



## The “Greatest” Delusion

**If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
(John 14:15)**

The previous study, *The Great Delusion*, addressed the Christians who believe they are the Elect—the possibility that they are not—and what they must do to overcome.<sup>1</sup> *The Greater Delusion* demonstrated how the Modern Gospel is misleading souls into believing they are saved—when they are not.<sup>2</sup> *A Christian's Prayer of Repentance* offered the faltering Christian an opportunity to return to their First Love.<sup>3</sup> But perhaps *The Greatest Delusion* of all is that millions of souls have been deceived into believing that the Holy Spirit is always received immediately upon profession of faith in Jesus Christ—*when He is not*. Neither is such a teaching found in all the Holy Scriptures.

This devotional<sup>4</sup> study makes no effort to resolve debates that have persisted for the past 2000 years.<sup>5</sup> Rather the intention is to stir up the soul to *individual* prayer, search, and study.<sup>6</sup> Let each one settle this matter directly with the Lord Himself. The resulting answer will carry its own reward, for...

The Holy Spirit comes to indwell the true follower of Jesus Christ—*exactly as the Bible says!*

### The Mystery of Iniquity

The Apostle Paul warned the Thessalonians that lawlessness<sup>7</sup> was already present within the Church—and that it would continue to increase unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup> We are now witnessing an explosion of that iniquity. Why should such sin and rebellion exist in a Church where all professing Christians are said to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit? Answer: *Evildoers DO NOT HAVE the Holy Spirit of Promise!* Why should rampant carnality, promiscuousness, drunkenness, dishonesty, worldliness and self-love be the true testimonies of so many who claim Jesus Christ as their Savior? Answer: *Because the Promise of the Father WAS NEVER GIVEN to them in the first place!*<sup>9</sup>

Jesus said, *If you love me keep my commandments*. The measure and degree of your love for the Savior is demonstrated by your obedience.<sup>10</sup> Therefore it is not always a question of true Christian vs false Christian (although in some that may be the case). Within the community of actively professing Christians, it's more often a matter of *obedience vs disobedience*. For the Bible is very clear—The Holy Spirit is given *to them that obey Him*.

**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luk 6:46)**

**And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. (Act 5:32)**

## 2 The “Greatest” Delusion

### “Carnal” Christians?

The term “carnal Christian” is modern invention of the Church,<sup>11</sup> created to account for the dramatic measure of sinfulness, selfishness, disobedience, and worldliness in the lives of so many Christians today. If a Christian is not living up to the standards of the faith, this newer category offers an explanation for that sinful behavior. But the very term *carnal Christian* is an OXYMORON!<sup>12</sup> These two words are diametrically opposed to one another. One cannot (and should not) be a Christian who is carnal; neither can one who is carnal be considered a Christian. And while at certain times a Christian may indeed behave in a carnal manner, even so, such behavior is neither condoned nor justified—by the believer himself! For the true believer *cannot* be at peace—until the cross of Jesus Christ is approached in humility, contrition, and confession; for the true Christian *mourns* over his own sins!<sup>13</sup>

Those who truly love Jesus KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS! These are those to whom the Promise of the Holy Spirit is given. For He said, *If you love me, keep my commandments. And [if you keep my commandments] I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.*<sup>14</sup> The Gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to the faithful, obedient Christian. Nothing is promised the “carnal Christian” but outer darkness, wailing, and gnashing of teeth.<sup>15</sup>

### The Spirit of Holiness

By His very name the Holy Spirit is *holy*. But *holiness* does not only apply to the holiness of God.<sup>16</sup> The Spirit is called Holy because His primary ministry in the life of the true Christian is holiness! The Holy Spirit is given in order *to make you holy!* And while salvation is the result of conversion, true holiness is the result of true obedience; for (again) the Holy Spirit is given to the obedient.<sup>17</sup>

The Christian can indeed achieve some measure holiness and yet not have the Holy Spirit as an indwelling presence. Consider that many Old Testament saints<sup>18</sup> lived holy lives, having received the commandment from the Lord<sup>19</sup>—and yet they had nothing of Christ's<sup>20</sup> indwelling Spirit.<sup>21</sup> For He was not offered to any until *after* Jesus came to Earth, lived an obedient life, suffered crucifixion, died on the cross, lay in the tomb three days and three nights, resurrected from the grave,<sup>22</sup> ascended into Heaven—and only *then* was the Holy Spirit poured out upon His faithful followers.<sup>23</sup> Therefore to say that holiness is *only* achieved through the *indwelling* Christ is not entirely correct. But the faithful and obedient ones can indeed receive the coveted Promise of the Father—who then imparts to them *His own holiness*.

So how can it be said that professing Christians, who do not live in obedience to the Lord, who do not practice continual holiness, who love the world and live like the world—how can it be said that they have the indwelling Holy Spirit—*whose express mission is to make the Christian holy?* This absent Spirit accounts for the gross excesses demonstrated by so many who claim the name of Christ.

### Christ: The Christian's Pattern

To be a Christian simply means that you follow Christ. Where did Christ go that we should follow Him? Some say “to Heaven,” and they look to the *Rapture* to carry them away. But Jesus said that we should follow Him *as He lived in this world.*<sup>24</sup> Once Jesus becomes our Savior, the next step is to follow Him *as our Pattern.*<sup>25</sup> His written words are *instructions* on how to proceed *into* the Kingdom.<sup>26</sup> In order to obtain and live the Spirit-filled life, you must look to Jesus as your Pattern—and *obey* Him in all things.

Therefore it is a terrible mistake to say that the Holy Spirit is moving and active in a life that is continually sinful, rebellious, and self-indulgent; for the greatest of all delusions is to believe that you have the Holy Spirit—*when you might not*. And if the Christian yet believes that the indwelling Holy Spirit is immediately given to everyone who “invites” Jesus into their heart, that soul is encouraged to search the Scriptures for himself—and find the passages that specifically state that.<sup>27</sup>

## NOTES &amp; SCRIPTURES

## Scriptures are from the King James Bible

- 1** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom 12:21)

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (Rev 2:5)

- 2** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. (Mat 13:19)

- 3** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. (Mar 12:30)

Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (Rev 2:4)

- 4** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (Psa 1:1-2)

- 5** Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts. (Pro 21:2)

But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. (Tit 3:9)

- 6** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (Mat 7:7)

And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jer 29:13)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2Ti 2:15)

- 7** The mystery of iniquity doth already work. (2Th 2:7)

- 8** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (2Ti 3:13)

- 9** Ye desire to have, and cannot obtain...ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not,

because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. (Jas 4:2-3)

- 10** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luk 6:46)

- 11** Also the Modern Gospel, the Sinner's Prayer, etc.

- 12** A future study will focus on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, which is often used to justify a false category of "carnal" believers.

- 13** Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (Mat 5:4)

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight... (Psa 51:4)

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. (Psa 51:9)

- 14** John 14:16.

- 15** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Mat 13:41-42)

- 16** And thou shalt make a plate *of* pure gold, and grave upon it, *like* the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD. (Exo 28:36)

Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I *am* the LORD which hallow you, (Lev 22:32)

Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. (1Ch 16:10)

- 17** And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. (Act 5:32)

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. (Joh 14:15-16)

- 18** The "saints" are the Body of Christ, Christians, the Church. All [true] Christians are considered saints. (gotquestions.org)

Thayer's Greek Definitions: Most holy thing.

Naves Topical Index: Righteous.

## 4 The "Greatest" Delusion

Easton's Bible Dictionary: Not used as a distinctive title of the apostles and evangelists and of a "spiritual nobility" till the 4<sup>th</sup> century. In that sense it is not a scriptural title.

Strong's Greek Dictionary (G40, 53): *sacred* (physically *pure*, morally *blameless*, properly *clean*, that is, (figuratively) *innocent*, *modest*, *perfect*: chaste, clean, pure.

**19** For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy... (Lev 11:44)

**20** Distinctions between "Spirit of God," "Spirit of Jesus," "Holy Spirit," and "Spirit of Christ" will become evident as these studies progress.

**21** [That] ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Eph 3:4-5; Col 1:27)

But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified. (Joh 7:39)

**22** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. (1Cor 15:3-4)

**23** And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Act 1:4-5)

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Act 1:10-11)

See also Acts Chapter 2.

**24** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; (Tit 2:12)

**25** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Mat 16:24)

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. (Mat 19:21)

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (Joh 17:6)

**26** Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Mat 7:21)

**27** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (Act 17:11)