

HOW THE HOLY GHOST WORKS

INTRODUCING A NEW SERIES

*"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;
but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."*

~ Romans 14:17

1. Holy Ghost Confusion

- a. People don't even believe in "ghosts", and the Bible talks about the Holy Ghost
- b. What do we call him? Spirit, holy Spirit, Holy Ghost, Comforter, Spirit of Truth/Grace
- c. Songs - "Surely the presence ... is in this place", "I feel the Spirit", "Come, Holy Spirit"
- d. Everyone blames the Spirit for every whim, feeling, emotion, gut reaction, superstition
- e. Then there are the tongues, praying, singing, preaching in the Spirit of Pentecostalism
- f. How do we get him? What does he do? How do we know his leading? Use his power? Be filled with his presence? Produce his fruit? Feel his presence?
- g. If the Spirit plays a crucial role in our lives ... then, Houston, we have a problem.

2. The Holy Ghost in You

- a. He is not an impersonal force, a divine lever of blessing, a magic wand, witchcraft
- b. People confuse the Spirit with feelings, experience, inner voice, flesh, dreams.
- c. The Holy Ghost is God - Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor 3:17, but not Jesus - John 15:26
- d. The Holy Spirit has power - Ac 1:8, 8:19, Rom 15:19, 1 Cor 2:4
- e. The Spirit of God dwells in you that believe the gospel - 1 Cor 3:16, Rom 8:9
- f. He is not your babysitter, scapegoat, excuse, or puppet master

3. The Importance of the Holy Spirit

- a. You are saved, sealed, and delivered by the Spirit - Eph 1:13, Rom 8:1, 8:9
- b. He intercedes for you - Rom 8:26
- c. He teaches you - 1 Cor 2:10-13
- d. You are supposed to walk after the Spirit, following his leading - Gal 5:16, 18, 25
- e. Paul says to be filled with the Spirit - Eph 5:16-18
- f. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost - Rom 14:17

4. Where to Start

- a. *"I thought it was all about Christ?"* - Yes, it is. Phil 3:7-8
- b. The Spirit testifies Christ - remember John 15:26, 16:13-14 - also Eph 3:4-5, 9
- c. Right division is crucial for knowing how the Holy Ghost works today.
- d. The Spirit knows and works according to the mystery of Christ.
- e. Next week, how to know you have the Spirit of God.