

## Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

# Revelation and the Holy Spirit

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Dr. Mary Craig (Message delivered by Stephen Craig)  
Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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We turn now to the Revelation given to John and some things revealed to the Apostle John concerning the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of Revelation we find John saying, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day) (1:10).

In the salutation we do not have a direct reference to the Holy Spirit, but we can say that the blessing conferred would be imparted by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who applies redemption. So let’s read Revelation 1:3.

**Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. NKJV**

In addressing the seven churches which are in Asia, John invokes grace and peace from the Godhead:

**Revelation 1:4-6 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:**

**<sup>4</sup>Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.**

**To Him who loved us and washed [or loosed] us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. NKJV**

The Father – Him who is and who was, and who is to come

The Spirit – the seven Spirits which are before the throne

Jesus Christ – and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness (Rev. 1:4).

This is as much a prayer, an invocation of blessing, as that of Numbers 6:24-26. The apostle John desired and made supplication to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in the magnitude of His power, and God the Son, that the seven churches in Asia might enjoy their grace and peace, namely, the grace and peace of the Godhead. To say “bless you,” we are really praying that God bless someone, in this case, with grace and peace. John was both invoking the Godhead and asking for the Godhead to supply grace and peace.

“Where grace goes before, peace will follow.” Matthew Henry

The seven Spirits in the plural indicate the manifold and various operations of the Holy Spirit in the application of grace, with a reference to Isaiah 11:2 with allusion to the seven churches.

**Isaiah 11:1, 2** <sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

In Revelation we see this style of description used repeatedly to represent the Holy Spirit as resting on Christ for the great ends which were involved in the execution of the Covenant. E.g. Rev. 3:1, 4:2; 4:5. In Revelation 3:1 Jesus is said to **have** the Spirit. The Spirit belongs to Christ (cf Hebrews 1:9) and proceeds from Him.

**Revelation 3:1** “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”  
NKJV

**Revelation 4:2, 5** <sup>2</sup>Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne...<sup>5</sup>And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. NKJV

Here we must observe that the Spirit and Christ go together. Those who have Christ have the Holy Spirit. If someone does not have the Spirit, that one is not “Christ’s.” A person might be a member of the VISIBLE church and externally united to Him by association with His people, but unless that person partakes of that vital spiritual union which arises from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that person is only calling himself a Christian. Matthew Henry comments:

“The Spirit **visits** many who are unregenerate, with His motions, which they resist and quench; but in all that are sanctified He **dwells**: there He resides and rules. He is there as a man at his own house, where he is constant and welcome, and has the dominion. Shall we put this question to our hearts, Who dwells, who rules, and who keeps house here? Which interest has the ascendant?” Matthew Henry

It is the Father who draws through the agency of the Holy Spirit. John 6:44.

**John 6:44** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. NKJV

No sinner ever knocks at His door for mercy, or by earnest and importunate prayer, until the Father who sent Christ has first drawn him by the operations of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit works in us first. He applies the Word of Conviction and draws the natural man so completely enslaved by sin and enchained by Satan and produces a radical change in the heart. The Spirit’s “drawing” frees the mind, the affections, and the will from the reigning power of depravity; and without the Holy Spirit’s work, we would reject and remain in our sins, blind and deaf and proudly rebellious against our Creator.

Jesus said.....You don't believe because you don't belong. Listen to John 10:26-30.

**John 10:26-30:** <sup>26</sup>But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. <sup>27</sup>“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup>and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup>“My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>“I and the Father are one.”

In the fifth chapter of Revelation, John describes what he beheld in connection with the book written within and without, and sealed with seven seals, which no man in heaven or in earth could open.

**And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Revelation 5:6 NKJV**

The design of all this is to communicate to the reader that the Holy Spirit has infinite supplies which Christ imparts. It speaks of the plenitude of power of the Holy Spirit. Again, Isaiah 11:2 describes the Spirit resting on Christ.

When Christ sends the seven letters to the seven churches, He bids them hear what the Spirit speaks to the churches (2:7); for it is the person Holy Spirit that speaks in and by the gospel and that speaks in all the word of truth. We are to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Son honors the Father (John 14:10). The Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:13, 14). As the Father honored the Son by bidding the disciples to hear Jesus (Matthew 17:5), in like manner the Son shows respect and honors the Holy Spirit by saying, “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches.” (Rev. 2:7)

Revelation closes with the call: The Spirit and the Bride say, Come. As the church says “Come,” the Church is moved by the Holy Spirit to do so.

1. **HONOR THE SPIRIT** by hearing Him and obeying the Word of Truth, the God-breathed Word.
2. **Hear the Spirit** by active listening. Ask for wisdom. Ask for Him to open your spiritual eyes to understand, perceive, and comprehend what the Word of God is actually saying. Study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

### [New King James Version](#)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

### [King James Bible](#)

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

3. **Humble yourself to the working of the Spirit.** May our desire be to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ, to Him who has all authority in heaven and on earth. It really is, “Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

Revelation 22:12-20

**<sup>12</sup>“Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”**

**<sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by its gates. <sup>15</sup>But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.**

**<sup>16</sup>“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.”**

**<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Let the one who hears say, “Come!” And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the water of life drink freely.**

**<sup>18</sup>I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. [19](#)And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book.**

**<sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Revelation 22:12-20 NKJV**

Revelation takes the fact of an eternal hell seriously. It concludes with the Spirit and the (invisible) Church urging those who are thirsty to come and to take freely the water of life. At every point, we must see a world which is on a collision course with God's wrath, and we must witness to Christ and the power of His gospel. Those who hear, those who see their true condition, those who are thirsty, will heed the call and come. If they do, they will have been drawn by the Holy Spirit to living waters, drawn by the Father by the working of the Life-Producer to eternal life.

We carry the gospel with us but mainly in us. We must always be ready to give to everyone who asks an answer for the hope within us. May our lives truly reflect Christ in us, the hope of glory.

May we make it plain that the authority of Jesus Christ undergirds morality. The Bible is not merely the book that has influenced more people of all cultures in all times and in every place on the planet. It is the Word of Truth and everyone will stand before the Living God.

As Pastor Jim would say at the end of his sermons:

“Many will be surprised on the Day of Judgment when they discover that it was just as the Word of God says; only the righteousness of Christ is able to save you. All men are sinners and no one can save himself. God is just, so He must punish sin; but He is also merciful, moreover gracious, and offers His Son as the perfect sacrifice in order to purchase a place for you in heaven, which He offers to you as the free gift of eternal life.

Jesus **is** God Incarnate.

In order to pay the debt of our sins, He came from Heaven to this earth, having been sent by the Father, where He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father even unto the shameful death upon the cross in order to pay the debt note of sin.

This gift of eternal life must be received by faith, believing that Jesus' perfect life and Cross Work was His complete and necessary Atonement for your sins, in your behalf. Faith is a gift that comes by the Power of God the Holy Spirit working in a person's innermost being. The Holy Spirit has the authority and power to quicken your dead spirit, to make it come to life.

If you have not done so before this moment, ask Jesus to forgive you your sins, tell Him you've stopped trying to be your own savior, and ask Him to come into your life right now, and to give you eternal life. Then, in faith believing, thank Him for the gift that He is giving you, the one He paid for in full in your place, in Jesus' name, **AMEN**"

**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Revelation 22:21**

*Mary Craig, D. Min.*

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