

**COMMUNITY ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
**REASONS FOR OUR HOPE**  
**Lesson Six**

**FULL ASSURANCE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**Introduction**

There are three areas in which we can be fully assured that we are in a right relationship with God. One is knowing that the new covenant promises of God have been and are being fulfilled in us. God does not fail to keep His promises. The second is the evidence of God's provision of a perfect atonement sacrifice that we might share eternal life with Him again. A third is awareness of the presence of God's Spirit living within us. He comes to make us into new beings and to indwell us as a guarantee that we have been adopted into the family of God through Christ. Too often the Holy Spirit is spoken of as if He were an attribute of God rather than the third member of the Trinity. We dare not treat Him in such a fashion in this study. We are indebted to the works of Lewis Sperry Chafer on the Holy Spirit for the insight into the Comforter's role in our having a full assurance; a blessed hope.

**I. THE PRESENCE**

**A. Assurance From The Person of The Holy Spirit.** Few statements concerning the Holy Spirit are more descriptive than to call Him the Administrator of the Godhead. Jesus was known in the beginning as doing the creative work of God, but it was the person of the Holy Spirit that was bringing it into fruition. Throughout scripture, He is the one breathing the breath of life into man, inspiring the written Word and even generating the human life of Christ in Mary's womb. He is the one who regenerates our new birth into eternal life. His deity was never in question in the early creeds of the church. (Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, and the Articles of The English Church) The writers of scripture applied the same attributes to Him as to the Father. The Spirit is eternal. (Heb. 9:14). He is omnipresent; He indwells every believer. (1 Cor. 6:19) He is omniscient; He searches all things, even the deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:10). He inspired the scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16). He is referred to often as the Spirit of Truth, of Grace, and He is Holy. The scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit equal honor in conjunction with the Father and the Son. He is actively mentioned in the first verse of the Bible and speaking in the final verses of Revelation. The patriarch of all books, Job, attests to the Spirit's work in giving life, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life" (Job

33:4)

**1.The Power of The Holy Spirit.**

**In the Old Testament**, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon individuals to equip them for service. In the New Testament, He was to indwell the believer as the final step in reconciliation. The death of Christ was the sufficient cause for God's attributing righteousness and forgiveness to us, but it is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that qualifies us as prepared for eternity. He is our final assurance as seen in some of His titles: He is the Spirit of truth (John 14:17, Spirit of life (Romans 8:2), Spirit of adoption (Rom. 8:15), eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14), and Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13). It should be noted that these are all "descriptive titles" which may come from His role to assume a secondary position rather than speak of Himself. (John 16:13, 14). The works of the Son on earth were empowered by the Holy Spirit, even the power to resist the devil's temptations. (John 4:14)

**2.The Relationship Between Believers and The Spirit.** The Spirit indwells, regenerates, anoints, baptizes, seals, fills, and provides the surety of God that all that has been promised will be fulfilled. *"Now it is God who has made us for his very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.: (2 Cor. 5:5)* . He also is God's administrator inside us. He convicts, empowers, calls to memory things from God's word, comforts us, presents our prayers, holds back the enemy, protects us from temptation, and empowers us to persevere. Most of all, He regenerates us into new creatures in Christ as co-heirs with Him in God's new family. (John 3:3-5) A final word can be said about this aspect of the Spirit indwelling believers. His last relationship with us is the task of administering and executing the divine purpose of God toward us from beginning to end. He came on the day of Pentecost to make possible what Jesus told the rabbi, Nicodemus. "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he (or she) is born again".

In Acts 2: 38, *Peter is speaking to the crowd on the Day of Pentecost, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "*

**B. The Holy Spirit in Relation To The World (Cosmos).** The presence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament was guided by an attribute of His Deity. He was omnipresent in that He was everywhere in the universe as the administrator or executive of empowerment from God. After the Day of Pentecost, He became a

resident of the earth, living in the heart of every believer. The best text describing His residence and the termination of it is found in 2 Thess. 2:1ff. Another marvel of God's eternal purpose is found in this passage. While the Holy Spirit is a resident of this earth, He will also be the power restraining the efforts of the evil one to deceive the unsuspecting with his lies. The Holy Spirit will be *our protector and assurance that when Christ returns, we will be prepared and ready to be gathered out of this world. Once the Spirit leaves this world with believers, the lawless one will have freedom for a while to carry out his evil desire. It is then that the Lord will return and overthrow him with the breath of His mouth and destroy him with the splendor of His coming. Paul provides the best summary of our study with the words. "We ought always to thank God, for one another, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through faith in the truth (Jesus Christ). . . May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us by His grace give us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage you and strengthen you in every good deed and word."* (2 Thess. 2: 1-13)

### **SUMMARY OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**

The purpose of our study has been to heed Peter's admonition to be ready always to give a reason to anyone who asks about the hope that we have in Christ. In the process we have come into a position of great blessing and mighty responsibility. The blessing that is ours is *the strengthening of our faith as we have seen a new unchanging purpose of God in reconciling us to Himself through His at-one-ment sacrifice. The mighty responsibility is what we do with all that has been revealed to us. The Apostle Paul stated that in light of God's great mercy, it is reasonable that we should commit our lives as holy sacrifices to Him (Rom. 12).*

As a result of what we have studied, we can now give a definitive set of reasons why we believe. In the order in which we have surveyed them, we have a faith that rests on:

1. The fact that our God is alive and characterized by attributes that describe His power to accomplish whatever He wills.

2. The historical record of a people to whom He relates as an emotionally loving God, merciful, full of grace to those who are willing to obey Him and justly wrathful toward those who rebel and violate His Holy standards.

3. The fact that He cannot lie and always keeps His promises. His total faithfulness gives us assurance that He will keep the promises He has made in a covenant of grace given to to his prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and others.

4. God's revelation of an eternal purpose by which He planned to reconcile us to Himself and to give us eternal life. He began to unfold the mystery of His purpose through shadows of what was to come. First to the priests, then to the prophets, and finally revealed His purpose through His Son who came in the express image of God to be our sufficient atonement sacrifice.

5. The eye witness accounts of the disciples and Apostles who personally saw the signs and wonders that Christ performed and taught. He affirmed that He was the Son of God sent into the world to become God's atonement sacrifice for sin. Christ died, was resurrected, and seen by many, confirming that He was to be the first born of all who believe. He promised to come again and take us to be with Him eternally (John 14:1-2).

6. The witness in us of the indwelling power of God's Holy Spirit to make us new creatures in Jesus Christ. The Spirit's residence in us and His power to reconcile us unto God is seen in our freedom to reject sin, our freedom to approach God directly in prayer, and in our fervor for the things of God that attest that we have been born again as members of God's new family.

7. Jesus is the alpha and omega of everything. He not only became our "kaphar" (covering for sin), He also became our "azazel" (carrying away sacrifice) of our sin. He is our creator, savior, sacrifice of atonement, high priest, and mediator under a new covenant made possible through the shedding of His own blood to reconcile us to God eternally through the power of regeneration ( a new birth) by the Spirit. No wonder God has decreed that in the end, every knee shall bow before Him.

8. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ and expresses His love through our hearts into the world around us. When He is leading us we act and behave as Christ would.

9. The Holy Spirit provides us with a new nature that is capable of saying no to sin. John wrote toward the end of his life: (I John 3:6,9) *No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him.*

**10.(I John 4:13) We know that we live in Him and He lives within us, because He has given us His Spirit.**

