THE HOLY SPIRIT:
Your Comforter, Helper,
and Friend

by Wendell Parr
Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge my beautiful wife Linda. For 51 years, she has been my help and support for everything the Lord has called me to do. She has enthusiastically been there--supporting and cheering me on. I love you honey. We make a great team!
Holy Spirit
There is no subject within the Church more likely to bring saints out of the woodwork than that of the Holy Spirit. Everyone seems to have a doctrinal opinion or piece of misinformation to share about it. But I prefer to rely on God’s Word. The Word tells me that God has “qualified me to share in the inheritance of the saints.” ¹ This inheritance, according to 1 Peter, is life that “fades not away.” ²

_Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you._

1 Peter 1:3–4

_And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory._

_Romans 8:30 (New Living Translation)_
Holy Spirit

Jesus’ sole purpose, on earth, was to provide us with “abundant life.” 3 In Christ’s provision of the cross, we were given “everything necessary for life and godliness.” 4 Unfortunately, most of us aren’t experiencing that type of life because we simply do not know what God has provided for those who love Him. 5 I know I was like that. I was ignorant of the Word of God. Even though I grew up in a Christian home, was taught to live by Christian principles, and was working in full-time ministry, I was ignorant of the things Christ provided for me. I had no idea that God really had a plan for my life or that He had provided the power and ability I needed to accomplish that plan.

Now may God who gives peace, and brought Jesus, our Lord, up again from among the dead...fully equip you with every grace that you may need for the doing of His will, producing in us that which will truly please Him through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory to the Ages of the Ages! Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (Weymouth)

I discovered that it is impossible to live the Christian life without God’s ability to do it. 6 Growing up in a Christian home, I knew that Jesus was the Son of God. I knew that He died on the cross for my sins, and that to go to heaven, I had to believe. The message was simple, and I believed, but no one told me about the Spirit.

The first year of my born again experience, I tried living for God myself. I went to church every time the doors opened; I read my Bible and prayed the required number of hours each day. I tithed, I witnessed (heaven
help us), and did all the things that my church said I ought to do as a believer. I got involved in everything. I became a Sunday school teacher, a deacon, a chairman of the board. But no matter what I did, I couldn’t seem to be enough, to do enough. Everything I “did for God,” I did in my own strength and ability. I never felt fulfilled. I felt tired; tired enough to quit.

However, after several years of enjoying my relationship with God from the comfort of my den and the encouragement of my Sunday morning paper, my wife began to feel antsy. We were living the American dream. We had built a new house and had two cars in the driveway; we had all the stuff and all the bills, but my wife wasn’t satisfied. She kept nagging me to be in church, to get the kids in church. Eventually, we both began to hunger for the things of God and returned to the church, where I felt God calling me into full-time ministry.

One of the best seminaries I knew of, at the time, was just a few miles from where we lived in Texas, so I traveled to Fort Worth to put in my application. They reviewed my papers, called me up, and said, “Because of your position (you’re married, you’ve got two kids, and you owe everybody in the county) there’s no way you can come to school and maintain your financial integrity. I’m sorry, but we can’t accept you.” It looked like our dream wasn’t going to happen, but God knows how to work things out.

After trying unsuccessfully to sell our home and get out of debt to attend seminary, we got a phone call. Somehow, a family we hadn’t heard from in years found out we were going into the ministry, and called to ask if we’d consider preaching at their church. My pastor had
advised me to get some experience, so, we drove an hour and a half to a little Baptist church in the next town. There I gave my first sermon. It lasted twelve minutes. Surprisingly, they asked me back. The next week I did a little better, got a little more comfortable, and that night they called me into the office.

“What are your plans?” they asked.

“I don’t really have any plans,” I said. “I just want to do what God wants me to do.”

“Would you consider pastoring our church?” they asked.

I was surprised they would even consider asking me without a seminary degree, but I was also a little terrified. I didn’t know anything about pastoring. Four messages was the extent of my resume. “I’ll give you an answer on Wednesday,” I told them.

Linda and I prayed all the way home, and Tuesday evening we got a call from a man interested in buying our house. God was answering our prayers. Wednesday I called the church and started my first pastorate—debt-free—in a little southern Baptist church in Texas.

Once we settled in, I decided to visit the pastor of the largest Baptist church in town. Since I couldn’t go to seminary, I hoped he would agree to mentor me. Walking into his office, I introduced myself, “I just accepted the pastorate of the little church on the edge of town, but I haven’t had any training, would you mentor me?”

He leaned back into his big leather chair, looked across his big mahogany desk and said, “Nope. You need
to go to seminary.”

*I tried going to seminary!* I thought. *I did everything I could to go to seminary. What now?*

Walking out his door, I had a real original idea—*I’ll study the Bible and pray.*

Maybe that sounds funny, but it was new to me. Through all my years as a Sunday school teacher and all my church attendance, I depended on the quarterly or a preplanned lesson from headquarters to teach me about God. I never searched the scripture for myself. I read my lesson Saturday night and taught it Sunday morning. But as I studied God’s Word, I began to grow. I began to discover things about God I’d never heard. I read scriptures I never knew existed.

During my study time, scripture began to pop up about the Holy Spirit. Now in all my Christian upbringing, the only time I had even heard of the Holy Spirit was in the doxology. No one ever taught on Him, so I kept studying. I discovered the book of Acts and saw terminology like “speak with other tongues” and “baptized in the Holy Spirit.” Soon I understood this “Holy Spirit” was God’s plan to help His people live for Him. I was convinced this experience was something I needed.

I know the baptism and ministry of the Holy Spirit has been so misrepresented within the Church that it often makes people uncomfortable. But everything we need to know about the Spirit and His work amidst the Church is in the Word. Everything God has, who He is, what He has done for us through Christ, and what He wants to do in our lives is all contained within the pages
of the Bible. According to Peter, if we take the time to know God and to know His Word, we become “partakers of the divine nature.”

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:3–4 [emphasis mine]
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ABOUT WENDELL PARR

Faithfully serving the Church for over three decades across multiple states and countries, Wendell Parr is known for his relevant teaching and practical application of God’s Word. After founding a charismatic church in Texas where he served as pastor for 18 years, Wendell and his wife, Linda, moved to Colorado Springs to help Andrew Wommack start the first Charis extension school in England. After returning to the States, Wendell directed Bob Nichols’ Bible school in Fort Worth, Texas, before rejoining the AWM staff as Director of World Outreach and a Charis Bible College instructor. Wendell and Linda currently live in Colorado Springs and enjoy spending time with their children, Wendy and Dean, and grandchild, Ashtin.

“One of the most confusing things for me was the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I always thought He was the "corrective" one, but Wendell's teaching answered all my questions and then some!”

-Former Student of Wendell Parr