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The Spirit World

A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study

by Jeff S. Smith

7. The Catholic doctrine of purgatory holds that people too good for hell or not good enough for heaven go there to earn their salvation and make the leap into heaven. How does the account of the rich man and Lazarus defy the doctrine of purgatory (see also Second Corinthians 5:10; alleged proof passages include First Corinthians 3:11-15, Luke 12:58-59, First John 3:3)?

8. What event will conclude this intermediary state and commence the eternal judgment (First Thessalonians 4:13-18, Second Corinthians 5:9-11)?

9. What do the residents of Hadean torments and the wicked who yet live when Jesus returns have to anticipate at the final judgment (Matthew 13:47-50, 25:41-46; Second Thessalonians 1:3-10)?

10. What is certain about the righteous ones' hope of heaven?

11. Was it permissible under the Law of Moses to attempt to contact the spirits of the dead (Leviticus 19:31)? What happened when Saul wanted to consult Samuel, who had so departed (First Samuel 28:7-20)?

12. Where does Isaiah send people in such need instead (Isaiah 8:19-20)? How has God's attitude toward sorcery changed under the law of Christ (Galatians 5:19-20)?

Introduction

Much superstition and ignorance surround the matter of spirit beings. False ideas seem to outnumber what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, angels and demons. *The Spirit World* is written to assist Bible students in gaining a better understanding of them. The initial lesson in this series summarizes the Bible doctrine on the Godhead. Following that are six lessons that deal with the Holy Spirit and his person and work. Jesus is emphasized in two lessons, his father in another. The next three lessons deal with created beings: angels, demons and the devil. The final lesson has to do with the departed spirits of the dead.

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Lesson 13: Spirits of the Dead

The account of the rich man and Lazarus reveals to us that there is an intermediate state between this life and each man's eternal abode. This state is not Catholic purgatory, but a place called Hades, with separate regions for the righteous dead and wicked dead, divided by a great fixed gulf.

1. Where did the body of Jesus go upon his death (John 19:38-42)? Where did his spirit go (Acts 2:25-28 and Luke 23:39-43)?

2. Where did the rich man go upon death (Luke 16:19-31)? Is this the same place Jesus said he would hold his spirit? What is the difference?

3. Why did the rich man go where he went? How does the reader know the final judgment had not taken place before the rich man was assigned there?

4. How does Peter assure this assignment before the judgment is just and a proper understanding of the Lord's statements (Second Peter 2:4, 9-10)?

5. Describe the existence of the rich man after he died. What was his attitude toward those yet alive?

6. Describe the transformation in the lot of Lazarus from life to death.

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7. Describe the effect demons had on an individual they possessed (Luke 8:26-33).

8. What happened to the Jewish exorcists when they tried to imitate the success of Christ and his apostles (Acts 19:11-16)?

9. The question of whether demons continue to possess people today must be answered considering certain obvious Bible facts. Answer the following:

- a. What was the effect of Christ's ability to exorcise (Mark 1:23-28)?
- b. How was exorcism attached to other gifts (Mark 16:17-18, Matthew 10:1)?
- c. What was the purpose of miraculous gifts (John 20:30-31, Mark 16:20)?
- d. How was this objective accomplished (Jude 3)?
- e. Why has the age of miraculous gifts expired (First Corinthians 13:8-13)?
- f. If exorcism has ceased, what would be true if possession continued?

10. What age did Zechariah describe (13:1-3)? What three things would be cut off in this age?

11. Does evidence of wickedness, disease and insanity on Earth today prove that demons still possess people today (First Peter 5:8)?

Lesson 1: Understanding The Godhead

The term "Trinity" means different things to different people, and since it is not found in the Bible, this should come as no surprise. A better term to express a Bible concept with a Bible word is "Godhead." This word means simply, the essence of deity that defines our God and makes him God.

1. The members of the Godhead are evident in the creation of the world, as the three discuss the creation of man (Genesis 1:26). Summarize the description of the role of each:

- a. The Spirit (Genesis 1:1):
- b. Christ (Hebrews 1:2):
- c. The Father (Ephesians 3:9):

2. When Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, he was dealing with a group of people that was very religious and yet devoted to superstitions and false gods, rather than the one true and living God (Acts 17:19-34). From his speech, we learn certain things about the Bible's true deity:

- a. What did God create?
- b. Does God dwell in manmade temples?
- c. What does God need?
- d. What does God hope we will do?
- e. How does his nature compare to idols?

3. In his letter to the Roman saints, Paul referred to the Godhead as the nature of deity, whose imprint is observable throughout material creation (Romans 1:18-32). Explain what is meant by God's "invisible attributes" and the consequence of rejecting such evidence.

4. From these descriptions and other scriptures, we can conclude the divine nature is marked by certain qualities, including eternity. How did Habakkuk describe the origin of God (1:12)? What did the psalmist say (90:1-4)?

5. When the Father proclaimed through Isaiah that besides him, there was no God, why didn't this exclude Jesus as God (44:6. Revelation 1:9-11)?

6. Omniscience is the ability to know all things, which distinguishes the Godhead from humans and others. We see the members of the Godhead share this power. How did God describe it to Samuel (First Samuel 16:7)?

7. How did Jesus exercise omniscience in his ministry (Matthew 9:4, 12:25; Luke 6:8, 11:17)?

8. What warning is attached to God's omniscience in Hebrews 4:12-13?

9. What do the following passages state about the omnipotence of God?

a. Luke 1:37:

b. Isaiah 26:4:

c. Revelation 19:6:

10. What is the extent of the power of God, according to these passages?

a. Ephesians 3:20:

b. Ephesians 1:19-20:

c. Hebrews 10:31:

11. List three occasions when Jesus exercised power to raise the dead.

a.

b.

c.

12. How can we partake of the divine nature (Second Peter 1:4-11, First Peter 1:13-16)?

Lesson 12: Demons

Demons were quite prevalent in the days of Christ and provided him a convenient opportunity to display his power by exorcising them. While the existence of demons is not in question, the possibility that men may be possessed by demons today is controversial.

1. What aspect of this exorcism astounded witnesses (Mark 1:23-28)?

2. How did the demons feel about Christ (Matthew 8:28-32)? How is this exorcism different from dramatic presentations in modern cinema?

3. What false accusation did the Pharisees make against Jesus (Matthew 12:22-32)? Explain his defense. Of what sin did Jesus accuse them?

4. To whom was this power also given (Matthew 10:1, Mark 16:17)?

5. What did Jesus say in response to the disciples' amazement at being able to cast out demons (Luke 10:17-18)? Explain.

6. What do the demons share with people whose faith grows cold (James 2:18-20)? What is different about them?

6. No book is better known for its portrayal of the devil than Job. To what did the devil attribute Job's faithfulness when God suggested him (1:6-11)? How does this passage prove Satan's power is limited by God (1:12-19)?

7. Describe the devil's career (John 8:44, First John 3:7-9, Hebrews 2:14).

8. The Holy Spirit identifies one particular attitude that seems to have led to the devil's condemnation, and which also serves to prove that God did not create him to be evil. What attribute is noted in First Timothy 3:6?

9. How can Satan's power be overcome by the faithful (Ephesians 6:11-13, First Corinthians 10:12-13, First Peter 5:8-9, James 4:7-8)?

10. Satan is often cast as a mysterious being whose ways are beyond our comprehension and whose power has the potential to surprise. What did Paul say on this subject in Second Corinthians 2:11? What is his prime device today (Second Corinthians 4:3-4, 11:3)?

11. How did Jesus overcome each of the devil's three temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)?

Lesson 2: Christ's Promise of the Comforter

John's gospel account includes the last intimate conversation between Christ and his apostles before the crucifixion. In chapters 14-16, Jesus promises his closest followers that another helper would come after the Lord departed and infuse them with certain blessings that would enable the message to spread more effectively. That helper is identified as the Comforter, or the Holy Spirit.

1. Clearly two divine personages are identified in John 14:1-14 and are not the same, but distinct from one another. Identify them:

a.

b.

2. How were the apostles to show their love for Jesus (John 14:15-18)? How can disciples today show their overwhelming love for the Master (see also Second John 6, First John 2:3-6)?

3. How would Jesus avoid leaving the apostles "orphaned" following his ascension into heaven?

4. How can we tell the difference between the influence of the spirit of truth and that of the spirit of error (First John 4:1-6)?

5. List the two vital objectives Jesus designates for the Spirit (John 14:26)..

a.

b.

6. What became of the knowledge that the Comforter brought to the apostles (Second Peter 1:19-21)?

7. Paul told Timothy that the Holy Spirit's inspired message was profitable in four areas for the evangelist (Second Timothy 3:16-17). List them.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

8. Beyond the scriptures, what does a preacher require to fulfill his ministry?

9. Of whom will the Helper testify (John 15:26-27)? What would that testimony cause the apostles to do (see also Acts 5:30-32)?

10. Why was it to the apostles' advantage that Jesus go (John 16:5-15)?

11. List three things of which the Spirit was to convict the world and why.

- a.
- b.
- c.

12. How much knowledge necessary to man's salvation would the Holy Spirit fail to deliver, requiring latter day prophets to fill the gaps (see also Second Peter 1:3 and Jude 3)? Explain your answer.

13. Why did Jesus instruct the apostles to tarry in Jerusalem following his crucifixion (Luke 24:48-49)?

Lesson 11: Satan

The Bible presents Satan as a genuine character, not a fictional creation of fertile minds to personify all that is evil among men. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we find the devil engaged in negative works against the plan of God. Indeed, the climax of Christ's mission involved the folly of the devil as well.

1. Who was Isaiah instructed to taunt (14:1-17)? What name is mentioned that is usually assigned to Satan today? Is this passage directly about Satan?

2. Is Satan an eternal being like Jehovah, or is he a created being, like angels and demons (Colossians 1:15-17)?

3. The word Satan can be translated "adversary" and this description summarizes well the career of the devil. We first see him in this role in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-7). Explain how the serpent got Eve to sin.

4. By what means does he attempt to overcome people today, according to First John 2:15-17 and James 1:12-15?

5. What prediction did God make about the serpent in Genesis 3:14-15? When and how was this prophecy accomplished?

4. These angelic visits are obviously connected to the age of miracles, during which the word of God was being revealed and confirmed. Since this supernatural age has expired with the complete delivery of God's word, what should be the status of these visits today (First Corinthians 13, Jude 3)?

5. Does this mean that angels are then dead? What role can they continue to play (Hebrews 1:14, Luke 15:10, Matthew 18:10)?

6. Are all angels good (Matthew 25:41, Second Peter 2:4)? Explain.

7. Mormonism founder Joseph Smith claimed that an angel named Moroni visited him and delivered a "newer testament of Jesus Christ" which differs from the New Testament in our Bibles. How should Smith have responded to such an angel delivering such a "newer gospel" (Galatians 1:5-9)?

8. What is the role of angels when people die (Luke 16:19-23)?

9. What will be their task at the Lord's second coming (Matthew 13:37-43)?

10. What two groups are mentioned by the Major Prophets and are often presumed to be separate orders of beings (Ezekiel 10:1-5 and Isaiah 6:2-6).

11. What does the Hebrew writer say about angels in Hebrews 13:2?

Lesson 3: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In giving the great commission, Jesus promised that certain signs would accompany the preaching of God's word by the apostles. "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs" (Mark 16:20). These signs are gifts of the Holy Spirit, present in the first century, but with a special purpose and limited duration.

1. List the nine gifts of the Spirit listed in First Corinthians 12:1-11. We will define them in class.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

2. According to the gospel account, what was the purpose of miraculous gifts (Mark 16:14-20)?

3. What did Paul identify as the reason miraculous gifts existed only temporarily (First Corinthians 13:8-13)?

4. What would bring an end to miraculous gifts (verse 10)? Which of the following fits the context and is the meaning of the phrase “that which is perfect” – Heaven, Jesus’s second coming, or completed written revelation?

5. How did the apostles receive the gift of tongues (Acts 2:1-13)? How did these “tongues” differ from gibberish or unintelligible noises?

6. Why didn’t Philip pass along his miraculous abilities to the people he was converting in Samaria (Acts 8:4-17)? What great fact about miraculous gifts did Simon notice (Acts 8:18-19)? What ingredient is now missing to have miraculous abilities among men?

7. Why isn’t witnessing a miracle necessary to have faith (John 20:30-31)?

8. Those who claim miraculous abilities today usually claim either to be able to heal sicknesses, speak in tongues, or receive direct revelation from God. Do they heal sicknesses as Jesus and his apostles did—repairing a withered hand before the audience’s eyes? How do they do their work?

9. How do modern tongue speakers violate the scriptural example in their work (Acts 2:11 and First Corinthians 14:28)?

10. Some claim they have no control over their alleged gifts. What does Paul say about this in First Corinthians 14:32?

11. What is the ultimate test of any prophet (Deuteronomy 18:20-22, First Peter 2:1-3, First John 4:1-4)?

Lesson 10: Angels

Angels could communicate and be seen while doing supernatural works as well. All this added to the mystery and fantasy about angels and resulted in their elevation in interest even above God and Jesus for some observers. There is much we do not know about angels and what the Bible does not reveal, we should not seek to explain or imagine.

1. The mission of the angelic order of creation is nicely identified by the Greek word from which angel derives – *aggelos* (ἄγγελος, pronounced ang'-el-os), meaning “messenger.” How did an angel serve this role in the process of the incarnation of Christ?

2. In the Old Testament, especially during the Exodus, angels were identified as helping the people of God along their way. Examine the following passages and describe how angels assisted God’s people.

- Genesis 19:1-13:
- Genesis 24:1-7:
- Exodus 23:20-24:
- First Kings 19:1-8:
- Matthew 4:1-11:

3. Since the church was instituted on the first Pentecost after Christ’s ascension back into heaven in the first century, did angels ever intervene in the affairs of Bible characters? When?

4. How does the apostle describe Christ's glory (First Timothy 6:13-16)?

5. *Goodness*: What do these passages indicate about the goodness of God?

- First John 4:7-11:
- John 3:16:
- Romans 2:1-4:

6. *Justice*: Justice demands our Lord be impartial and true to both his promises and warnings (First Peter 1:17). According to what will God make his judgment of each one (Romans 2:5-11)? What causes some to be accepted in God's sight (Acts 10:34-35)?

7. *Holiness*: What is holiness? Since it applies to God, how can humans also pursue holiness as an element of their own character (First Peter 1:15)?

8. *Jealous*: For what is God jealous (Exodus 34:14)? What provokes his jealousy (James 4:4)?

9. *Merciful*: How does God show his mercy to men (Hebrews 8:12)?

10. *Compassion*: How does James describe God's compassion (4:8-10)?

11. *Vengeful*: To whom does vengeance exclusively belong (Romans 12:19-21)? Of what is man guilty when he seeks his own vengeance?

12. Could God still be described as just if, in the day of judgment, he granted universal salvation by rewarding the wicked and those who did not obey the gospel (Second Thessalonians 1:3-10)? Explain.

Lesson 4: Being Filled With the Spirit

It is a glorious fact that the Holy Spirit dwells within each believer today, but the means by which this is accomplished is a subject of controversy. Indeed, the Spirit indwells the saint, but he does this as Jesus and Jehovah indwell, after the figure of the influence through the word.

1. How does Paul describe the body of the Christian (First Corinthians 6:18-20)? What is the obligation in this passage that results?

2. Summarize the teaching of Romans 12:1-2 regarding the body as a temple of the Spirit.

3. Which member of the Godhead is said to dwell in the Christian in the following passages? Do they abide *literally and physically* there?

- a. First John 4:12, 15-16:
- b. Colossians 1:27:

5. In the age of miracles during the first century, men could be filled with the Spirit in miraculous measure, allowing them to speak beyond their natural ability and knowledge. In such cases, there was not a command to be filled with the Spirit, but it was a gift given to them. Identify who was miraculously filled with the Spirit in the following passages and what they were led to do:

- a. Acts 4:8:
- b. Acts 4:31:
- c. Acts 13:9:

6. What is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)? What does this tell us about the manner in which the Spirit operates on the hearts of men?

7. When the apostles wanted to find seven men to serve the widows' tables, they demanded applicants be full of the Holy Spirit, but no part of their task would require them to work miracles (Acts 6:1-3). In the midst of the other qualifications as context—good reputation and wisdom—what is “filled with the Spirit” likely describing here?

8. On other occasions, the Holy Spirit issued a decree that saints should obey him and be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:17-20). List the things involved in being filled with the Spirit, according to this passage.

- a. verse 17:
- b. verse 18:
- c. verse 19:
- d. verse 20:
- e. verse 21:

9. The Colossian letter is very similar to the one to the Ephesians, but its differences sometimes serve as a valuable commentary to the other. Where Paul commands us to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5, he commands us to be filled with something different in Colossians 3:16-17. What is it?

10. What does it then mean to be filled with these two items (see Second Timothy 3:16-17)?

11. What is the evidence that someone is walking in the spirit or against the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26)?

12. Not only does the Spirit dwell in us, but where do we also dwell?

13. Can one be filled with the Spirit today? If not, why not? If so, how?

Lesson 9: The Personality of Jehovah

No mere man who ever lived knew God better than Moses, who met him at the burning bush and then served as his chief lieutenant throughout forty years of wilderness wandering. The nature and personality of Jehovah became well known to Moses, and through his and others' writings can become known to us also, because God changes not.

1. *Faithfulness*: The relationship between man and God has always been described as a covenant, based on promises and conditions. Although man has failed to uphold his part of the compact on many occasions, God has always proven himself trustworthy. From the following passages, identify what promise we can count on because God has proven to be faithful.

- Genesis 9:8-17:
- Hebrews 6:13-18:
- First Peter 4:17-19:
- Second Peter 3:1-9:

2. *Fatherhood*: Both fleshly Israel in the Old Testament and spiritual Israel (the church) in the New Testament have been described by the Lord as his children. How does God fulfill his fatherly role toward us, according to the following passages?

- Matthew 7:7-11:
- Mark 11:25-26:
- James 1:17-18:
- Hebrews 12:7-11:
- First John 3:1:

3. *Reverend*: The psalmist said God's name was holy and to be revered (111:9). The glory of God is an awesome thing and ought always to remind man of his power. In the Day of Judgment, why won't confession of Christ still be optional (Romans 14:11-12)?

7. How did Jesus anticipate that the Pharisees would object to this miracle being done this day?

8. What caused Nathanael to confess Jesus as king of Israel (John 1:43-51)? What did Christ promise him?

9. What was the first sign Christ performed (John 2:1-11)?

10. Which act is greater and displays greater power, healing disease or forgiving sins (Luke 5:17-24)? How did the two acts work together?

11. Why did some people want to follow Jesus – was it because they saw a sign that inspired faith (John 6:1-27)?

12. Did Jesus continue to feed them to keep them anyway (John 6:52-69)? Who left? Who stayed?

13. What natural law did Jesus overcome to perform a miracle on Lazarus (John 11:1-48)? How long had Lazarus been gone? Why did this great miracle frighten the Pharisees' council?

14. What did Jesus mean by the expression “take it again” (John 10:17-18)? When did he perform this miracle?

Lesson 5: Holy Spirit Baptism

To many, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a most curious and mysterious matter in New Testament history. Promised by the prophets Joel and Jesus, the Spirit was poured out on all flesh early on in the apostolic ministry. The Bible records only two instances in which people received Holy Spirit baptism and on both occasions, the miraculous ability to speak in tongues provided evidence.

1. On whom would the spirit be poured out (Joel 2:28-29)? Would this outpouring be marked by miraculous gifts or something subtle and invisible?

2. Whom did John predict would bring about the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11)?

3. Why were the apostles to tarry in the city of Jerusalem after Christ's ascension (Luke 24:46-49, see also John 14:16)?

4. What was the “Promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4-5)? From this context, which people received this instruction and promise?

5. Can the baptism of the Holy Spirit then be obeyed in the way that water immersion can be obeyed unto the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)? Explain.

6. Who were all together with one accord (Acts 2:1-4; see also Acts 1:26)? What happened to them on the first Pentecost after Christ's ascension?

7. Which of the apostles was speaking gibberish or a language that no one present could identify as his own (Acts 2:5-13)?

8. “All flesh,” or mankind, was basically divided into two sections in this era, Jews and Gentiles. Which had already received Holy Spirit baptism?

9. Was Cornelius a Jew or a Gentile (Acts 10:1-8)? How did Jews tend to treat Gentiles? What was the lesson in Peter’s vision (Acts 10:9-23, 34-35)?

10. What was the effect on the Jews when they saw Holy Spirit baptism upon these Gentiles (Acts 10:44-46)?

11. What baptism did they undergo immediately after this? Which of these two baptisms has a record of being associated with “the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16)?

12. What outward proof of Holy Spirit baptism is present in both cases (Acts 2 and Acts 10)?

13. Many teach that it is Holy Spirit baptism that precedes salvation and that immersion in water may follow, but is not necessary to salvation. Arrange the following statements in chronological order, according to Acts 8:4-17:

Event

Order

- The converts received the Holy Spirit.
- Philip preached to the people of Samaria.
- Men and women of Samaria were baptized.
- The people of Samaria heeded Philip’s teaching.

14. Holy Spirit baptism allowed the apostles to be guided into all truth and speak by inspiration to men of every tongue. It later showed the entire church that the Gentiles should become fellow citizens of the kingdom with the Jews. Why is Holy Spirit baptism no longer necessary?

Lesson 8: Jesus, the Miracle Worker

The new revelation of God’s will that Jesus Christ was delivering in his earthly ministry was accompanied by signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Hebrews 2:4). Evidently the gospels do not contain all the miracles that Jesus performed, for John commented that he “did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book” (20:30). The purpose of Christ’s miracles went beyond the immediate circumstances—healing this one or feeding that one—to advancing evidence that he was divine and his message was genuine.

1. Why are Christ’s miracles recorded in the gospels (John 20:30-31)?

2. What was Christ’s role in the miracles done by the apostles after his ascension (Mark 16:19-20)?

3. What natural law did Jesus overcome when he walked on water (Matthew 14:22-33)? How did the group respond when the wind had ceased and the miracle was allowed to settle in their minds? What practical lesson should Peter have gained from this (see also James 1:5-7)?

4. What made one miracle of healing all the more spectacular (John 4:46-54)? Did this man wait until he saw the miracle to believe?

5. How did Jesus demonstrate power over the elements (Mark 4:35-41)?

6. Beyond the surface features of this miracle, what point was Jesus making when he healed the man with the withered hand (Luke 6:5-12)? Have you ever seen a modern day “healer” accomplish anything of this nature?

8. Where did Christ spend the three days between the crucifixion and the resurrection (Luke 23:43, Acts 2:22-31)?

9. Where was Christ seated following the resurrection and his ascension back to the Father (Acts 2:22-33)?

10. What did Christ “learn” from the crucifixion (Hebrews 5:5-9)? What role did he take by virtue of this lesson?

11. According to the following passages, what is Christ’s role today?

- Hebrews 7:23-25:
- Hebrews 8:6:
- First John 2:1-2:
- Romans 5:6-11:

12. Paul describes the second coming in First Thessalonians 4:13-17. At what point will he set foot on Earth again and take up residence in Jerusalem to sit on a throne, which someone will have to build for him that day?

13. Where will both the living and dead righteous be united with Christ?

14. What kind of day will that be when Jesus returns for those who have refused to obey the gospel and those who do not genuinely know the Lord (Second Thessalonians 1:3-10)?

Lesson 6: Sins Against The Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a person of the Godhead, and as such, can be sinned against by men and women in the world. One such sin is even unforgivable, but all sins against the spirit can lead to condemnation if uncorrected.

1. What is the offense against the Spirit mentioned in First Thessalonians 5:19-22? To what is the Holy Spirit compared in this imagery (Acts 2:3)?

2. Judging by the context in Paul’s letter, quenching the Spirit might have included wrong uses of miraculous gifts. Identify how the following passages regulate misuses of such gifts:

- a. First Corinthians 14:26-27:
- b. First Corinthians 14:28:
- c. First Corinthians 14:34-35:
- d. Second Timothy 1:6:

3. In this age in which miracles have ceased, how does the Holy Spirit’s flame yet burn (James 1:21, Ephesians 6:17, First Peter 1:22-25)? How can one quench the Spirit today (First Thessalonians 2:13, James 1:22-25)?

4. What sin against the Spirit is mentioned in Mark 3:20-30? How had these men committed it? How does Jesus emphasize the seriousness of this sin?

5. Why did Jesus do signs (John 20:30-31)? Can one be saved though he deny the power and person of Christ (Hebrews 11:6, Acts 4:12)? Why is this sin unforgivable?

6. What sin against the Spirit is noted in Hebrews 10:26-31? How is this sin against the spirit committed?

7. Why is he called the “Spirit of grace” (First Corinthians 2:7-10, Hebrews 2:3-4 and John 16:8)? What is the penalty for this sin against the Spirit?

8. How are sin and apostasy characterized in Hebrews 6:4-6?

9. What is the sin against the Spirit mentioned in Ephesians 4:25-32? With what member of the body is it committed, according to this context?

10. List at least three such activities of this member which grieve the Spirit, according to these verses:

a. Ephesians 4:25:

b. Ephesians 4:29:

c. Ephesians 4:31:

11. What achieves the opposite of grieving the Spirit (Ephesians 4:32, James 1:19-20)? How does James describe the reason the Spirit is grieved by this member’s sin (James 3:10-12)?

12. What sin against the Spirit is identified in Acts 7:51-60? How was it committed (Acts 13:44-46)? How can it be committed today (Second Timothy 3:1-9)?

Lesson 7: Christ: Past, Present and Future

It can safely be assumed that Jesus shocked his audience in John 8 when he announced, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (verse 58). That designation had been applied to Jehovah when he made himself known to Moses at the burning bush. Now this itinerant carpenter from Nazareth was taking the same name for himself and claiming eternity in the process.

1. What phrases suggest the eternal nature of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9-11)? How does Isaiah 44:6 establish that Jesus is both eternal and divine?

2. Who is the “Word” under consideration in John 1:1-14 (see also Matthew 1:23)? How does John describe him?

3. If Christ is eternal and divine, is it also possible that he is a created being? What about Jesus was prepared for him (Hebrews 10:5)?

4. What was Christ’s role in the creation (Colossians 1:15-18)?

5. In what “degree of deity” does Christ exist (Colossians 2:8-10)?

6. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus (John 5:17-18)?

7. In one word, describe the “mind of Christ” concerning the incarnation (Philippians 2:5-11).