

The Ministry of God the Holy Ghost

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

I. God the Holy Ghost

A. Third Person of the Trinity

Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7

B. Giver of life God the Son creates but God the Holy Ghost gives life to the soul.

*Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35;
John 20:22*

C. The Spirit part of the Trinity

John 7:39

II. The Ministry of God the Holy Ghost

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).

A. The Holy Ghost convicts all men

1. Of sin

John 16:9

2. Of righteousness

John 16:10

3. Of judgment

John 16:11

B. The Holy Ghost is the agent of the New Birth

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:5–6).

Romans 8:14, 16; Hebrews 9:14; Titus 3:5

C. The Holy Ghost indwells God's people

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

Luke 1:15, 41, 67; 4:1; Acts 4:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19

D. The Holy Ghost gives guidance to God's people

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come” (John 16:13).

Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13

E. The Holy Ghost seals the believer until the day of redemption

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30).

Romans 8:23; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13–14

F. The Holy Ghost sanctifies the believer

“But we are bound to give thanks alway 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” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

1 Peter 1:2

G. The Holy Ghost makes intercession for the believer

“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” (Romans 8:26–27).

1 Chronicles 28:9

H. The Holy Ghost is the Comforter

*“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:26–27).
John 14:16-20; John 15:26; John 16:7; Acts 9:31; Romans 5:5*

I. The Holy Ghost gives power to God’s people

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).
Acts 2:1–4; Acts 4:31; Acts 10:38; Acts 19:6*

J. The Holy Ghost gives joy to God’s people

*“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”
(Romans 14:17). Acts 15:32*

K. The Holy Ghost gives spiritual discernment to God’s people

*“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”
(1 Corinthians 2:14).
Acts 13:9–11; 1 Corinthians 12:10*

III. The Holy Ghost—Agent of Communication

A. The Holy Ghost dictated the Scriptures to human agents

*“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21).
2 Samuel 23:2*

B. The Holy Ghost speaks to us

Luke 2:26; 12:12; Acts 13:2; 16:6

C. The Holy Ghost speaks through us

Mark 13:11; Luke 1:67; Acts 1:16; 2:33; 21:11

D. The Holy Ghost is the agent of divine communion

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16).

John 14:17; 15:26; 16:12–15; Ephesians 1:13;

Hebrews 10:14–15

IV. What Is the World of the Spirit All About?

A. Some original language words for the Spirit of God

1. Hebrew: ruah=breath, wind

Job 27:3; 33:4

2. Greek: pneuma=wind, breath

We can see from the above words that a spirit is very hard to quantify or describe. It has no definite shape or substance. It is not bound by the laws of nature. Thus, it's whereabouts cannot be definitely known.

We do know, however, that the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, fills the physical universe and all of heaven and hell (Psalms 139:8; 1 Kings 8:27). His whereabouts can be known in that He is everywhere all the time. He is omnipresent.

B. There are spirits of nations, people, emotions, states of being and etc.

Numbers 5:14; Deuteronomy 34:9; 2 Kings 2:15; 1

Chronicles 5:26; 2 Chronicles 21:16; Ezra 1:1; Job 20:3;

Isaiah 4:4; 11:2; 19:3; 29:10

C. There are evil spirits

These spirits often appear to be good spirits and are therefore even more dangerous than you might think (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Hosea 5:4; Luke 4:33; Luke 13:11; Acts 16:16;

Romans 8:15; 11:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:3

D. There are good spirits

Good spirits are comprised of all those who remained true to God when Satan made insurrection against Him. Satan took one third of God's angels with him, but the rest remained sinless. In this respect all heavenly spirits are holy spirits. Thus when we speak of THE Holy Spirit, it is preferable to specify Him as the Spirit of God or the Holy Ghost.

Zechariah 12:10; Romans 8:15; 2 Corinthians 4:13; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:7; Revelation 19:10

V. Gifts of the Spirit?

A. Spiritual gifts given to special individuals

1 Cor. 12:7–11; 12:28–31

The scriptures, primarily in 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14, mention a number of spiritual gifts that were given to certain individuals in the Church by the Holy Ghost. These included words of wisdom and knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. The question as to whether these gifts are still available to the Church today has caused a deep rift within the present day Church.

One segment of the Church accepts these as being still available to the Church today and the membership aggressively seeks to be endowed with such gifts. These are generally known as Pentecostal or Charismatic congregations. Unfortunately, there is much documented fraud from those who would make merchandise of the saints (1 Peter 2:1–3), among those of this persuasion. Additionally, there is a noticeable lack of sound doctrinal teaching in these congregations since “words of knowledge” or “prophecies” are often pronounced which are in direct conflict with the written Word of God. We are warned against accepting this type of prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:20–22, Jeremiah 14:14–15, Ezekiel 14:9–10, Mark 8:11–12, and 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

On the other hand, the apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 1:27–31, admonishes to covet earnestly the best gifts. The question is: Was that admonishment only to the early Church or was it meant for the entire Church throughout the entire Church Age?

While the afore mentioned segment of the Church believes these gifts are meant for the entire Church Age, another faction of the Church vehemently denies this. They believe that the gifts were given only to establish the new Church and then, when the scriptures were completed, they were withdrawn. The “gifts” faction retorts with the verse “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). While this appears to be a powerful argument, one has to wonder if it is a misapplication of the scriptures since it can easily be demonstrated that God has dealt with man very differently in different eras (dispensations). Further, in a number of aspects it can be shown that Jesus Christ has not always been just what He is today. The “anti-gifts” faction argues that if a man were given the gift of healing, then he should be emptying all the hospitals. The “gifts” group counters with verses that they say indicate

that each individual must have enough faith to be healed. The opposition then points out that this type of healing would constitute concrete evidence of God's presence in man's affairs in an age when "we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

The "anti-gifts" people further argue that most of the greatest men of God in our modern times, men like John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, and D. L. Moody, never received any of these special gifts and yet they won thousands of people to the Lord in their lifetimes. Some of the 'gifts' people believe, on the other hand, that if a person doesn't exhibit at least one of these he or she is not even saved.

The "anti-gifts" people point to 1 Corinthians 13:8–10, which occurs right in the middle of the main biblical treatise on the gifts of the Spirit. This passage indicates that at least prophecies, tongues, and words of knowledge were meant to be temporary. Congregations of this persuasion are often very strong on doctrine but much weaker on emotional involvement with their God. We at the Little Red Book ministry believe that this second 'anti-gifts' faction has the correct outlook and interpretation of the scriptures. We want to be careful however not to put a limit on what we believe God's will is. We certainly acknowledge that God is still very active in healing the sick, but more according to James 5:14–15, rather than the belief that a particular man is endowed with the gift of healing. We genuinely love our Lord, as also do many of our friends, and yet we do not receive any of these gifts. Given the confusion and profusion of fraud among our Charismatic and Pentecostal brethren, we feel obliged to take a stand against any thing that ultimately so profanes and blasphemes the exalted name of our God.

B. Testing the spirits

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

It is important to recognize that just because something unnatural occurs which seems to be a very good thing, it is not necessarily from God. As we have seen, we are not to have anything to do with evil spirits and further, we must test any spirits we knowingly come in contact with. It therefore seems more reasonable to let the Holy Spirit of God minister to us through His written Word and to have nothing to do with questionable spiritual manifestations.

Matthew 24:5; Acts 20:29–31; Romans 16:17–18; Philippians 4:18–20; Jude 3–4, 8–13, 16