

SPIRITUAL UNITY: GOD'S PLAN—PLANK TWO, ONE SPIRIT

It is well understood by those familiar with the Bible that the Scriptures direct man's devotion to but one God who has but one unique Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (facts in God's plan for spiritual unity yet to be discussed in this series of articles). But the same Scriptures, and the specific passage we are studying (Ephesians 4:4-6), also say there is but one Spirit. If there being but one God and but one Lord, Jesus Christ, are essential to man's rising to God's expectation of spiritual unity, so also then is there being but one Spirit.

The Spirit referred to here is the Holy Spirit, the third person to whom the Scriptures attribute Godhood. Jesus, about to be taken from his apostles by death and eventually by his return to heaven, promised them they would not be abandoned (John 14:15-18). To the contrary, Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you," and then promised, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:25-26).

It was this abiding presence of the Spirit that enabled these apostles to bear witness to Jesus of Nazareth being the Christ, the Son of God—God in bodily form whom they had known in person (John 15:26-27).

Not only would the Spirit bring all things to their remembrance that Jesus had taught them, he would also reveal to them the fullness of the truth of the gospel. Jesus promised the apostles, "...He will guide you into all truth...He will tell you things to come" (John 16:13).

It was this Holy Spirit to whom Paul referred in his letter to the Ephesian Christians when he spoke of the dispensation of the grace of God that had been entrusted to him and how it was made known to him. He wrote, "...How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:3-6).

Clearly, the part of the Spirit in God's plan for unity was to reveal the gospel that would bring all men together, Jew and Gentile, in the one body of Christ. (More on this in our next article.)

--Jerry F. Bassett