

ABIDEE

Magazine for Adventist Pastor's Wife - Dutch Caribbean Union - Year 2022



Holy Spirit

OUR FRIEND

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This magazine is especially prepared to stimulate spiritual vitality, to nurture emotional growth and to encourage every pastor's wife of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao to live a balanced healthy life, and encourage them to be a good christian witness in the home and community, to be a wonderful mother for their children, and a big support for their husbands in the ministry.

NOTE: All unnamed article is contribution of the editor

HE IS:

- ★ Always present
- ★ Was always present
- ★ Will be present during all eternity without end!



"The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of his people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail.

The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.

It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature.

Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 671).

That each article may carry us to the crisis of surrender to our Friend, the Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully:

Anna Maria Manuela Croes

Promise of the:



Holy Spirit

¹ "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it.

Our heavenly Father is more willing to give his Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.

A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect.

Guided by the teachings of God's Word, with the manifestation of His Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home, they will be prepared to exert a healthful influence." (E.G. White, *True Revival, The Church's Greatest Need*, p. 9).

"When we speak of the Holy Spirit, we are not talking about a 'ghost.' We are talking about the fact that God touches our lives in the here and now. We are talking about the fact that He helps us to live above the double-sidedness of life, the mix of good and bad... (*Idem*, p.58)

Once we have seen that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is not about silliness or over-excitement but its an answer to the actual everyday problems of life, we must ask, How can I experience God's presence in my own life? How can I be touched by the Holy Spirit?

When the Holy Spirit takes over a life He brings about a state of 'repentance,' a silent daily concern over the pride, cussedness, and greed of the heart... The Spirit works a complete change of mind and attitude. There is a complete turning around— from 'injustice toward justice, from inhumanity to humanity, from idols to God.' The Spirit changes things, destroying evil in order to produce love."

...The Holy Spirit has to do with everyday problems and everyday life. God's presence breaks into our lives, giving us faith so we do not despair, love so we do not live callous, indifferent lives, the church so that we are not alone but can

celebrate together, work together, and learn together... The Spirit has to do with the present, but also the future. When God's presence enters our lives, we know unmistakably that our hope is not a flimsy hope, it is not based, as skeptics say, on pleasant but improbable stories from the past. Instead, our hope is based on the indisputable fact that God is with us.

In that way we are sure that His promises are true, and that the hope He has given to us is a valid hope".

The Early and Latter Rain ²

Joel 2:23 "So rejoice, O sons of Zion, and be glad in the Lord your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain. The early and latter rain as before."

Which is the preparation to receive the latter rain?

The early rain is necessary: "We can be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, those who do not receive and appreciate the early rain will not see or understand the value of the latter rain," *Testimonies for Ministers*, p. 405.



As dew and rain are given first to make the seed germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth...

"Unless the first showers have done their work, the latter rain cannot perfect any seed," *Idem.*, p. 515.

Many have largely stopped receiving the first rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus foreseen for them. They hope that the lack will be filled by the latter rain. When the rich abundance of grace is bestowed, they set out to open their hearts to receive it.

They are making a terrible mistake... Unless we are advancing daily in exemplifying the active Christian virtues, we will not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be pouring into the hearts around us, but we will not discern it or receive it."- *Idem*, pp. 515.

"If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in the attitude of receiving both the early and the latter rain, we will lose our souls, and the responsibility will rest at our own door." *Idem*, pp. 517.

The power of God gives life: In the Word of God is the creative energy that called the worlds into existence. This word imparts power; begets life... transforms nature and recreates the soul in the image of God."—*Education*, p. 122.

We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit: "What we need is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Without this, we are no more able to go out into the world than the disciples were after the crucifixion of their Lord. Jesus knew their great need, and He told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were endowed with power from on high."—*Review and Herald*, february 18, 1890.

We should pray as fervently for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. If they needed it on that occasion we need it even more today." (5T 158)

Let us constantly be ready: "I have no specific time to talk about when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit happens, when the mighty angel descends from heaven and unites with the third angel in the completion of the work for this world. My message is that our only security lies in being ready for heavenly refreshment, having our lamps prepared and burning." —Ellen G. White, *Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 995.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to understand that each of us must now receive the training, anointing, and power of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Into the Arena, p. 59, 60, 66, 67.

² Communion With God, p. 22, 23.





**Sure
Comforter**

"Jesus said that he would ask his Father to send the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, to be with his disciples after his ascension (see John 14:16; 16:7). And Jesus also promised that the Holy Ghost will lead them into all truth (see John 16:13). So the Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity, equal to the Father and the Son."

Personality is based on three basic elements and the Holy Spirit has all three:

1) *A mind, the ability to think, to acquire knowledge and to reason.*

1 Corinthians 2:10, 11 "For the Spirit searches everything even the depths of God. For who among men knows the things of man, but the spirit of man who is in him? Thus no one knows the things of God, but the Spirit of God." Nehemiah 9:20, 21 speaking of God says, "And you sent your good Spirit to teach them, and you did not withdraw your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. You sustained them forty years in the wilderness; of nothing they had a need; their dresses did not age, nor did their feet swell." So the Spirit is good and He instructed the people of Israel. Sounds like a person, right?

2) *Feelings and emotions.*

Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." It is not possible to grieve an influence or a power, but it is possible to hurt a person. The Holy Spirit can feel grieve because He is a person, but He never abandons us. The Spirit follows us year after year if there is an opportunity for us to respond to His call. He remained with the people of Israel for centuries, enduring their rebellions and the stubbornness of their hearts. It is very difficult to turn away from the Holy Spirit. It is not easy to achieve this. Why is it so difficult to abandon the Holy Spirit? Because of His love. Love never knows when it's already too much. Love does not give up easily. The Holy Spirit loves each of us with the immeasurable love of God.

3) *The Holy Spirit has a will or the power of choice.*

1 Corinthians 12:11 "All these things are done by one and the same Spirit, distributing each one in particular as he wills." Romans 8:26 "And likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for what we are to ask for as it is fitting, we do not know, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with unspeakable groans." The Spirit prays for us and helps us in our weaknesses. And if a person prays for you and intercedes for you, it is because he is on your side; then, He is your friend. John 14:16, 17. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, He comes to dwell with us, to live with us and in us. What a comfort it is to know that one of the mighty persons of the Godhead has come to live with us (see *The Desire of All Ages*, p. 671. He is present everywhere.

When you struggled to surrender to Christ and come to Him for the first time, the Holy Spirit was present. Facing the discouragement caused by the trials of daily life, He was there. When the enemy came like a whirlwind, He was there to raise a flag on your behalf. When you have tried to fight your own battles and end up bruised and bleeding, thinking that God could not forgive you, the Holy Spirit is there to reiterate to you the assurance of the Father's love and Jesus' ability to save to the utmost all who approach God through him. The Holy Spirit is at your side. He is your friend. He's a real person. And He comforts us. He deserves our praise, our love, and our gratitude as we accept His friendship and care.





Person of the
Holy Spirit



HIS QUALITIES:



- He is our eternal Friend! (Romans 8:26).
- He is not a mysterious ghost; He is a real Person. (Ev 616).
- Is not a power we can use, but He uses us to God's glory.
- He is the Author of spiritual life (AA 284).
- He is a Celestial Messenger (CT 370).
- Christ acts through the Holy Spirit (MYP 55; SD 282).
- Christ is continually with His people by the Holy Spirit (SC 75).
- Christ dwells in man through the Holy Spirit (DA 388).
- Christ gives healing power through the Holy Spirit (MH 224; CH 407).
- Christ is accessible to all by the Holy Spirit (DA 669; ChS 255).
- Christ is nearer to men now by, than when visibly on earth (DA 669).
- Christ strengthens His church by the Holy Spirit (SD 13).
- Directs battle for God's people (DA 352).
- Driven out of heart by impatience (2 SM 236).
- Fills soul with desire for holiness (AA 52, 53).
- Foolsh and trifling talk drives away (SD 316).
- Given as aid in study of God's word (CT 357; FE 433).
- Guide you into all truth (1SM 413; TM 476).
- Grieved when conscience is resisted (5T 120).
- Home cannot have harmony without (AH 118).
- Man cannot repent unless, works on his heart (CT 365-366).
- Persons drinking deeply of, not ambitious for themselves (8T 140).
- Power given to man by, to overcome sin (7BC 922).
- Praying teacher is aided by, in teaching youth (COL 131-2).
- Quenched by man's continual misuse of talents (COL 365).
- Received into heart by faith is beginning of life eternal (DA 388).
- The Holy Spirit speaks to mind through Scriptures (MB 6).
- We must be daily controlled by, or Satan will control us (5T102; 2TT15).
- Works with men for salvation of souls (FE 353).



*Fruit of the
Spirit*



¹ The fruits of the Spirit, however, are character traits, products or results of a born-again human spirit, recreated in the image of Jesus, that are in control.

Some may say, "Hold on a minute, this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit." The answer is: no, it isn't. Let me ask you a question, naturally speaking. Where does fruit normally grow? Fruit is

produced on the branches. According to John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches..." We are the branches that bear the fruit. The Holy Spirit doesn't bear fruit. The fruit is produced in our lives, from the life and nature of God in us by the Holy Spirit that we received at the new birth. Jesus said, "I am the vine," so the life that produces the fruit comes from Him, but the Holy Spirit is not the one bearing it. We are the ones that are supposed to bear this fruit. This fruit should begin to grow and come to maturity in our lives and be born out for others to see and partake of, as we allow the life and nature of God in our hearts to govern and control our lives.

The Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead that comes to live inside us at the new birth. He brings with Him the life and nature of God (of Jesus), that is necessary to produce this fruit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit should enhance the fruit of the spirit being produced in your life, but it is not the beginning source of it, the new birth is. It would be impossible to have these things produced in us, prior to the Baptism of the Spirit.

Notice also, something I think is very interesting. The word is fruit not fruits, even though we are speaking of more than one thing. I believe this is because these nine things are, in essence, one thing and that is the character or nature of Jesus, Himself. We are to be showing Jesus to the world by our conduct and character. This fruit is not for us, it is for others. Naturally, the more you allow the fruit of the Spirit to be produced in your life, the more you will benefit and the better off you will be. But the real benefits are for others. We are supposed to be trees of righteousness, Isaiah 61:3. Trees produce fruit. That fruit is not for the tree, it is for somebody else.

When other people come in contact with you, they should be able to partake of, or at least see and benefit from, the fruit produced in your life. Other people should be able to get a big apple of

love or joy just from being around you. When sinners come in contact with you, this fruit that you are producing, this character of God that you are displaying, will help point them to Jesus. They will be able to see Him, in you, because of the fruit of your spirit.

Another very important thing about the fruit of the Spirit, is that it is very much the opposite of the works of the flesh. These works of the flesh, or products of the sinful nature, are automatic results in the life of anyone ruled by the flesh or who is unsaved. The fruit of the Spirit on the other hand, must be allowed to be produced in your life as you submit to God. This fruit must grow and mature so that your life can bear it out. It is not automatic. It is a choice, to allow the life and nature of God to so permeate your entire being, that others are able to see it in your conduct. For example: according to Romans 5:5 ...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. This love is in every Christian from the moment of salvation, but it is a choice on your part to allow that love to govern your life and share it with others.

Listed below are the fruit of the Spirit with some explanation of each for your further study.

1. Love – a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain. Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 5:2; Colossians 3:14.

2. Joy – the feeling of gladness based on the love, grace, blessings, promises, and nearness of God that belong to those who believe in Christ. Psalm 119:16; 2 Corinthians 6:10; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:8.

3. Peace – the quietness of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his or her heavenly Father. Romans 15:33; Philippians 4:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20.

4. Long-Suffering – patience, endurance; being slow to anger or despair. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 2:3.

5. Gentleness – restraint coupled with strength and courage; it describes a person who can be angry when anger is needed and humbly submissive when submission is needed Titus 2:25; 1 Peter 3:15. For gentleness In Jesus, compare Matthew 11:29 with Matthew 23 and Mark 3:5; In Paul, compare 2 Corinthians 10:11 with 10:4-6 and Galatians 1:9; In Moses, compare Numbers 12:3 with Exodus 32:19-20.

6. Goodness – zeal for truth and righteousness and a hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of

kindness (Luke 7:37-50) or rebuking and correcting evil (Matthew 21:12-12).

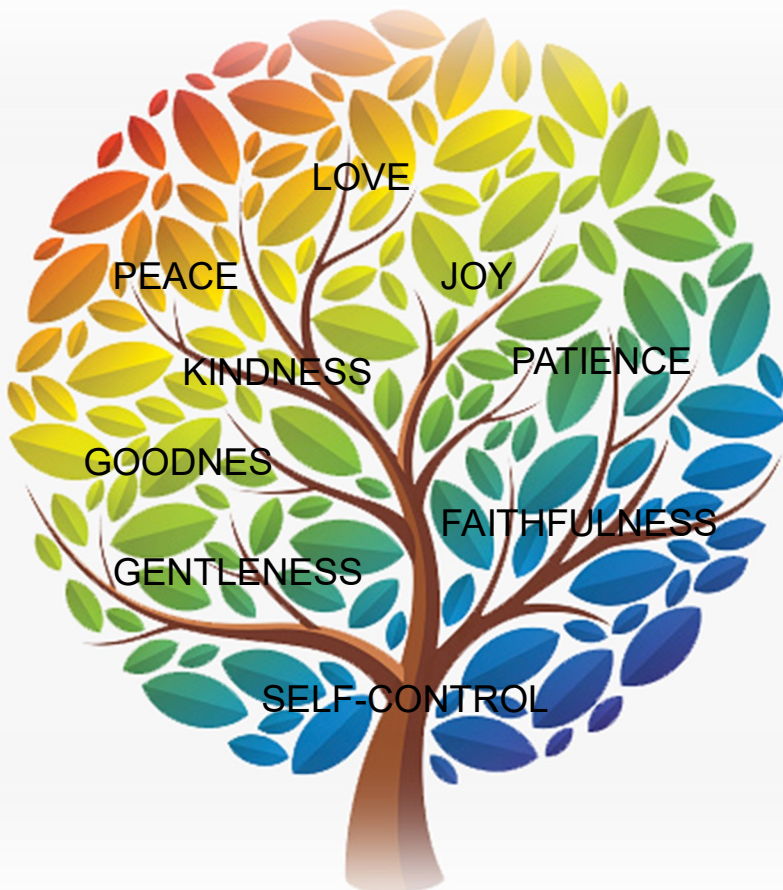
7. Faith – faithfulness, firm and unswerving loyalty to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, trustworthiness, and honesty. Matthew 23:23; Romans 3:3; Titus 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:2; 4:7; Titus 2:10.

8. Meekness – kindness, not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain. Ephesians 4:2; 2 Timothy 3:10; Hebrews 12:1.

9. Temperance – self-control, mastering one's desires and passions, including faithfulness to one's marriage vows; also purity. 1 Corinthians 7:9; Titus 1:8; 2:5.

You will never discover a law prohibiting you from living according to these principles. Paul stated that there was no law against such things. Laws exist for the purpose of restraint and in the fruit of the Spirit, there is nothing to restrain. There are no restrictions to this lifestyle. Christians can and must practice these virtues over and over again.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Make a conscious effort to examine your life and your conduct and see to it that you allow the life of God to flow out of your spirit so that you produce this fruit for all to enjoy.



² THE CHOICE

It's quiet. It's early....The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming.

In a few moments the day will arrive. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met.

For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose. And so I choose.

I choose LOVE...

No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

I choose JOY...

I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I choose PEACE...

I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I choose PATIENCE...

I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I choose KINDNESS...

I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

I choose GOODNESS...

I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will

boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.

I choose FAITHFULNESS...

Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I choose GENTLENESS...

Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

I choose SELF-CONTROL...

I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, I will rest. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

³ “The Choicest productions of art possess no beauty that can compare with the beauty of character, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s working in the soul.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 37.

If, when you encounter trouble or affliction, your joy turns to grumbling and complaining, you should accept the joy of Jesus in your heart by the Holy Spirit. With it you can rejoice even when fiery trials come. See 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

Having Christ’s love, peace, joy, goodness, meekness, and self-control in your life identifies you with Christ and determines whether you merely profess him or truly enjoy His indwelling presence.

Of all the graces Scripture first mentions love. This spiritual quality stands out above all others. See 1 Corinthians 13:13... This is not the cheap earthly variety of love so popular in story and song, but the heavenly. Its charm, unselfishness, and compassion, as described in 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, reveal to us that all the other eight graces of the Spirit are simply various aspects of love in action.

Each may not be manifested to the same degree, but certainly each will be present in every Spirit-filled life.

Nor can a branch bear the fruit of the Spirit without the branch-vine union with the Lord Jesus. This union always reveals itself by the fruit of the Spirit in the life.

Manford George Gutzke compares the fruit of the Spirit to sunlight. “All the colors of the rainbow are in every beam of sunlight. They all are there at any one time. They may not always come into vision, but they are all present. It is not necessary to think of them as being so many separate colors.



Just as the colors of the rainbow are present in light, so these traits of personal conduct are in the working of the Holy Spirit.”—*The fruit of the Spirit*, pp. 10, 11.

As soon as you are born of the Spirit, these graces of the Spirit begin to appear. And under the daily infilling of the Spirit they increasingly multiply...

By your two arms—faith and prayer— touch Jesus morning by morning and from him draw into your soul all you need for victory. This is the secret of a happy, victorious experience. Only as you thus receive fresh supplies of grace day by day will you have power proportionate to your daily needs and the ability to use this power to the glory of God.”

¹ [Lessons from the fruit of the Spirit - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

² Max Lucado’s *When God Whispers Your Name*:

³ *John L. Shuler*, *Your Best Helper, the Holy Spirit*, pp. 55-60

and Proclamation



of the Gospel

¹ “Bearing the fruit of the Spirit also means witnessing effectively for your Saviour. Acts 1:8. God gives you the Holy Spirit as the only means to equip you to fill the special place He has assigned to you in His great plan. “The Reason why God can do so little for us is that we forget that living virtue in the Holy Spirit is to combine with the human agent.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 30.

To what extent will God use you? “God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul-temple.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 144. God has used you, is using you, and will continue to use you. To the extent that you have, are, and will let Him put his Spirit in you. “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 250, 251.

The nine graces of Christian character provide the requisite witness needed to win to Christ all who would escape the destruction of the world. Since the Holy Spirit always transforms those in whom He dwells, He provides a living testimony in you against which no skeptic can argue. The extent of your transformation is directly related to the degree of your surrender in faith to the inworking of the Holy Spirit. This fruit that constitutes victorious living provides the key to your effective witnessing. Saving power flows from the Lord Jesus to you like electricity from a dynamo to an electrical appliance.

You alone are able to determine how much Christ can do for you. “As thou hast believed,” Jesus told the Roman centurion, “so be it done unto thee.” Matthew 8:13. The power of God operates in you and for you according to your faith-contact with Jesus. Your faith bridges the gap between your need and Christ’s infinite supply of grace and power to live the Christian life.

A dammed-up reservoir high in the mountains contains say, a million acre-feet of water. As the size of the aqueduct which leads from the reservoir into the city below determines the amount of the life-giving flow, even so the measure of your faith-contact with Jesus determines the amount of help and power you receive from Him.

When you receive a book or an orange offered as a gift to you by a friend, you simply trust your friend’s sincerity when you reach out and take his gift. Your hand represents your *faith* receiving the free gift of God’s salvation, righteousness, peace, rest, joy, victory, strength, and all else that you need. “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” Mark 9:23. Faith is “the hand by which we lay hold upon Christ, and appropriate his merits.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 175.

If you enjoy little peace, joy, or victory, your hand of faith simply is not taking what Christ is so freely offering you. “True faith and true prayer are as two arms by which the human suppliant lays hold upon the power of Infinite Love.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 259.

When you reach out by faith and prayer, you may not see or feel anything immediately. But, “if you believe, you will see.”
John 11:40, NASB.

You become fruitful in every good work (Colossians 1:10), bearing all the fruit of the Spirit in a life that witnesses to the power of God to save.



If all church members had the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit, lack of spirituality, lukewarmness, lax Sabbath keeping, wordliness, and spiritual powerlessness would be remedied.

The Holy Spirit's inflow makes possible a continual outflow. On the Day of Pentecost, the moment the disciples received the inflow by the Comforter, an outflow of blessings, which filled 3000 empty hearts followed.

But without the inflow, we can impart nothing worthwhile spiritually to no one. "Silver and gold have I none," Peter told the beggar, "but such as I have give I thee." Acts 3:6. This concept can be summed up in these words: Inflow in order to have outflow.

We can impart only that which we receive from Christ; and we can receive only as we impart to others. As we continue imparting, we continue to receive, and the more we impart, the more we shall receive. *Thus we may be constantly believing, trusting, receiving, and imparting.*" — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 370. Emphasis supplied.

In Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul presents an overwhelming description of the blessings that come with the gift of the Spirit. Your inner man is strengthened. Christ dwells in your heart by faith. You are rooted and grounded in love. You can comprehend in large measure the breadth, length, depth, and height of the love of God. And you are filled with all the fullness of God.

Praise God for the inworking of his Spirit for our victory and for effective ministry in our witness to others!"



¹ John L. Shuler, *Your Best Helper, the Holy Spirit*, p. 57- 60, 76



Baptism
of the
Holy
Spirit

John the Baptist baptized with water those who heeded his call to repentance. Likewise the Lord Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit those who receive Him as their personal Saviour and signify that they have received Him by being baptized by immersion. Paul confirms this truth. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." 1 Corinthians 12:13.

Baptism by the Holy Spirit entails two phases—the second phase supplementary to and dependent upon the first. First comes the *initiatory* aspect when you are regenerated by the Spirit into a new person in Christ. Second comes the *succeeding* aspect when every day the Spirit possesses, controls, and empowers you. This second aspect, sometimes referred to as being filled with the Spirit, involves being baptized daily by the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately many fail to follow through with the process of rebirth, of becoming possessed, controlled, empowered, and filled with the Spirit each day. They find themselves falling back into their old sinful habits again and again, and wonder why. Becoming discouraged, they eventually find that the new birth ceases to be meaningful. Like the stony-ground hearers in Jesus' familiar parable (Luke 8:4-15), many wither and die.

In only seven instances does the Bible directly address baptism by the Spirit. Five of these passages refer to this baptism as a future event, four of them quoting the words of John the Baptist. See Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7, 8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33. The fifth Jesus spoke after his resurrection. See Acts 1:4, 5. A sixth passage looks back to the events and experience of the Day of Pentecost. Acts 11:15-17. The seventh (1 Corinthians 12:13) identifies Spirit baptism as being the norm in the experience of all born-again believers. Certain other expressions in Acts also allude to Spirit baptism and help explain the Spirit's role in conversion.

The seventh instance pinpoints the time believers received the Spirit baptism and explains the meaning of Spirit baptism. It equates Spirit baptism with receiving the Holy Spirit at conversion. Spirit baptism does not necessarily require a second blessing which must be sought for after conversion, for that begins when the believer is born of the Spirit. (Of course, we are not referring to the *daily* baptism of the Spirit *after* conversion.)

Peter declared that all who received Christ and baptism would receive the Spirit. Acts 2:38, 39. But many born-again believers fail to understand this assurance. They struggle "to get the Spirit," forgetting that Christ has promised to give them His

Spirit and that the problem is their failure to appropriate the promised gift. When they were born of the Spirit at their baptism, they experienced a *beginning* in Spirit baptism. Of course, after this initial experience, they must continue in full surrender and prevailing prayer every day in order to enjoy the daily baptism of the Spirit.



Years ago a sailing ship at the end of a long voyage was approaching the mouth of the Amazon River, which streams fresh water far out into the Atlantic. The supply of drinking water on board had been exhausted, so the crew hoisted a signal, "Send help, no drinking water." A passing ship signaled back, "Dip down your buckets." They were sailing on the vast body of fresh water poured out by the mighty river and did not know it. All they needed to do was to dip down their buckets in order to get all the water they needed.

Many today hoist the signal, "Send help. We want the baptism of the Spirit, so we can talk in tongues and experience ecstasy of feeling." To them comes the message, "When you were born of the Spirit and received the gift of the Spirit to live in you, you had a *beginning* in being baptized by the Spirit. Make a full surrender every day, exercise your faith, pray always to be filled with the Spirit, and you will experience the fullness of his blessing—not according to your will but according to his will."

As a born-again person do you always have the Holy Spirit in you, to the full extent of your God-given capacity? If not, why not dip down to get your fill of life-giving spiritual water. Many professed Christians limp along only half-alive spiritually, with only a small measure of the Spirit, when they might experience a fresh infilling every day.

Since the intensity of Spirit baptism depends upon the extent of Spirit filling, some who have received a large measure of the Spirit at a certain

time have mistaken their euphoria to be all they need of Spirit baptism. The truth is that this was only an increased measure of the Spirit whom they had actually possessed from the time they were born of the Spirit. As a born-again Christian you should expect moments of high-level spiritual bliss. But you should not misinterpret them. You are baptized by the Spirit when you are born of the Spirit— at the *beginning* of your experience with the Spirit. A complete life in growing in grace must follow.

A few days after pentecost the apostles gathered to pray for boldness to preach the gospel under a rising tide of opposition. “When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31, RSV. Notice that the same eight words— “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”— which had been applied to them at Pentecost, are now applied to them again.



Compare Acts 2:4. Was this a second or third baptism of the Spirit for them? No. It was only a more intense experience of being filled with the Spirit every day after their initiation by the Spirit.

Several New Testament expressions may be regarded as synonymous with “being baptized” by the Holy Spirit. Some of these are “possessed” or “controlled” by, or filled “with the Spirit” and “walking” or “living” in or by the Spirit. The branch-vine union with Jesus also describes the same experience, as does being empowered to witness effectively, having inner power to overcome as Christ overcame, and being endued with power

from on high.

Our Lord capsulized for us, His followers, the all-inclusive meaning of Spirit baptism in the phrase “ye in me, and I in you.” John 14:20. The believers may know by examining the fruit of their inner experience in the light of God’s Word whether or not they had received the power of the divine Helper.

“We are assured that we may be so identified with Christ, the Son of God, as to be wholly one with him, as He was with the Father. Who can comprehend this? These words place on us a great responsibility. They are the *highest measurement of character*, and contain the *richest blessing* that it is possible for any human being to enjoy.”—*Special Testimonies to Ministers*, no. 11, 31. Emphasis supplied.

Do you wish to know whether or not you have been baptized by the Holy Spirit? What are the signs? Thousands of born-again Christians cannot point back to a specific time and place when they were born of the Spirit. But the transformation in their lives from ungodly ways to the ways of Jesus stands as sure evidence. Their conformity to the teachings of Jesus in their acting, speaking, eating, drinking, dressing, and worshiping identifies them as being Christ’s. “By their fruits ye shall know them.” Matthew 7:20.

Do not rely on any kind of feeling for evidence that you have received Spirit baptism. Feelings can deceive. Faith clings to God’s promises regardless of feelings. We “receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Galatians 3:14.

The Bible alludes to the existence of two spirits in the world— the spirit of obedience (Acts 5:32) and the spirit of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). The spirit of obedience will strive to harmonize with the Word of God in all things— even with respect to the rules Paul lays down in 1 Corinthians 14 for speaking in tongues. It is the spirit of disobedience that flouts these rules and emphasizes the gift of tongues unduly.

Is handclapping, jumping up and down, physical contortions, ecstatic joy, or overwhelming emotions proof of Spirit baptism? No. The Bible specifies none of these as evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

However, an obedient, consecrated, Christlike life lived day by day provides incontrovertible evidence of Spirit baptism. “When we keep his [Christ’s] commands we dwell in him and He dwells in us,” the Word declares.

“And this is how we can make sure that he dwells within us: we know it from the Spirit he has given us.” 1 John 3:24, NEB.

Your actions, words, looks, and attitudes will demonstrate the presence of the Holy Spirit within you. You will experience an increasing capacity to love, as the love of God pours forth from within your heart. See Romans 5:5. And you will sense the calm, sweet assurance that you are a child of God. See Romans 8:16. “The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.” Isaiah 32:17.

Ellen White wrote, “When you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then you will understand more of the joys of salvation than you have *known all your life* hitherto.”—*Letter 33*, 1890.

In vain do men attempt to prescribe how the Holy Spirit shall work. However, the manifestation of the Spirit will never operate in a manner contrary to the Bible. Receiving the initial baptism of the Spirit at conversion is essential. But it is equally essential to maintain the daily baptism of the Spirit for the remainder of your life.



DAILY BAPTISM

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is “Christ living in you,” or “God [the Holy Spirit] working in you.” It was so with Christ. His example assures us it can be ours also. As He lived “by the Father,” so can you also live by him. See John 6:57.

“Our Saviour relied upon his heavenly Father for wisdom and strength to resist and overcome the tempter. The Spirit of his heavenly Father animated and regulated his life. He was sinless. Virtue and purity characterized his life.” —*Selected Messages*, bk, 3, p. 134.

“Not even by a thought did He [Christ] yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 123.

By the continued infilling of the Holy Spirit Christ maintained that essential relationship— the Father in him and He in the Father. You too may have and may maintain the same relationship with Christ by being in Him and allowing Him to be in you— by being baptized by the Holy Spirit every day.

Daily baptism is the normal experience for a true Christian. Just as the Holy Spirit was given to Christ without measure (John 3:34), “so it will be given to every follower of Christ when the whole heart is surrendered for His indwelling.”—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 21.

Unless you have spiritual power proportionate for your daily needs, you cannot live righteously. Your life will fail to be what it ought or could be. But you can have power proportionate to your needs each day by receiving a fresh supply of the Holy Spirit every morning. God is far more willing to give the Holy Spirit to you than you are to ask Him. A converted child may have this experience in keeping with his knowledge. As he bows in prayer every morning, opens the door of his heart for Jesus to come in anew, believes Jesus comes in according to his promise, and receives a fresh supply of help, joy, peace, love, and victory for the day, he, too, in his own simple way, can enjoy the daily baptism of the Spirit.

Praying for the Spirit ¹

You may ask, Isn't it foolishness to believe that you have received something, when you haven't? No! You must remember that when you are dealing with God concerning His promises, that which may seem to be foolishness is the very way God intends to fulfill in us that which He has promised in his word.



ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose you want to go to an office on the tenth floor of a building. When you step into the elevator on the ground floor, you believe that it will take you to the tenth floor, do you not? If you didn't, you probably wouldn't step in. But you believe it will, so you step in, even though it hasn't gotten there yet.

So it is with God's promises. We are to believe we have received them even though we haven't yet experienced them.

ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION:

Let us say, for example, that your house is fully wired for electricity. You have light bulbs in all the rooms. Your electric bill is paid up to date. But unless you flip the switch, the electricity will stay in the wires and never reach the light bulbs.

The same is true with respect to being filled with the Spirit. God wants to fill you, but you must turn on the switch by choosing to surrender, by prayer, by faith. This small part is *your* responsibility.

A man asked his pastor to pray that he might receive the Holy Spirit. He said, "I have been seeking for this infilling for months, but I haven't received it."

The pastor suggested that they pray and claim the promise of the infilling of the Spirit. After prayer the man remarked, "I still don't feel that I have it."

His pastor asked, "Does God ever fail to fulfill His promises?"

"No."

"Then he must have given you the infilling of his Spirit when we asked him for it according to his promise."

"Well, I guess I can't argue with that."

Then you have the infilling of the Spirit right now. The Holy Spirit has moved into your life in answer to your prayer. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, I do believe it"— and he meant it. He was only then able to declare with conviction that he had the inner witness of God's promise. All that he lacked for all those months was knowing how to act on God's promise by living faith.

You too may feel that your prayers for the infilling of the Spirit are going unanswered. If so, exercise your faith in God's sure promise and thank God for fulfilling it in your life.

As you do this you will have a Spirit-filled experience.

Remember that your faith is not in yourself, but in God's promise.

¹ John L. Shuler, *Your Best Helper, the Holy Spirit*, pp. 88, 89



The
Unpardonable
Sin

No person can expect the Holy Spirit to continue abiding in him if he steals, withholds tithes and offerings, lies, commits adultery, or breaks the holy Sabbath day. God requires a forsaking of sin as a condition of Spirit filling. You may ask for the Spirit, but if you “regard iniquity” in your heart, “the Lord will not hear.” Psalm 66:18.

If you find yourself thinking evil thoughts, you must determine under God to fill your mind with the things that honor Him. If you have mistreated someone, you must ask that person’s forgiveness and God’s forgiveness, and determine to treat that person in a loving manner. If your talking, acting, eating, drinking, dressing, etc., do not conform to the instructions given in the Bible, you must by God’s grace make the necessary changes to bring your ways under His Spirit’s control. If when you pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit your conscience disturbs you in any particular, set the matter right with God before you press your request any further.

Confess and renounce the sin, for “whoso confesseth and forsaketh” his sins “shall have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13.

Grieve the Holy Spirit

One of the least suspected hindrances to being Spirit-filled is grieving Him. It is for this reason that the apostle warns, “Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30.

Notice Paul directs this admonition not to pagans, but to born-again Christians. How could Christians— born-again people— grieve the Holy Spirit? They can do this by refusing to listen to the “still small voice.” 1 Kings 19:12.

The Spirit may bring to our attention, for example, indulging in improper amusements (see *Counsels to Teachers*, pp. 348, 349), marriage with unbelievers (see *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 364, 365), laxity in Sabbath observance (see *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 248), undue fear and repining (see *Gospel Workers*, p. 261), failure to control imagination (see *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 310, 311), covetousness (see *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 72, 75, 76), doubting God’s love and distrusting His promises (see *Steps to Christ*, p. 118), indulgence of selfishness (see *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 221), retaliation (see *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 171, 172), making scathing remarks (see *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 115), or indulging in destructive criticism (see *The Desire of Ages*, p. 323).

A persistent refusal under the conviction of the Holy Spirit to forsake any sin can grieve Him away.

Take this list of items that grieve the Holy Spirit and go alone with them to God. Consider each item, asking thoughtfully, Does this apply to me? After you have prayerfully considered each item, pray this prayer: “Lord, forgive me wherein I have been grieving the Holy Spirit. Grant that from this day forward I may do it no more, but rather prepare me for the greater infilling that I need for these last days.”

“When one is fully emptied of self, when every false god is cast out of the soul, *the vacuum is filled by the inflowing of the Spirit of Christ.*”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 287. Emphasis supplied.

What happens when you loosen the lid of a jar of vacuum-packed food? You hear a swishing sound as the air rushes in to fill the vacuum. If there had been no vacuum, the air would not rush in. So unless we are emptied of self, no vacuum will be formed for the inflow of the Spirit.

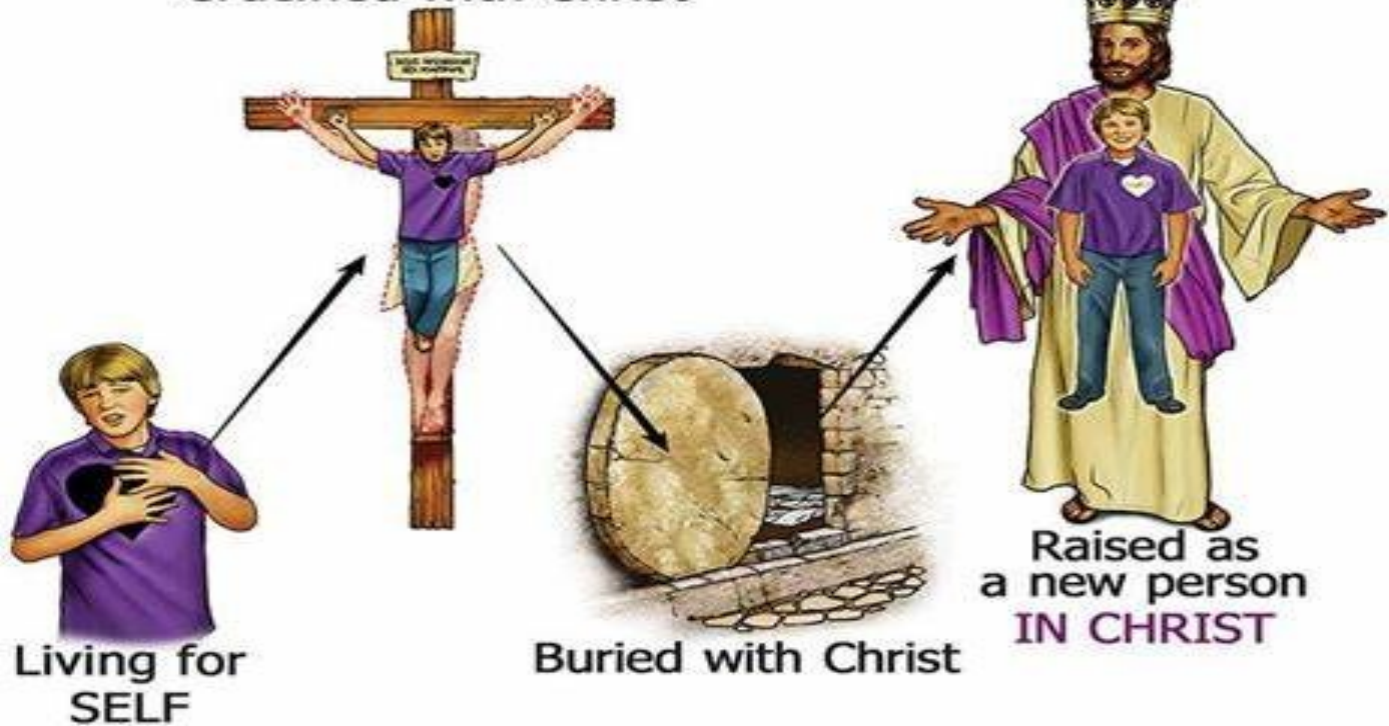
Few receive the full infilling of the Spirit when they pray, because the space He desires to fill is occupied by the big “I.”

An eight-ounce glass half-filled with water cannot receive eight full ounces of orange juice. Thus Jesus stressed self-renunciation and daily crucifixion of self as the prime prerequisites for qualifying as one of His true followers. See Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23.

The Holy Spirit filled Paul daily because he crucified self daily. See Galatians 2:20. Notice: “his will and his desire every day conflicted with duty and the will of God.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 452, 453. Paul had the same problems we have. He had to make choices for God and against himself. Self had to die. “Instead of following inclination, he did God’s will, however crucifying to his nature.”—*Ibid*.

Crucifying self daily is not easy. “The cross is that which crosses the natural affections and the will.” —*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 651. It is because of this that the Spirit fills so few.

Crucified with Christ



No one can empty himself of SELF any more that he can take a bucket and carry the darkness out of a dark room. But he can flip on the electric switch and banish the darkness. And the darkness stays away as long as the light shines. *"No man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work.* Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 159. Emphasis supplied.

God always answers this prayer. He even sends his Spirit to help you to renounce self so He can give you the infilling you need. Every morning consecrate your will to Him. Shall self rule? Or shall the Spirit rule?

"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of his Spirit without measure."—*Evangelism*, p. 699.

Professed Christians may generally be categorized according to four ascending planes of commitment:

(1) Some who have never been truly born again. Theirs is an experience of "all of self and none of Christ." They have not received the Holy

Spirit at all.

- (2) Some who have been born again, have advanced to "some of self and some of Christ." They have a measure of the Spirit, but are not as filled as Christ desire them to be.
- (3) Some have renounced self until they have "less of self and more of Christ." They are near to being totally filled.
- (4) And some have so crucified self that they have "none of self, and all of Christ." They experience the infilling of the Spirit to the full extent of their capacity.

My friend, on which plane do you stand?

You can ensure a constant infilling only by coming to Jesus morning by morning to drink of his living water. You keep coming to Jesus so often that you never thirst again. You continue to be filled as long as you keep on drinking. To those who do this the promise is fulfilled: "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." [Isaiah 12:3](#).

In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus said: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." [Matthew 5:6](#). We receive righteousness only by the impartation of the Holy Spirit.

Victory over insults and annoyances provides evidence that the Holy Spirit dwells in your heart. "If injuries and insults are meekly borne, if insulting words are responded to by gentle answers, and oppressive acts by kindness, this is evidence that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart, that sap from the living Vine is flowing to the branches."— *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 344.

Feeding upon the word of God and having the daily baptism of the Spirit go together. The Spirit-filled person studies God's Word and eats it up. See Jeremiah 15:16. He esteems the Word even more than his necessary food. See Job 23:12.

To be filled with the Spirit means to cultivate the spirit and habit of prayer. "Those who do not cultivate the spirit and habit of prayer cannot expect to receive the golden oil of goodness, patience, long-suffering, gentleness, love."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 511.

To be filled with the Spirit, then, you must possess a willingness to repent, to bring to God a surrendered will, a body yielded to obey, a heart emptied of self, a hungering and thirsting for the Spirit, and faith in the promises of God.

The Unpardonable Sin (5 T 634)

"What constitutes the sin against the Holy Spirit? It is willfully attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit. For example, suppose that one is a witness of the special work of the Spirit of God. He has convincing evidence that the work is in harmony with the Scriptures, and the Spirit witnesses with his spirit that it is of God. Afterward, however, he falls under temptation; pride, self-sufficiency, or some other evil trait, controls him; and rejecting all the evidence of its divine character, he declares that that which he had before acknowledged to be the power of the Holy Spirit was the power of Satan.

It is through the medium of His Spirit that God works upon the human heart; and when men willfully reject the Spirit and declare it to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them.

By denying the evidence which God has been pleased to give them, they shut out the light which had been shining in their hearts, and as the result they are left in darkness.

(*Comprehensive Index to the Writings of E.G.White*, p. 2560)

—Unpardonable sin committed by:

- devils (4BC 1163; EW 146)
- Felix (AA 427)
- Herod Antipas (DA 731)
- Idolatrous Israelites (PP 3260)
- Jerusalem in rejecting Christ (DA 587)
- Jewish people in rejecting Christ (DA 324)
- Jewish priests and rulers (TM 73)
- Judas Iscariot (DA 654-5)
- King Saul (2BC 1023; PP 635, 676; 4SG-a 85)



- Korah and companions (PP 405)
- Nero (AA 496-7)
- People of Nazareth (DA 241)
- Pharaoh (PP 268-9)
- Pharisees (5BC 1092)
- Sanhedrin (DA 241)
- Satan (SR 26-7)
- Some Millerite Adventists (GC 432)
- Sons of Eli (2BC 1010; PP 5890)

For a time, persons who have committed this sin may appear to be children of God; but when circumstances arise to develop character and show what manner of spirit they are of, it will be found that they are on the enemy's ground, standing under his black banner." —*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 634.

"The wrath of God is not declared against unrepentant sinners merely because of the sins they have committed, but because, when called to repent, they choose to continue in resistance, repeating the sins of the past in defiance of the light given them. If the Jewish leaders had submitted to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, they would have been pardoned; but they were determined not to yield. In the same way, the sinner, by continued resistance, places himself where the Holy Spirit cannot influence him." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 62.

