the Fall; Healing Is in the Atonement; Operations of the Gifts of Healings	
19. The Gift of Faith.....	127
Faith Is the Power by Which God Works; We May Have God’s Faith; The Gift Defined; Elijah Had This Gift; Elisha Had This Gift; Paul Had This Gift	
20. Workings of Miracles	131
Miracles by Jesus and by Those That Heard Him; Miracles by Paul and Peter; A Miracle Defined; Instances of Miracles; Relation of Miracles to Holy Spirit Baptism and to Christ; Sovereign Miracles	

21.	The Gift of Prophecy	135
	Gifts of Utterance; The Words of God; The Expression of the Spirit; Prophecy, the Greatest Gift; The Voice of the Holy Spirit; Prophecy Defined; The Elements of Prophecy: Edification; Exhortation; Comfort; Prediction; Examples of Prediction; Infallible Prophecy of the Scriptures; Fallible Prophecy of the Churches; Instances of Fallible Prophecy; Fallible Prophecy at Thessalonica; We Should judge Messages; Rule for Judging Messages; Gifts Subject to Personal Control; Prophecy Not for Guidance	
22.	Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues	145
	God Created Gift of Tongues; This Gift Indicates Love for All Nations; Pentecost Versus Babel; Tongues for a Sign; Tongues for Prayer; Tongues for Messages; Interpretation of Tongues Defined; The Nature of This Gift; Its Importance	
23.	The Holy Spirit in the Church—General.....	151
	Scripture History of the Holy Spirit Resumed; The Advent of the Spirit; Like Christ's First Advent; He Fills His Temple; He Begins His Ministry; His Ministry Continues; He Operates Through the Church; A Triumphant One-Generation Victory	
24.	The Holy Spirit in the Church—Local.....	157
	He Draws the Saints Together; Order of Worship; The Holy Spirit Provides Workers and Operates Through Them; Holy Spirit Preaching; Holy Spirit Singing; "Praying in the Holy Ghost;" Concerted Praying; Prophesying; Lifting up Holy Hands; Clapping Hands; Dancing in the Spirit; Loud Shouting; Prostration; Let All Things Be Done to Edify	
25.	The Holy Spirit in the Future.....	167
	Formation of Christ's Body; Ascension of the Body of Christ; Into the Fullness of Glory; The Holy Spirit's Work During the Tribulation; The Holy Spirit's Work During the Millennium; The Ultimate Triumph	
	Appendix A: Bibliography.....	173

Appendix B: Bible References to the Holy Spirit	175
Appendix C: Index of Subjects	179
Appendix D: Index of Texts	183



Introduction

Paul's Defense and Ours

“Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee.” “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers” (Acts 23:6; 24:14). Thus Paul defended himself before the Roman court to which he had been haled by his co-religionists. Before the bar of public opinion, the Pentecostal people have been arraigned by their fellow religionists of modern days. Like Paul they answer, “After the most straitest sect of our religion we have lived” (Acts 2; 6:5). Are they Christians? So are we. Are they Protestants? So are we. Are they Fundamentalists? So are we. Are they sincere, devout, and intense in the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the only Savior and Hope of the world? We (we speak foolishly) are more so (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:22–23).

Pentecostal People Are Orthodox

Among Pentecostal people there is not the slightest wavering concerning the divine authorship of the Scriptures. There is not one doubter among them concerning the creation of the world and all life by the fiat of God, as over against the popular heresy of evolution. The eternal deity of Christ, the only begotten Son of God; His virgin birth; His miracles; His vicarious death on Calvary; His physical resurrection from the

dead, are all firmly believed by all Pentecostal people. The one defection that has come to our ranks has grown out of an over-emphasis of the doctrine of the deity of Christ. There is a group which is Pentecostal which now holds that there is only one person in the Godhead and His name is Jesus. This departure from orthodoxy is deplored by the great majority of Pentecostal people and fellowship has been withdrawn from this erring group. With this one exception, the Pentecostal ranks have been kept pure and unsullied by variation from standard orthodoxy; and the Pentecostal people can be said to be most intense and wholehearted in their worship, in their separation from the world, and in their evangelistic and missionary zeal.

They Are Counted Heretical

Yet, it is “the way which they (others) call heresy.” It is the sect that is everywhere spoken against (Acts 28:22). “Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her” (Jeremiah 12:9). Estrangement, ostracism, and outright antagonism and attack have been its experience in the midst of its fellow Evangelicals. This is not out of line with that which the Bible describes as being the lot of the righteous. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). “Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you” (Luke 6:26). Our only concern is, lest it be our own faults for which we suffer, rather than purely for our religious faith and practice.

The Explanation

The reason for this estrangement and opposition lies largely in the fear of what is called emotionalism and in the lack of information concerning the doctrines of Pentecostals.

Caricatures and excesses have also occurred, unfortunately, and these have caused a reaction which has naturally been unfavorable. All of this serves as a cloud to hide the work of God from those who should appreciate it, and constitutes a stumbling stone and rock of offense to shut out those who are not hungry enough for God to be willing to go without the camp bearing His reproach.

Our Appeal

There are many thousands who are sincere followers of our Lord and who believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but who are strangers to the Pentecostal experience. It is to be regretted that the joy and power of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and subsequent blessings have not yet been entered into by these friends. To them we extend a sincere hand of encouragement and assistance. We commend to their consideration the study of the Holy Spirit which follows. We ask only that they search the Scriptures to see if these things be so.

CHAPTER 1



The Person of the Holy Spirit

Scriptural Proof of the Trinity

No one can be a consistent believer of the Bible without holding the doctrine of the tri-unity of the Godhead. In addition to the numberless references to the different persons of the Godhead which are found throughout the whole Word of God, there are certain particular passages which refer to all three members of the Trinity. When Jesus was baptized in Jordan, John saw the *Holy Spirit* descending and heard a *voice from heaven* saying, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16–17). All three members of the Trinity are seen in the simultaneous yet distinct existence and operation. Jesus said, in John 14:16, “*I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter.*” The three persons here mentioned cannot be denied as existing concurrently, and yet as different persons. The baptismal formula in Matthew 28:19, the apostolic benediction found in 2 Corinthians 13:14, and the references in Acts 2:32–33 and Acts 10:38 are further Scriptures representing all three members of the Holy Trinity.

Reasonable Proof of the Trinity

An additional proof of the existence of three persons in the Godhead is found in the fact that God is so complete, contains in His character such a wide range and broad compass of all virtues, and is such a perfect example in every respect, that it is necessary that there be a plurality of persons in the Godhead in order to contain and express it all. Strength, courage, humility, love, faith, hope, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, righteousness, holiness, power, wisdom, truth, comfort, faithfulness, authority, companionship, service—all find perfect embodiment and expression in God. If the Godhead were only the sovereign Ruler, He could not have vacated His throne to become a helpless baby and to demonstrate the perfect humility which is inherent in His nature and which He manifested when He girded Himself and washed the disciples' feet. If there were no God the Son, then God the Father would have had no opportunity to have loved from the foundation of the world. In reality He could not even be the God of Love that He is, for there can be no love of others if there is no expression of it, and there could have been no expression of God's love had there not been other members of the Trinity upon whom to bestow it. Loving one's creatures who are His handiwork is a different kind of love than that which God expresses in His love for His "fellow," the Smitten Shepherd (Zechariah 13:7); and there was a period of eternity in which there were no creatures (John 1:1–2; Colossians 1:15–17). How could He ever have descended to the "blackout" of Calvary, if there had been no God the Father in whom the Son could trust and who raised Him from the dead? These considerations are themselves proofs of the fact that there are distinct persons in the great infinite Godhead.

Personality of the Holy Spirit

This membership of the Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity is itself proof of the Personality of the Holy Spirit. Additional proof of His personality is found in the fact that the attributes of personality are manifested by Him. “He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is *the mind* of the Spirit” (Romans 8:27). “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man as He *will*” (1 Corinthians 12:11). “Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30). “But they rebelled and vexed His Holy Spirit” (Isaiah 63:10). Thus we see that He has mind, will, and emotions.

Personal activities are also ascribed to Him. He strives with sinners, Genesis 6:3; He teaches, John 14:26; He testifies of Christ, John 15:26; He reproves, John 16:8; He guides, John 16:13; Romans 8:14; He comforts, Acts 9:31; He helps our infirmities, Romans 8:26; He intercedes for the saints, Romans 8:26; He searches the deep things of God, 1 Corinthians 2:10; He sanctifies, Romans 15:16; He witnesses, Romans 8:16; and He commands, Acts 16:6–7. He is susceptible to personal treatment: He can be lied to, Acts 5:3; He can be resisted, Acts 7:51; He can be blasphemed, Matthew 12:31–32; He can be grieved, Ephesians 4:30; and He can be quenched, 1 Thessalonians 5:19.

Difference Between Personality and Corporeity

There are those who have difficulty in distinguishing between personality (being a person) and corporeity (having a body). They cannot understand or believe that anything which is invisible and intangible, and does not have a body, can be a person. Jesus said, “A spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have” (Luke 24:39). He also said, “God is a Spirit”

(John 4:24). It is recorded, “No man hath seen God at any time” (John 1:18). Thus God exists as an invisible Spirit without flesh and bones. But the Creator and Ruler of a universe of persons must be Himself a person. The Holy Spirit is a spirit, like God the Father, and so the Holy Spirit is also a person. His omnipresence is an impossible conception if we confine Him to a body. Having the faculties and attributes of a person constitutes a person, whether or not that person customarily resides in a body.

Need for Genuine Faith in His Personality

Although accepted perfunctorily by orthodox Christians everywhere as theologically correct and true, the fact of the personality of the Holy Spirit needs emphasis and practical acceptance in the minds and hearts of believers. “I believe in the Holy Ghost” is easily repeated in church ceremony as creedal faith, but the truth is not so easy to comprehend or practice in one’s personal life. The Holy Spirit IS a person; He is real. “I will pray the Father, and He shall give you ANOTHER Comforter, that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:16). As Jesus had been real among them so that they heard Him with their ears, saw Him with their eyes, and handled Him with their hands, so now the Comforter was to take His place among them and, though invisible, be just as real a personal companion, friend, teacher, and guide.

Mistake To Use “It” with Reference to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit must never be considered merely as a blessing, a feeling, or an influence. How far short of the full truth it is to refer to Him as “It.” There are two verses in the