

Commending Ourselves in the *Holy* Spirit
II Corinthians 6:6-7

1. God's mission
 - a. God's design from "before the foundation of the world" is that people might become His holy and blameless children through adoption in Jesus
 - i. Ephesians 1:1-2:10
 - b. God gave men the "down payment" on this adoption (in its final form in the space where God lives) is a lifestyle animated by the Spirit of God on this earth today
 - i. II Corinthians 1:18-22
2. Understanding the *Holy* Spirit as a person of the Godhead
 - a. "Spirit" might serve us better as a proper name, not "Holy Spirit" as in Genesis 1:1-2, or perhaps simply "Spirit" as in Galatians 5:25.
 - b. A *speaking person* rather than a *felt force*
 - i. The Spirit of God relates to us as spiritual beings using intelligible words (as opposed to relating to us as psychics)
 - ii. This is *persuasion* not *manipulation*
 - c. *Holy* contrasted against the *unholy* spirit (as God and Satan occupy a realm, the "Holy" Spirit and "Unholy Spirit(s)" occupy a realm)
 - i. Psalms 143:10 or Nehemiah 9:30 where the adjective is "good" and the Spirit is the "leader" or the "instructor"
3. My focus
 - a. The lifestyle animated by the Holy Spirit was observable
 - i. Illustrated in Acts 6:1-7
 - b. To be a Spirit-filled person today is to demonstrate the contrast between the "holy" and the "unholy/unclean" spirit
 - i. Ephesians 5:18
 - c. As unholy spirit(s) or demons were, at one time, able to exert a "supernatural" influence on men (casting a person into a fire), so the Holy Spirit at one time exerted a "supernatural" influence (i.e. speaking in unlearned languages, supernatural wisdom, supernatural healing)
 - i. Mark 9:22 and Acts 2:1-4
 - ii. Supernatural influence possessed by both the "holy" and the "unclean" spirit(s) have come to an end, the timing of this end is hinted at in Matthew 8:28-34
 - iii. The expression of the supernatural influence by the "holy" Spirit could, in fact, commend
 - iv. Today we see expression in "fruit of the Spirit" that commends, Galatians 5:16-25
 - d. There were many who are animated by *another spirit* as they twist the truth about Jesus and the Father so that the content of the message always has to be tested to see whether it comes from the *Holy* spirit or the *unholy* spirit is the source