

32. What is He doing now?

- a. Christ is presently seated at the right hand of the Father in the throne room of the third heaven. His session lasts from the ascension (Acts 1:11; Psalms 110:1; Hebrews 1:13) until the Day of Christ or the Rapture.
- b. When seated at the Father's right hand, Christ was recognized for His strategic victory at the Cross with the title of battlefield royalty, "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (1 Timothy 6:15), and simultaneously assumed His position as Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22).
- c. During session, His office is that of Advocate in which He serves as the Defense Attorney for the sinning believer who is accused of such by Satan at angelic convocations (Revelation 12:10; 1 John 2:1).
- d. Christ's function as Advocate is that of Intercessor whereby, He affirms to the Father that the sins cited by Satan were borne by Him on the Cross at which time the case against the believer is nol-prossed by the justice of God under the law of double jeopardy.

33. Will He return to Earth, and if so, when and for what purpose?

- a. Christ most assuredly will return to Earth. His literal return will occur at the close of the Tribulation or Daniel's Seventieth Week -- the seven-year period of time which concludes the Dispensation of Israel.
- b. The Tribulation commences immediately following the Rapture, the event which terminates the Dispensation of the Church. Therefore, the Second Advent of Christ is always at least seven years and one second away (Doctrine of the Immanency of the Rapture).
- c. The primary purposes of the Second Advent are for Christ to deliver the Jews from certain annihilation during the Armageddon Campaign, to regather all true Jews to Palestine, and subsequently to fulfill the unconditional covenants to Israel during His Millennial reign. (2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 89:32–37, 132:11; Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 9:24–27; Zechariah 14:4–5; Romans 4:21; Hebrews 11:13; Revelation 19:11–21)



PNEUMATOLOGY

34. Is the Holy Spirit a real Person, and is He Deity? Prove from Scripture.

- a. The three elements of personality -- **(1) intellect**, the capacity for rational and intelligent thought; **(2) sensibility**, the capacity to be perceived by reason and understanding; and **(3) will**, the capacity to exercise choice or volition -- are all attributed to the Holy Spirit in Scripture: intellect in 1 Corinthians 2:10, sensibility in John 14:26 and Isaiah 11:2, and will in 1 Corinthians 12:11.
- b. The Deity of the Holy Spirit is equally well documented as He is demonstrated to have all the qualities of divine essence in the following references:

Sovereignty	1 Corinthians 12:11
Holiness (Righteousness and Justice)	2 Corinthians 13:14
Love	Galatians 5:22
Eternal Life	Hebrews 9:14
Omniscience	1 Corinthians 2:10
Omnipresence	Psalms 139:7-12
Omnipotence	Romans 15:19
Immutability	Ephesians 4:30b
Veracity	1 John 5:6

35. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the unbeliever, to the believer at the moment of salvation, and to the believer after salvation?

- a. To the unbeliever, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is called "convicting." In it, His function is one of making supernatural gospel information lucid to the natural man. Since the gospel is spiritual knowledge, the unbeliever cannot understand it.



- b. Having no human spirit as a discerner of spiritual information, the unbeliever receives the divine assistance of the Holy Spirit, Who, acting as a human spirit, makes the issue clear. In so doing, the Holy Spirit has made it possible for the unbeliever to make an intelligent decision regarding faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior.
- c. This ministry of the Holy Spirit occurs after God consciousness and continues through gospel hearing (1 Corinthians 2:9-16). This process is where the first potential of X Radical is converted into the first hope and is called Common Grace.
- d. The efficacious ministry of the Holy Spirit is the point where the unbeliever exhales faith in Jesus Christ, closing the X Radical and entering the Royal Family of God.
- e. This ministry indicates that the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit has produced its desired effect on the lost sinner. Efficacious Grace converts the first hope into the first plus resulting in salvation adjustment to the justice of God.
- f. The Holy Spirit administers five salvation ministries to the believer:
 - 1. **Regeneration.** The Holy Spirit's preparing a human spirit to function as a home or a target for the real imputation of eternal life. (Titus 3:5; John 3:3)
 - 2. **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.** The believer's entering into union with Christ and being appointed as a Royal Priest. (Romans 6:3-4)
 - 3. **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.** The escutcheon of the Royal Family and the potential for growth through GAP, and ambassadorship through the application of the Royal Family Honor Code. (John 14:26)
 - 4. **The Sealing of the Holy Spirit.** The guarantee of security for the believer in time and in eternity. (Ephesians 1:13)



5. **The Distribution of Spiritual Gifts.** The provision for each individual believer of a specific ministry in the field of ambassadorship. This ministry becomes operative following spiritual growth but has its maximum effectiveness following spiritual maturity. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- g. The post-salvation ministry of the Holy Spirit is that of the filling, a command found in Ephesians 5:18. There the Greek word for filled is **πληρόω (plérōō)** and means "to be fully influenced," "to be fully controlled," or "to be fully possessed."
- h. The believer filled with the Holy Spirit is in a temporal condition called "spirituality" or "in fellowship with God."

36. What is the gift of tongues and what, if any, is its role today?

- a. Tongues was a temporary, pre-canon spiritual gift. The believer with this gift had the supernatural ability to communicate fluently gospel information in a foreign language without being familiar with that language.
- b. The gift was specifically designed to have a two-fold purpose: **(1)** to evangelize lost Jews, and **(2)** to warn them of their national degeneracy and imminent decline through the administration of the Fifth Cycle of Discipline. The use of the gift for these purposes was prophesied in Isaiah 28:11 and reiterated by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:21.
- c. When the Roman Army under Titus besieged the city of Jerusalem in August 70, the Jews were scattered throughout the world and remain so to this day. Since the gift of tongues was a warning of that event, its legitimate use was rescinded by the Holy Spirit at that time.
- d. Although there is alleged speaking in tongues today, such activity is a Satanic function. The hoax is manifest by self-hypnosis among believers and possession by an **εγγαστρίμυθος (engastrímuthos)** demon among unbelievers.



- e. This glossal anachronism is a device used by Satan to motivate believers to follow their own emotional appetites rather than to give top priority to Bible doctrine. The result is that believers are neutralized, and the lost are hopelessly confused.
- f. The emotional epilepsy of the present hour is not the gift of tongues but rather *vox et praeterea nihil*, "a voice and nothing more." Therefore, the current charismatic, holiness, Pentecostal, full-gospel, second blessing, baptism of the holy ghost crowd is to be avoided. (Isaiah 8:19; Romans 16:17–18; 1 Corinthians 13:8–10; 2 Thessalonians 2:7–12)

37. Is faith healing legitimate today?

- a. Faith healing is not a legitimate function today. It too was a temporary, pre-canon gift. It was specifically given to the Apostles along with the gift of miracles as an identification gift in order for them to establish their authority.
- b. Once their Apostolic office was widely recognized as legitimate, these two gifts were removed. When the gift of healing was extant, it provided the ability to heal at will, and the recipient's faith was not required.
- c. Examples of the removal of the healing gift are found in the writings of the Apostle Paul. He was unable to heal Miletus in 2 Timothy 4:20, Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:27, and himself of near blindness in 2 Corinthians 12:7 as compared with Galatians 4:13–15 and 6:11.
- d. Faith healing today is either a hoax by unscrupulous ecclesiastical entrepreneurs or fraud by demonic deception. In the former, there is no healing performed, but simply a histrionic sham for the sole purpose of coercing contributions for the counterfeiter.
- e. In the latter, healing is actually performed demonically whereby a person is, in fact, ill or handicapped through demon possession. When a "faith healer" pronounces the "magic words," the demon exits the body, and the person is "healed."



- f. It should be noted that God in His sovereignty may perform acts of divine healing at His good pleasure. However, He hardly needs the assistance of men performing through legitimate spiritual gifts as in the first century, or their present-day counterfeits.
- g. It speaks of the union of believers with Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit at salvation. The analogy compares the physical body and its various organs and members with a mystical body of believers and its various spiritual gifts.
- h. Following the resurrection of the Church, the Body of Christ becomes the Bride of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12–14; Ephesians 2:18–22, 5:30; Revelation 19:7)

38. What is the divinely ordained system of authority in the local church, and what form of church government do you teach?

- a. The Supreme Authority over the local assembly of believers is Jesus Christ. His policies and guidelines for the function of the local church are found in His Word (1 Corinthians 2:16).
- b. Christ has delegated His authority to certain men with the spiritual appointment of pastor-teacher and has issued one each to the various congregations (Ephesians 4:11-13).
- c. The pastor-teacher is qualified for his position by possession of the spiritual gift plus the proper academic preparation. The Lord has ordained complete authority to the pastor-teacher over the congregation (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke God's message to you; reflect on the outcome of their lives and imitate their faith.

v.17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work. Let them do this with joy and not with complaints, for this would be no advantage for you. (NET)

- d. The pastor-teacher, therefore, answers only to the Lord and is promoted or demoted by Him (Proverbs 4:8-9).

