

## Searching the Scriptures / 34 / Some Characteristics Of The Holy Spirit / Part 4

In our study today we want to consider some of the various characteristics of God the Holy Spirit, Who is one Person of the Triune Godhead, as He relates to each of His children:

- 1. He Causes the Christian to Believe and to be Sanctified (Set Apart for the Service of God)**
- 2. He Moves the Child of God to Obedience**
- 3. He Gives Us Access to the Father**
- 4. He is the Down Payment and Seal of Our Salvation**

### **He Causes the Christian to Believe and to be Sanctified**

“Belief”, or “faith”, is indeed a gift that God bestows on all of His children in mercy, since the recipients of this wonderful gift are totally undeserving of it. Heb 12:14 says *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”* We learn from this verse that in order to enter Heaven we must be “holy”; and the only way we can become holy is by being clothed with the holiness, or righteousness, of God Himself. The Greek word for “holiness” is translated as “sanctification” in 2 The 2:13, *“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”* It is vital to understand that man is born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins, and this deadness prevents him from doing anything in order to become saved. Thus, salvation is an impossibility for man – except by the wonderful grace of God alone.

### **He Moves the Child of God to Obedience**

When someone becomes saved he is a “new creature” (creation) in Christ, and God works in his life *“to will and to do of his good pleasure”* according to Php 2:13. This means that he will increasingly have a genuine motivation to obey the Bible, as we read in Rom 12:1-2, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

This means that when God redeems somebody, he acquires a new set of thoughts, words, and actions, which could be compared to learning a new language in a different culture. Tit 3:5 informs us that this renewing has to do with salvation and is the work of God the Holy Spirit: *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”*

### **He Gives Us Access to the Father**

We find these words in Eph 2:18, *“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”* In fact, the Holy Spirit is intimately involved in the Christian’s prayer life, as we see from Rom 8:26-27, *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* This gracious fellowship with the Father by means of prayer is such a wonderful comfort, since quite often we find ourselves worried and beset by our own sin as well as

the problems we face on a daily basis. However God’s Word authoritatively announces in Php 4:6-7, *“Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

### **He is the Down Payment and Seal of Our Salvation**

Last, but certainly not least, each Christian has the incomparable awareness that his body is now the temple of God. As incredible as that may seem, a true believer has become the dwelling-place of the living God, as Rom 5:9 teaches: *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”* The true believer has also been given the Holy Spirit as the “earnest”, or down payment, of their salvation, as we read in 2 Cor 1:22, *“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”* 2 Cor 5:1-5 also brings out that our physical bodies are merely “tabernacles”, or tents that are used briefly during our earthly pilgrimage (like staying in a motel); but our eternal home is God Himself: *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”*

May God give us a greater sensitivity to the Sword of the Spirit – God’s Word – as we strive for greater obedience and humility in our lives.