

Dr. Ernest Martin's Home Study Course: Lesson 14

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped Home Study Course made between 1977-98 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D. Former Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

BIBLE STUDY LESSON 14

The Role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians

The role of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God in our lives as Christians is paramount. The Holy Spirit is the agency, the very means by which They, God through Christ communicate with us to show and explain their love for us. We who in reality are Their children, and brothers and sisters. By the means of the Holy Spirit, They reveal to us our understanding of life, and the reason for our very existence on this world.

God the Word, Christ, wrote the Bible in His own special language and style which makes it impossible for mere humans to comprehend without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

The many story threads that are woven into the books of the Bible are made up of precepts or principles which appear as fragments, a little of the story in one place, and more detail in other places.

It is somewhat like the speech of someone who 'stammers', the whole sentence or paragraph does not come out at once. It is truly written in another 'tongue' or language for which we need the Holy Spirit to unravel and interpret for us as it flows through our minds and hearts in terms of thoughts, ideas, concepts and feelings.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Notice we need to live by every Word out of the mouth of God, not through humans or human organisations.

Human beings have a human spirit

God witnesses Himself directly to each of us by His Holy Spirit working through our human spirit which we receive at birth, and which returns to God who gave it at death.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

All animals have a 'spirit' which makes each genus what it is, an elephant has an elephant spirit, and a dog a dog spirit, all animate life does, and they are all different; animals are limited in intellect by the capacity of their spirit.

What is the role of the human spirit? It gives us the capacity to be able think, to plan, to create, to design, and to love, and these are all characteristics of God. It also enables us to make a connection with God.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

The human spirit is completely different from animal spirit as it is our link to God's Spirit. Our human spirit gives us the power to respond to God our Father, and by the means of God's Holy Spirit if we choose to do so. If we do, we gain understanding.

The Holy Spirit shines the Light of God's Gospel illuminating the innermost parts of our hearts and minds through our human spirit.

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

In this way, the Holy Spirit works with each of us individually to provide the 'food' of the Word that is specially applicable to us. This direct contact with God is the only way we can be sure of receiving the Truth unmixed with the ideas or errors of human beings.

It is this combination of God's Spirit and our human spirit which forms the new creature, or creation in each of us once we are converted.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This is the mechanism by which God puts a part of Himself, a portion of His nature, His character, His Wisdom and His Love into His children. As we respond to these gifts, we grow in Grace and knowledge, and in Godly character.

It is truly God who does the work in us. We do not have to 'work out our own salvation' because God does it. Christ said:

John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

It is He who begins the work of training and maturing us as His children while we are still humans, with all our faults and failings.

The 'Trinity' is a false doctrine

We indeed see 'through a glass darkly', the world is blinded. They have made a person out of the Holy Spirit, and created the doctrine of the 'Trinity' which started in the 3rd Century A.D., then progressively accepted by almost all of 'Churchianity'. Many church people do say that they cannot explain it, and this is because it is not true, and therefore cannot be explained.

Because so many do not recognise the true Nature of God, or understand the mechanism of the Holy Spirit, they go astray. This is to a large extent the fault of the false doctrine of the Trinity, that the Holy Spirit is a person, and is part of the **God/Son/Holy Spirit** Trinity. This one incorrect teaching confuses the Truth, and gives rise to many different ideas about the Holy Spirit and what the Bible teaches about it.

There is only one verse in the entire Bible which suggests the Trinity, every other mention of God refers to the One God. This one verse is spurious, and was added long after the Canon was completed.

1 John 5:7 *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

You will find that the words of this verse in your Bible are in *italics* which means that they were not in the original manuscripts. It appears in one of the

earliest manuscript in the 10th century. It was clearly added sometime after the original composition, there is no evidence of this verse in any Greek manuscript until the 1500th Century A.D.

The only way we can possibly understand and to have clarity and to sort truth from error about the Nature of God, is to ask God for the help of His Holy Spirit in our lives, to enlighten the Word, to trust that it is the Truth and to shine His Truth about Him into us.

Christ tells His disciples about the 'Comforter' that He will send

In John chapters 13 through 17, Christ was talking to His disciples on the eve of His Crucifixion about the Holy Spirit, and by extension if talking to us today.

John 14: 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The Spirit of God pervades the entire universe, it is the Power of God in action, and is on a special 'frequency' by which He communicates with us.

The inspired Word of God, the original Scriptures of the Holy Bible contain all we need to know at this time, plus the insights God gives to each of us. The Bible in its original languages, every word was entirely inspired by Christ Jesus, through the Power of His Holy Spirit to His servants the Prophets and His disciples and servants.

We are now the Children of God, to become fully changed at the resurrection when we shall have a Spirit body. Each of us will inherit the entirety of the Universe through Christ Jesus. God and Christ are made of Spirit. It is not like a fog, it does have form shape and substance, invisible to humans unless presented in a terrestrial form.

Spirit can be poured out like water, and like air and water can fill up any space, solids cannot. Air and water increase pressure with depth, but this is not so of Spirit. When God was reforming the Earth for our habitation, His Spirit 'fluttered' over the water.

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the

waters.

God and Christ Jesus live in Heaven

God and Christ Jesus live in Heaven, in His Palace. God is not everywhere, he lives in one place, unless He chooses to do otherwise. So how is God everywhere? God is everywhere through the Power of His Holy Spirit, which fills the universe, yet can be directed as God Wills as well. Each human being is very important to God the Father and to Christ Jesus.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

I will come back to Earth, so that you can be where I am. And after we are changed at the resurrection, we shall undoubtedly spend some part of our eternal lives in heaven.

At this time Christ Jesus is in Heaven, and we need a Divine attachment to Him, and we have that through our measure, our earnest of the Holy Spirit. Here again is the promise given to us by Christ.

John 14: 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Christ said, "Keep **my** commandments" the Law of Love, not the ten commandments, He fulfilled them, or filled them up, and they were replaced by the infinitely more potent Law of Love. The ten commandments of Moses that were given to Israel were designed for adult children who personally had no contact with the Holy Spirit. Those laws are still in effect and always will be for carnally minded people. They do not apply in the same way to those Christians who are Spirit led.

Galatians 1:4 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by

faith in Christ Jesus.

Without the Holy Spirit it would be totally impossible to keep the Law of Love.

The Holy Spirit is not the intermediary or the advocate, or the mediator, but is the Power of God flowing through all His works, and through each of us. It is not a person, but is the Power of God.

1 Peter 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth which God uses to transmit His Will to us.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and **ye need not that any man teach you:** but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

We do not need men or woman, or any organisations of this world to teach us the Truth. Christ will attend to that for us through His Spirit causing the Holy Spirit to flow through us giving us the Truth which will always be in total harmony with the Word of God, the Bible.

John 14:26 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.

Since God Created the first of His children to this day, so very few in history have had the Holy Spirit **with** them, and even fewer **in** them. Even Christ's disciples had the Holy Spirit **with** them, but not **in** them until the day of Pentecost, and even then despite the thousands who were converted, not everyone was, only those God called.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Christians keep the Law of Love with the help of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

First Corinthians 13 is called the 'Love' chapter. Although this chapter is taken directly from the King James Version, the old English word 'charity' which meant love has been replaced by the word we now use.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not Love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not Love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not Love, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Love suffereth long, and is kind; Love envieth not; Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, Love, these three; but the greatest of these is Love.

We are indeed fortunate and blessed to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our Christian lives revealed to us from God and Christ's Word of Truth.