

THE CHURCH OF GOD

**SABBATH
SCHOOL
LESSONS**



3rd QUARTER - 2017

“THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD”

Lesson 1 ☐ For week ending July 1, 2017

The Holy Spirit is the motive force of God which acts on the Word of God to produce the results which God desires. The seven channels through which the Holy Spirit operates are called the Seven Spirits of God. By understanding these Seven Spirits we can better realize the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and we can be more effective in our service to Him.

KEY TEXT: *“And there are seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God” (Revelation 4:5).*

- 1. In Zechariah the 4th chapter, the prophet is given a vision concerning the restoration of God’s Temple.**
 - » The spiritual fulfillment of this vision is the rebuilding of the Church of God (I Peter 2:5).
 - » What is the single most important requirement for this work to be accomplished (Zechariah 4:6)?
 - » Compare this with Psalms 127:1.

- 2. In this vision, Zechariah sees a golden candlestick with seven lamps (Zechariah 4:2).**
 - » According to Zechariah 4:10, what do the seven lamps represent?
 - » Zerubbabel needed the help of the Lord to complete the work which God had called him to do.
 - » Study II Chronicles 16:9 to discover why the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.

- 3. The seven branch candlestick and the seven eyes are a revelation of Jesus Christ who is in the midst of the Church.**
 - » Since Jesus was the fulness of the Godhead bodily, we could expect the Seven Spirits of God to be found in Him.
 - » Confirm this from Zechariah 3:9; 4:7,10; Revelation 1:12,13; and Revelation 5:6.

- 4. The number 7 represents completion or perfection and is associated with power and spirit in the Scriptures.**
 - » Expand upon this thought from Judges 16:19, Joshua 6:13-16, and Revelation 4:5.
 - » Discuss the appointment of the Seven Men of Wisdom in Acts 6:3-8.
 - » What effect did their appointment have on the work of the Early Church?

- 5. Just as the golden candlestick is only one light which is manifest through seven different channels, there is only one Holy Spirit who is revealed in seven different manifestations called the Seven Spirits of God.**
 - » In the weeks to come we will discuss these Seven Spirits and the way they relate to the work of the Church (Revelation 1:4,11).

“THE SPIRIT OF LOVE”

Lesson 2 ☐ For week ending July 8, 2017

The Spirit of Love is at the very heart of the essence of God—for God is love. The far-reaching consequences of the proper operation of this Spirit in our lives is manifest in having proper love for God, for His Word, for our fellow-believers in the Christian community, and for lost and dying humanity throughout the world. It is easy to see why we must have this Spirit burning in us.

KEY TEXT: “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets*” (Matthew 22:37,39,40).

- 1. I John 4:8 tells us that “*God is love.*” Analyze this concept and see how the true love of God is manifest in verses 9 and 10.**
 - » By understanding the principles of love displayed by God, Himself, we can realize how we are to have love to God and one another.
 - » Study the concept that love is the giving of oneself (John 3:16).

 - 2. To what extent—and by what means—are we to love God?**
 - » Read and discuss Deuteronomy 6:4,5; 10:12,13.

 - 3. Discuss some of the characteristics of love that are outlined in I Corinthians 13:4-8.**

 - 4. The new commandment which Jesus gave His disciples was to be the identifying quality of New Testament believers.**
 - » Read John 13:34,35 and compare the kind of love that Jesus had for us with the kind of love which we should have for one another in order to prove our discipleship.

 - 5. True love for the brethren is that which is manifest without respect of persons.**
 - » If we love only select persons or those who love us, what have we accomplished?
 - » Demonstrate this truth from James 2:1-8.

 - 6. In Colossians 3:14 we are told that love is the bond of perfectness or maturity.**
 - » Discuss the ways in which the Spirit of Love is the unifying factor of all the Seven Spirits of God that bring us to perfection or spiritual maturity.
 - » Study Revelation 2:1-5 and evaluate the reason why the Ephesus church’s departure from the love of God and man would cause the angel to remove the entire candlestick from the church.
-

“THE SPIRIT OF PRESERVATION”

Lesson 3 ☐ For week ending July
15, 2017

The Spirit of Preservation is an essential ministry to have operating in The Church of God. As times become more difficult and believers falter, the Spirit of Preservation working through us will sustain those who might otherwise fall away. As one of the Seven Spirits of God, this particular branch provides stability to the Church.

KEY TEXT: “. . . I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who will also do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:23,24).

- 1. God has always been a protector of His people.**
 - » Consider His role as the Shepherd of Israel (Psalm 23:1; 80:1).
 - » Evaluate His name, Yahweh-Jireh (the Eternal Provider).

 - 2. Man, who is made in the image of God, also has the inherent nature of a protector. Discuss this quality of mankind.**
 - » What happens to this trait when sin enters into the hearts of men (Genesis 4:1-9)?

 - 3. Discuss the Spirit of Preservation in the light of the Judaic system of the watchers-over-tens, -fifties, and -hundreds which Jethro suggested to Moses in Exodus 18:17-23.**
 - » Discuss the benefits of having an active watchers-over-tens program in the local church.

 - 4. The Spirit of Preservation encourages the development of relationships within churches.**
 - » Discuss how this helps fulfill the requirement that we have fellowship and a sharing with one another in spiritual and social things
 - » Read Acts 2:42-47 and Hebrews 10:25.

 - 5. Our duty is not only to God, but also to one another. By employing the Spirit of Preservation we find the Holy Spirit leading and guiding us to give strength and encouragement to one another.**
 - » Read and discuss Proverbs 25:11 and Hebrews 3:12-14.

 - 6. Jesus strengthened the requirement that we seek to preserve one another.**
 - » Take a look at the teachings of Jesus found in Matthew 25:33-40 and Luke 10:25-27 to discover the degree with which Jesus taught that we should protect and love one another.
-

“THE SPIRIT OF MARKING”

Lesson 4 □ For week ending July 22,
2017

One of the seven procedures which God uses is the work of identifying important events that men might remember His mighty acts and of using material creations to reveal otherwise invisible things of His nature. This procedure is manifest through the Spirit of Marking—one of the Seven Spirits of God—which operates in The Church of God.

KEY TEXT: *"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).*

- 1. The Spirit of Marking was in action to identify times and places of great events of spiritual history in Joshua 4:4-9.**
 - » Analyze the actions of Joshua in identifying a specific event by constructing a material monument.

- 2. God has repeatedly used material demonstrations to serve as prophetic reminders to His people of future events.**
 - » Consider the demonstration of Ezekiel 4:1-3 and study both the method and the message.

- 3. Using material things to emphasize future events continued into the New Testament era.**
 - » Discuss the demonstrations of Agabus in Acts 21:11,12 and the impact that using things-that-are-made had.

- 4. The Word of God also uses elements of the Creation to reveal spiritual characteristics of God.**
 - » Consider the heightened impact that the message of Jesus had by His using material things in Matthew 13:37-43.

- 5. In addition to singling out events by the Spirit of Marking, God also identifies persons by this same Spirit.**
 - » Discuss the meaning of Psalms 37:37 and compare it with Revelation 2:17.

- 6. A significant part of the work of the Spirit of Marking in our day is the identifying of fulfillments of prophecy as signs to the world of the age in which we are living.**
 - » Discuss the marking of automobiles and motorcycles to point out the fulfillments of Joel 2:1-4 and Nahum 2:1-4.

- 7. The specific purpose of the Spirit of Marking according to our key text is to reveal the invisible God so that men are without excuse in judgment.**

- » Establish this further from Psalms 19:1-3.

“THE SPIRIT OF TEACHING”

Lesson 5 ☐ For week ending July 29, 2017

Another very important work of the Holy Spirit in the Church is revealed in the book of Revelation to be the Spirit of Teaching. It is the Holy Spirit that equips teachers with the ability to simplify and translate into practical example the Word and will of God that we may walk therein. Through this work of the Holy Spirit the Church is able to go forth and fulfill the Great Commission.

KEY TEXT: “And He gave some...teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11,12).

- 1. The need for gifted teachers becomes readily apparent to us when we consider that a major part of the Great Commission that Jesus gave to His disciples involved teaching.**
 - » Confirm this truth from Matthew 28:19,20.
- 2. It is of vital importance that the Truths of God’s Word be taught in the Church.**
 - » In Revelation 2:18-20 we discover the revelation of the Spirit of Teaching.
 - » Consider the mistake that was made in the church of Thyatira and discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in leading us into all truth (John 16:13).
- 3. Jesus, Himself, was a master teacher. Indeed, He was most often called Rabbi (or teacher) by the Jewish people.**
 - » Discuss some of the dynamics of teaching that Jesus used so effectively (Matthew 13:18,24,31,33,34).
- 4. One of the qualifications of a bishop is that he be capable of teaching.**
 - » Read and discuss I Timothy 3:2.
 - » Why must a person in oversight also be a teacher?
- 5. It is the responsibility of the Church’s teachers to design programs that will ensure the teaching of the Word of God to all who attend.**
 - » Discuss the importance of teaching all age groups (Deuteronomy 6:7).
- 6. One of the means of teaching that is often overlooked is music and singing.**
 - » Discuss the ways in which we may employ these means as effective tools for teaching the Word of God.
 - » Read Colossians 3:16.

“THE SPIRIT OF PERFECTION”

Lesson 6 □ For week ending August 5,
2017

As a theological term, *perfection* is often misunderstood; however, it is a Biblical process that is so important that one of the Seven Spirits of God is devoted to its development in the Church. When we learn the true nature of the work of perfection, we can develop it in our lives to make us the quality of people that God is searching for in the world today.

KEY TEXT: “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4: 13).

- 1. The idea of striving for perfection is something that some avoid because it seems to be an impossible goal.**
 - » We need to understand the Biblical meaning of perfection so that we can be everything God has called us to be (I John 3:2,3).

- 2. The word *perfection* in the Scriptures is translated from Greek words that mean *to complete* [teleios] and *to fit thoroughly or to adjust* [katartizo].**
 - » These meanings indicate that perfection is an adjusting process toward the completion of our Christian experience.
 - » Expand on this concept from I Thessalonians 3:10; I Corinthians 13:10; and Hebrews 6:1.

- 3. Perfection is one of the Seven Spirits of God.**
 - » Discuss this Spirit in light of the characteristic of the Son of Man in Revelation 3:1 and the message to the Sardis church in Revelation 3:2-6.

- 4. Another term for perfection which is more easily understood is *maturity*.**
 - » Discuss the process of maturity and its effect on the believer by studying Ephesians 4:11-15.

- 5. Growth toward maturity is what the Spirit of Perfection is all about.**
 - » Confirm this truth by analyzing I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; and Ephesians 2:21.

- 6. The Spirit of Perfection involves leaving the past and reaching out to the future with change and development in mind.**
 - » Demonstrate this truth from Philippians 3:3-16.
 - » Discuss how we can get our minds out of the past.

- 7. Discuss the commandment of Jesus in Matthew 5:48. How can we be perfect even as God is perfect?**

“THE SPIRIT OF PUBLISHING”

Lesson 7 □ For week ending August 12, 2017

The Spirit of Publishing is one of the seven channels of the Holy Spirit which specializes in communication. Without the Spirit of Publishing we would not have the printed Word of God—the Bible. Without the various media of publishing that are in place today, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world as He commanded would hardly be possible.

KEY TEXT: “*And the gospel must first be published among all nations*” (Mark 13:10).

- 1. The word *publish* in the scriptures means to “*cause to hear*” or to “*cry as a herald*.” In this context it is easy to see that at any time that we are proclaiming the Word of God, whether by voice, printed matter, or telecommunications, we are using the Spirit of Publishing.**
 - » The Old Testament shows us that publishing is to be a work of communicating the Word of God and the Good News. Compare Isaiah 52:7 and Psalms 68:11.
 - » Who are the people that are responsible for this work?

 - 2. The one great work which Jesus said must be accomplished before His return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, is that the Gospel of the Kingdom must first be published among all nations.**
 - » Discuss Mark 13:10 and compare it with Matthew 24:14.

 - 3. How does the publishing of the Gospel of the Kingdom relate to the prophetic work of the flying angel of Revelation 14:6? What was the message of this messenger?**
 - » Compare his identity with that typified in Cyrus, the king of Persia in Nahum 1:15.

 - 4. How is the Spirit of Publishing to be involved in the proclamation of the fall of Babylon according to Jeremiah 50:2?**

 - 5. Discuss the extent to which the Spirit of Publishing helped to expand the outreach of the ministry of Jesus.**
 - » Read Mark 5:20; 7:36 and Luke 8:39.

 - 6. The Spirit of Publishing is revealed in the letter to the angel of the church at Philadelphia in Revelation 3:7-13.**
 - » Discuss the nature of publishing in opening doors for the work of the Church.
 - » With the help of Facebook, Texting, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat—to name a few—we have the ability to share church services, Bible lessons, encouraging Scriptures, and words of encouragement with people around the world.
 - » Is the Spirit of Publishing alive and working in your life?
-

“THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM”

Lesson 8 □ For week ending August 19, 2017

The Spirit of Evangelism is the one of the Seven Spirits of God that is concerned with keeping believers aflame with the Spirit. Evangelism is responsible for stirring us up and keeping us from becoming lukewarm. While it is understood by most Christians to be a soul-winning Spirit, it is also to keep believers on fire for God.

KEY TEXT: “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:16).

- 1. The Spirit of Evangelism is closely related in nature to the ministerial gift of an evangelist.**
 - » To give greater definition to the work of evangelism, discuss the fact that the gift of evangelist was given for the perfecting of the saints (Ephesians 4:11,12).
 - » See how this job description expands upon traditional views of evangelism.

- 2. For further clarification of the nature of the work of evangelism, consider II Timothy 4:1-5, where Paul instructs in the work of the ministry and then concludes by enjoining Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist.”**

- 3. When the Spirit of Evangelism is not working, Christians grow lukewarm in their personal experience with God and in their relationship with the Church.**
 - » Analyze the condition of the Laodicean church in Revelation 3:17.

- 4. Compare the statement of Revelation 3:18, “and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” with the nature and work of evangelism. Notice also the imperative of verse 19, “be zealous.”**
 - » How does evangelism help us to possess and express the zeal of the Lord of Hosts?

- 5. An important part of the work of evangelism is the stirring up of the memory of God’s people to the truths of the Scriptures and the operation of the Spirit.**
 - » Discuss this function in the light of II Peter 3:1,2.
 - » Some of the more far-reaching implications of the ministry of evangelism can be seen in the life and work of Philip, the evangelist of the Early Church.
 - » Read and discuss Acts 8:5-13,29,30,40.

“CONQUERING THE SPIRIT OF FEAR”

Lesson 9 ☐ For week ending August 26, 2017

The spirit of fear is a tormenting factor in the lives of so many people—including too many Christians. Fear of the unknown and anxiety about the possibilities of the future plague their imaginations and conjure up potential tragedies that are unrealistic. It is God’s will that we be free from this paralyzing spirit that victimizes too many people today.

KEY TEXT: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7).

- 1. To say that fear is evil or bad for us is a mistake for a certain amount of fear helps keep us in check so that we do not act recklessly to our own ruin or hurt. This fear is called *caution*.**
 - » There is also the fear of God (reverence/respect) which the Bible says is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).
- 2. A great key to understanding the root-cause of fear and the way in which we can overcome it in our lives is found in I John 4:18. Notice the statement “*fear hath torment*”.**
 - » The spirit of fear can mushroom until a person is totally consumed by it. These phobias and morbid fears bring those who fixate on them into great torment.
 - » ***Love is the key to overcoming fear.*** If we love God and our fellow man, we can be free of the tormenting aspects of fear.
 - » Fear is often the result of a lack of trust in God. Satan convinces us that we are on our own thereby causing us to fear because we think we are unprotected and vulnerable.
- 3. We know that we cannot be successful in our calling in God if we are dominated by a spirit of fear that keeps us from venturing out into the unknown and/or standing on the promises of God.**
 - » Read Joshua 1:9 and Judges 7:3.
- 4. The power of God operating in our lives through the Holy Spirit will also help us to overcome fear.**
 - » When our confidence is in the power of God, we are not afraid to confront the problems of life with an expectation of victory (Psalms 62:5-8, Isaiah 53:1,2).
- 5. Jesus gave us an example of the fact that we have nothing to fear if we stand in His strength, when He rebuked the winds of the sea.**
 - » Discuss His statement to the disciples in Matthew 8:26.
- 6. We have confidence that if we put our trust in Yahweh God, there is nothing that comes against us that can succeed.**
 - » Confirm this truth from Romans 8:31; Hebrews 13:5-7; and Psalms 91.

“AVOIDING THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS”

A root of bitterness is a deep-seated resentment toward some person or institution that plagues a person who has failed to forgive a wrong, real or imagined, that was committed against them in the past. Memories of those events often spring up to the surface to cause a disruption of fellowship that can even lead to the destruction of souls.

KEY TEXT: “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:15).

- 1. A root of bitterness in a person’s heart will defile that person and can reach out to defile others.**
 - » Titus 1:15,16 and Proverbs 6:16-19 tell us about some of the defilements that such attitudes open the door to.

- 2. Broken relationships between brothers in Christ are a great hindrance to faith and are often very difficult to heal (Proverbs 18:19).**
 - » From such conditions, roots of bitterness spring up to trouble the Church.

- 3. We will be helped in avoiding bitterness in our lives if we remember that we all stand in the grace of God (Hebrews 12:15).**
 - » When we are wronged, we must forgive immediately so that we can be forgiven.
 - » Discuss the concept of *forgiveness* as a deterrent to bitterness (Matthew 18:34,35).

- 4. Deep-seated resentment—the basis of a root of bitterness—will retard and even prevent spiritual growth.**
 - » Confirm this truth from Mark 11:25,26 and Matthew 5:23,24.
 - » Can we really expect to build a successful Christian experience when we harbor unforgiveness and resentment against others?

- 5. Walking in the Spirit and loving one another are important in our efforts of avoiding bitterness.**
 - » Confirm this from Galatians 5:14-16.

- 6. We must also learn to be patient with one another and not carry grudges against one another if we are to avoid the springing up of a root of bitterness.**
 - » Discuss this in the light of James 5:8,9.

- 7. Those who are striving for perfection or maturity must learn to forget the past (Philippians 3:13,14).**
 - » When we have this kind of attitude, we can avoid the contamination of a root of bitterness.

“THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES”

The “Valley of Dry Bones” is a representation of how the whole house of Israel had lost hope when they were carried away captive into Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in the Old Testament. These dry bones were raised to life in two stages: First, a *physical restoration*, and second, a *spiritual restoration*. When our hope has diminished, God knows that we look for a physical manifestation of hope first, and then life is breathed into our spirits when that which we have hoped for is renewed. However, faded hope is not the only thing that can dry up our bones.

- Deaconess Kimberley Combs

KEY TEXT: “Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost; we are completely cut off” (Ezekiel 37:11).

1. **In Ezekiel 37:1-2, the prophet was carried away in a vision to a valley full of very dry bones. The House of Israel had a history of falling into the pagan practices of the neighboring heathen nations.**
 - » Even King Solomon, the wisest man ever to live, could not escape these practices (Nehemiah 13:26).
 - » Physically, our bones become dry and brittle when the sinews and marrow is diseased.
 - » Proverbs 3:7-8 offers a spiritual way to bring health back to the spirit even if our natural body is suffering.
 - » According to verse 7, what is it that brings moisture back to the bones?

2. **The reality of the dry bones coming to life again showed itself later on in Ezekiel 37:22 when God commanded Ezekiel to take two sticks named Ephraim (representing Gentiles) and Judah (representing Jews) and bring them together into one nation, under one King (Jesus).**
 - » So, how did the bones (Israel) become so dry? God reveals what caused the bones to become dry in the first place in Ezekiel 37:23 and Psalm 38:3.

3. **Rarely—if ever—do we think of our bones being affected by our actions or behaviors. The Bible is filled with Scriptures that instruct us otherwise.**
 - » Read Proverbs 14:30 and Matthew 23:27.
 - » Mercifully, we have a promise of restoration through Jesus Christ (Romans 8:11).
 - » Jesus is the hope that anchors our very soul (Hebrews 6:19).

4. **Ezekiel prophesied to the dry bones that God would restore the flesh and sinews upon them and it happened in Ezekiel 37:7.**
 - » Nevertheless, they were still dead according to verse 8.
 - » Just like the hypocritical Pharisees in Jesus’ day, they looked good on the outside—but still were dead in the inside.
 - » A physical restoration is literally only half of the story, we must inquire of the Lord to resuscitate us with His Holy Spirit.
 - » God will do His work in us but He requires that we do our part as well.

“THE GREAT SPEECH WRITER”

Lesson 12 □ For week ending September 16, 2017

There is a very interesting conversation that takes place in the book of Exodus between Moses and God. God revealed to Moses His plan to send him to speak to Pharaoh on His behalf to set the people of Israel free from Egypt. Even though Moses was being sent by God, Himself, he still had insecurities about his speech impediment, and like many of us today, attempted to use those insecurities as justification for not following through with God's instructions for His life. When we set aside our excuses and trust in the Lord, we will discover that He is the author of our speech and He will give us the words that we need to speak at the appropriate time.

- Deaconess Kimberley Combs

KEY TEXT: "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue" (II Samuel 23:2).

- 1. In Exodus 4:10, Moses offered the Lord his explanation as to why he should not have to speak to Pharaoh by saying, "I have always had this issue with my speech and that has not changed even after You have called me."**
 - » In essence, Moses was saying, "Lord, if you want me to speak for You, why don't You fix my speech?"
 - » Did God relent? Read Exodus 4:11-12.
 - » Still Moses persisted (Exodus 4:13) and God gave him some help in the form of Aaron (Exodus 4:14-16).

- 2. As varied as the individual person, insecurities are ever-present. Even those who appear confident and "put together" in public, often struggle with insecurities in private.**
 - » These insecurities can be used by us as an excuse not to do something for God-like Moses did initially—or we can push through them and watch God provide the strength and help needed to accomplish His purpose (Exodus 4:29-31).

- 3. It is an unfortunate reality that many believers still have the same speech issues today that plagued them before they met Christ.**
 - » The Prophet Isaiah understood this struggle (Isaiah 6:4-7).
 - » Thankfully, God has sent us help just as Aaron was there to help Moses.
 - » Discuss our Helper—the Holy Spirit—as you read Mark 13:11.

- 4. In II Corinthians 10:12, the Apostle Paul warns the people of the Church that comparing themselves to one another is unwise.**
 - » The Body of Christ is made up of many members; however, we are all part of one body.
 - » To desire someone else's gift or ministry above our own calling, will only intensify our insecurities (Romans 12:4-6).
 - » Just like Moses, we offer up to God our reasoning as to why someone else "would do a better job" than we by exhorting the strength or abilities of others above ourselves.
 - » If Moses couldn't talk his way out of God's will for his life, what chance do we have?☺

"NOW IS THE TIME"

Lesson 13 ☐ For week ending September 23, 2017

We are living in a very exciting time in the history of mankind. The Word of God is being

fulfilled right before our very eyes. God is calling us in this hour to give our all for Him. One of the greatest tricks that Satan will use to hinder the progress of God's Church is to make us lose our sense of urgency. We must not put off until tomorrow what God is calling us to do today!

KEY TEXT: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2b).

1. The prevailing message which Jesus pressed upon as He spoke of His subsequent return, was *to be ready* (Matthew 24:42-44)!

- » This preparation must first begin in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- » Discuss the need for urgency in our full commitment to following God as you study Ephesians 5:1-8,16-18.
- » The way we "*redeem the time*" is by making wise and sacred use of every opportunity to do good.

2. When Jesus returns, the Scriptures tell us there will be a lot of people who will come under His judgment because they are not ready (Matthew 24:37-39).

- » When we see people living their lives with no thought for tomorrow, and with no thought for the destination of their eternal souls, this should fill our hearts with urgency to give them warning.
- » Look at how God used Noah in His generation to find out how God wants to use us in our time (II Peter 2:5, Hebrews 11:7).

3. It was imperative that Noah went to work immediately when God told him to build an ark. It was a massive undertaking and every day was important. In order to get the job done on time, Noah could not afford to procrastinate.

- » Read John 4:34,35 and discuss the immense job the Church has to do in these Last Days. Today is the day that we should become busy in the work of reaching souls. What instruction are we given in I Peter 3:15?

4. Proverbs 27:1 tells us, "*Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.*" This is why it is so crucial that we use the time that we have wisely.

- » Are there things that you have been putting off? We must make the decision to give our all to God with every day that He gives us.
- » Consider this as you read Psalms 118:24, Psalms 119:59,60 and Hebrews 3:12,13.

"WALKING IN THE SPIRIT"

Lesson 14 □ For week ending September 30, 2017

The life of a believer is a journey! As we travel through this life it is certain that we will face many challenges. This is the reason we need to let the Holy Spirit have control of our lives. He will lead and guide us in the way of truth! It is one thing to enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit

in a great church service, but it is another thing entirely to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Ask yourself today: Am I walking in the Spirit?

KEY TEXT: “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

1. The idea of walking in the Spirit is not something mystical.

- » It is not walking around in some kind of spiritual haze with your head in the clouds.
- » Walking in the Spirit has more to do with **choosing daily to live in obedience to the Word of God.**
- » In Galatians 5:16-26, the Apostle Paul lays out for us in very definitive terms what it truly means to walk in the Spirit.

2. One of the key elements that Paul brings to light in his dissertation, is that *the flesh has to be crucified* in order for us to successfully walk in the Spirit.

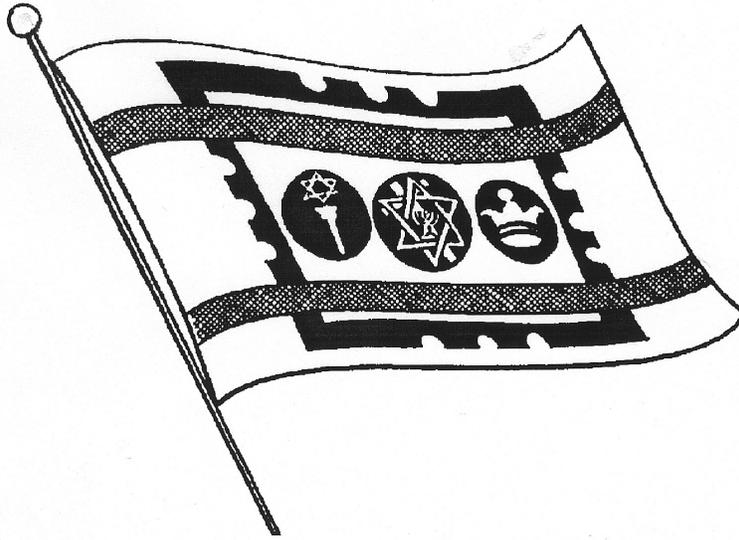
- » Walking in the Spirit begins with Jesus!
- » We must choose to follow Jesus in every part of our lives rather than our old carnal nature.
- » As you read Romans 8:1-9, expand upon why it is necessary to crucify the flesh on a daily basis.

3. Walking in the Spirit should not be characterized by *struggle* but rather by *surrender*. In other words, someone who has given their life to Jesus Christ will have within them a new heart that wants to live in obedience to the ways of God.

- » Confirm this from the following scriptures: Ezekiel 36:26,27 and Romans 6:1-7.

4. The decisions that we make each day are very important. Those choices can either bring blessings or curses upon our lives (Deuteronomy 30:19,20).

- » The truth is that we decide every day—by the way we communicate, respond, and/or interact with one another—whether to walk in our flesh (Galatians 5:16-21) or to operate and walk in the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26).
- » Discuss the importance of governing our tongue and controlling our reaction to life’s everyday interactions (James 3:2-12; Proverbs 14:29; 18:21; 25:11).
- » Remember, self-control is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- » When we walk in the Spirit, we will reap the blessings of God (Galatians 6:7-10)!



A quarterly publication of

THE CHURCH OF GOD

— *Jerusalem Acres* —

Post Office Box 1207

1826 Dalton Pike, SE

Cleveland, Tennessee 37364-1207, USA

Phone: 423/472-1597 or 423/476-5596

Fax: 423/478-5572

E-mail: TCOGJERACR@AOL.COM

Website: thechurchofgodntj.org

Email: thechurchofgodntj.com