

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FORM 3 SIMPLIFIED NOTES

QUICK REVISION NOTES

*An Updated Well-Organized Detailed Revision Notes for the
Current Form 3 Syllabus.*

SERIES 1

THIS IS A FREE SAMPLE OF THE
ORIGINAL NOTES

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CHAPTER 1

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Teachings of Jesus on the role of the holy spirit

John 14:15-26, 16: 5-15, and Acts 1: 7- 8

Introduction

- The Holy Spirit is the third person in the trinity.
- There is the power of Christ, the power of God, and the Holy Spirit who gives gifts such as prophecy and healing.
- The Holy Spirit is mentioned several times in the Bible;
 - During creation in Genesis.
 - At the annunciation of the birth of Jesus,
 - At the beginning of the ministry of Jesus,
 - During baptism,
 - Revelation of Jesus in the temple,
 - Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit during his mission or ministry, after resurrection and before ascension.

The role of Holy Spirit as taught by Jesus

John 14:15-26 and John 16: 5-15, Acts 1: 7- 8

- Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would:
 - i Teach Christians on a daily basis messages of Jesus
 - ii Live in the hearts of believers of Christ
 - iii Be an advocate, a counsellor, helper and a comforter to those who love Jesus Christ and obey Gods commandments.
 - iv He would remind the disciples the words said by Jesus Christ and introduce them to their deeper meanings.
 - v Interpret the deeper meaning of the messages of Jesus Christ.
 - vi Reveal the truth and mysteries of and about God.
 - vii Affirm the right of Jesus as the Son of God.

- viii** Reveal the glory of Jesus death.
- ix** Reveal what is right and wrong
- x** Give the disciples of Jesus power to become witnesses of Christ.
- xi** Give courage to the disciples of Jesus to face prosecution on the account of following Jesus.
- xii** Enable the disciples to expose the secret lives and heart of sinful people.
- xiii** Guide Christians; help believers to cast away evils spirits, to heal, to preach the word of God, to encourage, and to condemn evil in the society.

Peters message on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 14-41

Introduction

- Jews commemorate Pentecost day. This is the day that God gave Moses his laws on Mount Sinai. It is also referred to as the festival of weeks. Pentecost day was celebrated 50 days after the Passover. It was compulsory for all Jews. On this day, Jews brought offering, the first fruits of harvest, to the temple in Jerusalem.

Pentecostal day

- On the Pentecostal day, the disciples were gathered in Jerusalem awaiting the promise of the Holy Spirit. And as promised, the Holy Spirit came in the form of a strong wind, and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit rested on the head of each disciple.
- The disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. They spoke in new tongues. Some of the observers mistook this experience. They thought that the disciples were drunk with wine.
- Peter stood up to explain what was happening and defend the disciples. He told those who saw the experience that the disciples were not drunk. It was in the morning.

Peters Message

Joel 2: 28 — 32

- Peter told the onlookers that
- What was happening is fulfilment of Joels prophesies about the outpouring of Gods spirit. He said that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God. This was proved by the miracles that Jesus performed. He emphasized that the suffering and death of Jesus was according to Gods plans. Jesus is a

descendant of David. Death and the resurrection of Jesus fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament.

- God raised Jesus from the dead. He taught that Jesus had both the nature of God and Man. The apostles are the living witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus has been exalted and sits on the right hand of God where He is Lord and Judge. The Holy Spirit is a gift from Jesus
- Peter then invited the listeners to repentance so that they could be forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Three thousand souls accepted salvation message and were added to the fellowship of the disciples.
- The disciples. They did many wonders and signs. They continued to live in unity, worshiping God, fellowshiping together, and breaking the bread.

Relevance of the Pentecostal Experience

- (i) Speaking in diverse tongues signified that Christianity is a universal religion. It pointed out the importance of all languages when communicating to God.
- (ii) Christians should be bold in their preaching. They should not be afraid as they have the counsel and helper, the Holy Spirit.
- (iii) Christians should understand that God chooses anyone as a leader, preacher, and witness of Christ.
- (iv) Pentecostal experience signifies that Christians need to receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit

Lessons Christians learn from Leadership of Peter.

- Christians should be:
 - (i) Courageous and stand up for Jesus Christ all the times.
 - (ii) Ready to spread the Gospel of Christ.
 - (iii) Win new converts to Jesus by inviting them to repentance.
 - (iv) Have faith in the risen Christ.
 - (v) Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit like Peter
 - (vi) Those in church leadership should take their roles seriously.

Paul teaching about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13&14.

- Spiritual gifts are extra-ordinary favours, talents, abilities, and dispositions given to Christians by God for the benefit of all believers.
- The gifts are used for the service of others and not for self-glorification and gratification.
- These gifts are:
 - 1) **Gift of wisdom:** — having deep understanding of issues- seeing far, being perceptive.
 - 2) **Gift of knowledge:** — ability to understand the basic facts about Jesus, His mission and knowledge about spiritual issues.
 - 3) **The gift of faith:** — refers to the confidence in Gods help. It is deep trust in God.
 - 4) **The Gift of healing:** — ability, and power to heal all forms of sickness by calling upon the name of Jesus Christ.
 - 5) **The gift of performing miracles:** — gift of healing miracles, creative miracles for example, raising the dead, healing etc.
 - 6) **The gift of preaching**
 - 7) **The gift of prophecy:** — the ability to interpret Gods word. The ability to foresee what will happen in the future as revealed by God.
 - 8) **The gift of distinguishing spirits or discernment:** — the ability to know whether a spiritual gift is from God, the Holy Spirit or from the evil spirit
 - 9) **The gift of speaking in tongues.** The ability to utter, speak in a tongue, language unknown to the believer. Tongues are used when addressing God for self-edifications. It is personal growth.
 - 10) **The gift of interpretation of tongues:** — the ability to understand and interpret the messages of those speaking in tongues.
 - 11) **The gift of love.** (1 Corinthians 13)
 - Paul stressed that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be demonstrated with love.
 - He stressed that love, a fruit of the Holy Spirit is supreme over other spiritual gifts possessed by Christians.
 - Its the greatest of all. Speaking in tongues, preaching without love is useless.
 - He said that love is patient and kind
 - Its not jealous or boastful.
 - It is not arrogant or rude

- It does not hold grudges or ill-mannered or selfish
- It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful
- It does not rejoice at wrong doings but rejoices in the truth
- Love bears, believes, hopes and endures all things
- It is ready to deep firm its faith, hope and its patience
- Love does not succumb to pressure but always perseveres
- He justified that love is the greatest gift of the spiritual gifts because in prayer, the gift of tongues becomes nothing but meaningful when accompanied by love.
- On faith, Paul says that even if one has faith that can move mountains but has no love, he is nothing
- Charity or generosity including sacrificing own life is nothing without love

Criteria for Discerning the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Mathew 7:15-20 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 Galatians 5:15-26

- The gift must glorify Jesus so that one who is under the influence of
- The Holy Spirit will be able to recognize Jesus as Lord and saviour
- The test of love. The gift must bear the fruits of the spirit
- One who is user the influence if the Holy Spirit is known by his or her way of life.
- He/she will act and behave in accordance with the teachings of Jesus.
- Should always in agreement with the scripture the Holy Spirit cannot contradict what is written
- The gift must be subject to the word of God
- The true gift will be guided by principles of sincerity and honesty
- The true gift will humbly submit to God
- The gift should encourage the growth of the church

The fruits of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

- Paul taught that the fruit of the spirit are:
- **Love** showing compassion to one another
- **Joy** deep happiness when one has a good relationship with God

- **Peace** being at peace with all people
- **Patience** being to wait in difficulties
- **Kindness** being caring and helpful towards others
- **Goodness** seeking to do best in their lives
- **Faithfulness** having confidence in God
- **Gentleness** being calm and avoiding violence
- **Self-control** have strong control over their emotions

Manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the church and Christians today

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been manifested in churches today through:
- i Leaders in church have displayed the gift of wisdom.
 - ii Preachers and Christians ministers have been casting out demons and performing healing.
 - iii There cases of interpretation of tongues and gift of prophecy in churches today.
 - iv Through healing, healing and casting out demons among others
 - v Christians helping the poor by giving generosity and in kindness.
 - vi Through singing, dancing, shouting (fruit of joy)
 - vii Through unity of believes and fellowships.
 - viii Through praying in order to overcome temptations

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CHAPTER 2

THE UNITY OF BELIEVERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Teachings of The Unity of Believers in Selected New Testament texts

- Unity of believers refers to oneness of those who have faith in Jesus Christ.
- The early Christians in Jerusalem demonstrated their unity by.
 - Holding joint prayer sessions
 - Sharing the Lords supper, that is Eucharist.
 - Sharing their possessions with the poor.
- They showed oneness and unity as believers by expressing their oneness using various terms, images and symbols.
- They regarded themselves as the people of God, the church and an Assembly of God. When they celebrated the last supper, eating of bread was a symbol of the body of Christ. They saw themselves as belonging to one tree with the vine and branches.
- As followers of Christ, the early Church saw itself as the Bride of Christ.

Symbolic Expressions

The people of God

1 Peter 2: 9-10.

- Peter has outlined the characteristics of the people of God. He says that the people of God are
- The Chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation a chosen people
- Those who stand out from the rest because they live a holy and righteous life.
- Form a Holy nation chosen to proclaim the works of God.
- Not just the descendants of Abraham but people who follow Jesus Christ and His teachings.

The body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 4:1-12.

- The Holy Spirit is the one who brings Christians together as one body of Christ to serve the church. Christians are given gifts for the purpose of sharing the body of Christ.

- Jesus Christ is the head of the church. And just as the body has many parts, playing different roles, so has the Church. Every member of the church plays a vital role because different members have different spiritual gifts and callings. Some are Apostles, Teachers, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Miracle performers, Administrators and those who show mercy to others and encourage (exhort) others.
- All church activities should be directed to the welfare of the church, just as the function of each part of the body is necessary for the well-being of the whole body. To have a united body, members should be meek, and patient in order to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. For a church to be united, or to be considered as one body, Christians should have faith in God the father, one Lord Jesus Christ, one Holy Spirit and have faith in God through Jesus Christ.

The Vine and the Branches

John 15:1-10

- The vine represents Jesus. Vine tree was a tree that bore grapes. The vine tree was a symbol of prosperity and peace. Jesus is the vine and the Father is the vinedresser. Christians/ believers are the branches. They are expected to produce good fruits by remaining faithful and united in Christ. Faithful branches bear fruit like good Christians while unfruitful branches are like unfruitful Christians.
- Christians should remain united to Christ who is the vine so as to bear fruits. The teachings of Jesus purify the Christians. The dead branches of the Vine trees are cut off and the living ones are trimmed or pruned. This is done so that the vines may produce high yields. Likewise, unfaithful Christians, believers are rebuked and corrected so as to bear high yields.

The Church or Assembly of God

Ephesians 5: 21 — 32

- Church is a Greek word ***ekklesia***, which means people. People who belong to the Lord. Assembly of God is the coming together of people of diverse social and cultural backgrounds who recognize lordship of Jesus.
- The church is likened to the relationship between a husband and a wife. Christians (the church) are expected to be united with Christ just as a husband and wife are united in marriage. Just as

husbands and wives are expected to love one another, so too, are Christians called upon to express love to one another and to love God.

- A husband is the head of a family; Jesus is also the head of the church.

The Bride

2 Corinthian 11: 2, Revelations 21: 1 — 12

- In the Old Testament, God calls Israel a bride. In the New Testament, Christians are referred to as “a bride in the New Jerusalem. God or Jesus Christ is the bridegroom.
- Christians are reminded that the life on earth is a temporary home. Their real home is in heaven, the Holy city of God. Just as a bride is expected to be faithful to her husband, so are Christians expected to be faithful to God by observing the covenant way of life. Deviation from the covenant was portrayed as adultery.
- John, in his book of revelations, sees a vision of a new heaven and a new earth in which faithful Christians will be rewarded. Christ will come to take His bride to eternity to live there forever.
- The relationship between Christians and Jesus/ God is like a marriage. It is a covenant. It is a relationship where the church (bride) is expected to submit to God. Jesus died for the church, a show of His or Gods love. Likewise, Christians should be committed in their relationship to God.

Causes of disunity in the early church and solutions Paul offered

- The early church experienced some challenges, which led to divisions among the early disciples and Christians.
- **Disputes, over leadership of the Church.** Christians wanted different leaders: Paul, Apollos, Cephas or Christ. Paul told them that Christ couldnt be divided (*1 Corinthians 1:10 -21*).
- **Sexual immorality** Some Christians were doing or having irresponsible sexual behaviours. These were incest, fornication, and prostitution. Paul condemned such behaviours and told Christians to stop sinning and honour God with their bodies. The body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Ghost (*1 Corinthian 5: 1-13, 6:12 — 20*).
- **Christians settling disputes in civil courts.** Paul advised they ought to talk over issues among themselves and agree to solve problems on their own (*1 Corinthians 6*).

- **Dispute over marriage and divorce.** Some Christians were opposed to marriage. Others were encouraging divorce. Paul addressed these issues in *1 Corinthians 7:1-16*. Paul advised Christians that it was okay to marry or not to marry. But marriage was needed to stop immorality.
- **Eating of meat offered to idols.** Some Christians were eating meat offered to idols while others were against it. Paul advised Christians not to eat anything that will cause their faith to weaken or fail. *1 Corinthians 8, 10: 14 — 20*.
- **Disputes about dressing during worship.** If women were supposed to cover their head during worship and shave hair whether men were to keep long hair? (*1 Cor 11:1-16*).
- **Lords Supper,** (*1 Corinthians 11:17 — 33*). Some Christians were overeating and over drinking during the Holy Communion
- **Misuses of spiritual gift especially the gift of speaking in tongues.** Paul taught that all gifts are equal *1 Corinthians 12*.
- **There was a misunderstanding about the resurrection of the dead.** Some were saying there is no resurrection. Paul preached that if there is no resurrection then their preaching was in vain as they were witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ *1 Corinthians 15*.

Causes of disunity among believers and church in Kenya today

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