

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## “Dove”

### Introduction – Establishing the Symbol

*Once again, before we stampede into grand analogies, we want to be sure of our symbology. Of all of the symbols used for the Holy Spirit, none other is so widely known or used as the dove, and with good reason.*

John 1:29-33

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' NIV

Matt 3:16-17 NIV

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

*In clear and startling symbology, the Holy Spirit descends on the Lord Jesus in the form of a dove. Before we discuss why He chose the dove, I want to talk about how a dove descends so that we have a correct mental image. Often times we see the dove descending depicted like a diving hawk (an upside down dove). Doves do not land in this fashion. Anyone who has ever watched pigeons in the park knows this. Doves and pigeons land like they take off, with strong down flaps of their wings. Not only is it pretty, it's noisy! Doves make a lot of wind in takeoff and landing. Furthermore, a lighting dove (body up, wings outstretched) gives us a shadow of the cross.*

### I. Why the Dove?

#### 1. Primary Scriptural Significance-

##### A. Clean and unclean

##### i. The raven and the dove

Gen 8:6-12

6 After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark

7 and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.

8 Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.

9 But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.  
10 He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.  
11 When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.  
12 He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. NIV

- The raven is an unclean bird and unclean birds are symbolic of evil spirits.

Lev 11:13-19

13 "These are the birds you are to detest and not eat because they are detestable: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture,  
14 the red kite, any kind of black kite,  
15 any kind of raven,  
16 the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,  
17 the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl,  
18 the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey,  
19 the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat. NIV

Rev 18:2

With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. NIV

- The raven went "to and fro" until the water was dried up.

Job 1:7

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. KJV

*I see two principles here. One, when we are covered by the water, unclean birds have no place to land. Two, when we view the flood as judgment (which it was) we understand that if we make God our enemy, evil spirits become inconsequential.*

- The raven did not return to the light of the ark. Death and desolation were its comfortable abode.

Isa 34:11

The desert owl and screech owl will possess it; the great owl and the raven will nest there. God will stretch out over Edom the measuring line of chaos and the plumb line of desolation. NIV

- The dove found no place to rest her foot. Death and corruption were not the place for her (vs. 9).
- The dove hovering over the waters of chaos and destruction are reminiscent of the language of Genesis 1:2.

Gen 1:2

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. NIV

- The dove and the raven were out *at the same time*. We need to test the spirits to see if they are from God (1 John 4:1). Though both birds were dispatched by Noah (God is Lord over all), the dove was sent “from himself.”

Gen 8:7-8

7 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.

8 **He also sent out from himself a dove**, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. NKJV

- Noah (as a type of the Father) sends out the dove at set intervals (7 days). This speaks to us of seasons of outpouring in the Father’s timetable.

Jer 8:7

Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD. NIV

*The birds know their seasons. The dove observes its time of migration, it knows when to move and when to stay. The Lord is constantly chiding his people for not knowing “the signs of the times.”*

Matt 16:3

and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. NIV

- In verse 11, the dove returns with the olive leaf. This is the source of our classic symbol for peace. Another interpretation is that the Holy Spirit (dove) carries the anointing (olive leaf).

ii. Offering

Gen 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. NIV

*No list of clean birds is available in Scripture (not that I could find, anyway). Scripture lists unclean birds, presumably leaving all others clean. But the weight of Scriptural evidence for sacrificial birds is for the dove and the pigeon.*

B. Sacrifice

i. Abraham

Gen 15:8-10 NIV

8 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

*There are several points worth noting in this narrative:*

- All the animals except the pigeon and dove were cut in half and laid out opposite each other. Laying the pigeon opposite the dove makes them equally significant. Doves, as a matter of fact, are pigeons. They are simply the smaller of the species.
- That the dove and the pigeon were not divided speaks to us of the Singularity and Unity of the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 12:11

**But one and the same Spirit** works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. NKJV

This is surrounded by:

Manifestation of the Spirit (vs. 7)	-	Singular
Same Spirit (vs. 8, 9, 11)	-	Unity
Body is one (vs. 12)	-	Unity
One Spirit (vs. 13)	-	Singularity

This gives us further evidence that manifestation and gifts are abilities He supernaturally energizes, not little chunks of Himself or little bits of holy spirit tailor created for each one.

- In this same vein, we are to understand that because it is One Spirit (not multiple holy spirits in each person), He is the one who unifies the body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:12-13

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. NIV

Eph 4:3-4

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- NIV

- We need to understand that birds of prey attacked Abram's offering and that he drove them away. Birds of prey are carrion eaters as well as hunters. Ravens circling a carcass is one thing. Eagles and vultures dive bombing is quite another. By calling them birds of prey instead of just unclean birds, a more sinister intentionality. We need to understand that when we make sacrifice to God (especially for covenant), the evil kingdom tries to come in and eat it away. We need to be vigilant in our offerings and drive them away. (This same principle can be seen in the parable of the sower and the birds of the air eating the seeds.)

ii. Manner of Sacrifice

a. head wrung off

Lev 1:14-15

14 "If the offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, he is to offer a dove or a young pigeon.

15 The priest shall bring it to the altar, wring off the head and burn it on the altar; its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar. NIV

*I don't know why they translated it "wring off" because the Hebrew word means "to break the neck of a fowl without separating it." (Strong's #4454, malaq) This is exactly what Lev. 5:8 describes.*

Lev 5:8 NIV

He is to bring them to the priest, who shall first offer the one for the sin offering. **He is to wring its head from its neck, not severing it completely,**

*Why is the neck broken, the head disabled but not removed?*

- Before the cross, the Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness (Matt 4:1), in ministry (Luke 4:18-19), and to the cross (Mark 14:38; Heb 9:14).
- After the sacrifice (the cross), the dove (the Holy Spirit) no longer has an operating head (function of headship). After the cross, the Spirit does not speak of Himself (John 16:13-14). He receives of Jesus and gives to us. Jesus Christ is now head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:2-23).

b. torn open by the wings

Lev 1:17

**He shall tear it open by the wings,** not severing it completely, and then the priest shall burn it on the wood that is on the fire on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. NIV

- Offerings make atonement (Hebrew *kapar* – to cover over). By opening the bird by the wings, the widest spread of cover “under His wings” is given. Note that the wings of the cherubim on the atonement cover of the ark are spread out.
- A bird laid out with spread wings and limp-necked head would be a shadow of the cruciform.
- Again, the bird is not severed. This speaks of the unity of the Spirit of God.

### iii. Sin and burnt offering

Lev 5:1-7

- 1 "If a person sins because he does not speak up when he hears a public charge to testify regarding something he has seen or learned about, he will be held responsible.
- 2 "Or if a person touches anything ceremonially unclean--whether the carcasses of unclean wild animals or of unclean livestock or of unclean creatures that move along the ground--even though he is unaware of it, he has become unclean and is guilty.
- 3 "Or if he touches human uncleanness--anything that would make him unclean--even though he is unaware of it, when he learns of it he will be guilty.
- 4 "Or if a person thoughtlessly takes an oath to do anything, whether good or evil--in any matter one might carelessly swear about--even though he is unaware of it, in any case when he learns of it he will be guilty.
- 5 "When anyone is guilty in any of these ways, he must confess in what way he has sinned
- 6 and, as a penalty for the sin he has committed, he must bring to the LORD a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin.
- 7 "If he cannot afford a lamb, he is to bring two doves or two young pigeons to the LORD as a penalty for his sin--one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. NIV

- We need to confess our sins (sin offering – 1 John 1:9) and praise God for our forgiveness (burnt offering – Rom 12:1).
- The Holy Spirit convicts us to confession (John 16:8) and leads us in worship (John 4:24).
- Other examples: Lev 12:6-8; 14:22, 30; 15:14, 29; Num 6:10

### C. Rest

#### i. Flying away

Ps 55:6

I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at **rest**-- NIV

- **Rest**, Hebrew *shakan*, to settle down, abide, dwell, to tabernacle, to reside (Strong's # 7931).

See: Ex 25:8 “That I may  **dwell**”  
 Num 9:17-18 “the place where the cloud  **abode**”  
 Num 10:12 “the cloud  **rested**”  
 1 Chr 23:25  **dwelling** is rest (*nuwach*, #5117)  
 Ps 16:9 “flesh . . . shall  **rest** in hope”

- In the principle of the dove taking the weary to rest, I see the work of the Holy Spirit as Comforter (advocate and intercessor) – John 14:16-18; 2 Cor 1:3-4.
- This principle of rest echoes the Lord’s proclamation, “come to me you who labor and are heavy laden.” (Matt 11:28-30).

ii. Under His wings

Ps 17:8

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings NIV

Ps 91:4

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. NIV

*Being under the shadow of His wings is a place of comfort and protection, whether those wings belong to the dove, the eagle, or the hen (Matt 23:37)! When we read the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm, we can see what a powerful prayer “Oh, Lord, cover us with your feathers and hide us under your wings” can be.*

See also: Ps 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; (63:7)

iii. Moaning of a dove

*The moaning of a dove is the sound of remorse over sin. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (John 16:8)*

Isa 38:14, 17

14 I cried like a swift or thrush,  **I moaned like a mourning dove**. My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens. I am troubled; O Lord, come to my aid!"

17 Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction;  **you have put all my sins behind your back**. NIV

- This is reminiscent of “groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom 8:28).
- The “mourn” (KJV) of Isa 38:14 and the “groaning” of Rom 8:28 are related ideologically (synonyms). They both can mean “to murmur.”

Isa 59:11-12

11 We all growl like bears;  **we moan mournfully like doves**. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away.

12  **For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us**. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: NIV

Ezek 7:16

All who survive and escape will be in the mountains, **moaning like doves of the valleys, each because of his sins.** NIV

## 2. What We Learn from Nature-

### A. Anatomy

#### i. Vision

- Color vision of diurnal (versus nocturnal) birds is extraordinary. “Very likely, the avian retina – with its high cone densities, deep foveae (depressions in the retina), near ultraviolet receptors, and colored oil droplets that interact with several core pigments – is the most capable diurnal retina of any animal.”<sup>1</sup> In short, daytime birds see better than any other daytime animal.
- The colored oil droplets that they can release into their eye help filter out background colors. Yellow oil filters out a blue background and red oil filters out a green background. Thus, birds are better able to see contrasting detail even when a background color threatens to overwhelm their senses.\
- Birds generally see better laterally than forward because their eyes are set on the sides of their head<sup>2</sup>. Pigeons cannot see straight ahead at a distance, only close up. **(In this sense, the dove deals with the immediate and the intimate; the eagle deals with the future and the expanse.)** They work one eye at a time to get depth perception.<sup>3</sup>

Matt 6:22

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. KJV

*The dove causes us to focus with a single eye!*

#### ii. Flight

- Pigeons are swift, powerful fliers. Their feathers are stiffer and smoother than those of most other birds. Their feather texture may smooth the flow of air around their body during flight.
- Dove’s wings make a vortex of air when it flies, creating loud noise – especially on takeoff and landing. Some pigeons have feathers which produce distinct sounds during flight and they communicate with other pigeons by means of these sounds.
- Doves and pigeons have nine flight feathers (primary feathers) per wing. There are 9 manifestations of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:7-10) and 9 fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22).
- Rock doves produce 7 times more heat in flight than at rest.<sup>4</sup>

*This brings us to our next point, which is sweat.*

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<sup>1</sup> Frank B. Gill, *Ornithology*, W. H. Freeman and Co., New York, 1990, p. 164

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, p. 160

<sup>3</sup> Miriam Sclein and Thomas Y. Cromwell, *Pigeons*, Junior Books, New York, 1989, p.14

<sup>4</sup> Frank B. Gill, *Ornithology*, W. H. Freeman and Co., New York, 1990, p. 114

iii. Sweat

*Birds have no sweat glands and cannot cool the body by perspiring. In flight, excess heat is dispersed by the passage of air through air sacks. When at rest, they cool by panting! If we don't "pant out" the word the Holy Spirit gives us to speak, it will become a fire shut up in our bones!*

- Sweat (effort of the flesh) was the result of sin. (Gen 3:19)
- Priests were not to wear anything that caused sweat. (Ex 44:18)
- Because Jesus sweat in garden, we don't have to. (Luke 22:44)
  - He will give us rest. (Matt 11:28; Heb 4:11)
  - Walking by the Spirit nullifies the works of the flesh. (Gal 5:16)

B. Eating Habits

i. Eating

- All doves and pigeons have a large crop which secretes "pigeon's milk" for its young. It is the only bird that does so<sup>5</sup>. Both parents feed the young. In 1 Peter 2:2 we are told to desire the sincere milk of the word. Understanding this word is an operation of the Holy Spirit.
- Adult pigeons and doves eat mostly seeds. In Luke 8:11, the seed is the word of God.

ii. Drinking

- Doves are unusual among birds in that they can drink by sucking water through their beak like a straw rather than tilting the head back to swallow it mouthful by mouthful<sup>6</sup>. So not only does the Holy Spirit dispense to us spiritual milk, He allows us to drink full of the water of life (Rev 22:17)!

C. Mating Habits

i. Courting

- Both the Bride and the Bridegroom in the Song of Songs are referred to with dove analogies (SOS 2:14; 5:12). Israel is also called a dove (Is 60:8). Thus, a dove's manner of courting can tell us about God's wooing of us.
- During the courtship, the male pigeon (Holy Spirit) bows and coos to the female (prospective Bride/Church) while the female watches. **This is like the Holy Spirit's working on the unsaved in conviction (John 16:8-9) and calling (Rev 22:17).**
- The two birds smooth each other's feathers. **This speaks to us of our worship and His comfort.**
- The male feeds the female a few seeds. **This reminds us of the Last Supper and being born again of incorruptible seed by the word of God (1 Pet 1:23).**
- The courtship goes on for a few days, after which mating occurs. Pigeons and doves mate for life.

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<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, p. 539

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*

ii. Rearing

- The male pigeon builds the nest ["I will build my church," Matt 16:18]. The female lays only 1-2 eggs per clutch [each one win one] because that is all the young the couple can handle. Nests are usually built on ledges [high ground].
- Both parents sit on the eggs. Both parents feed the young. Evangelism and discipleship are a joint effort between us and the Holy Spirit. We are God's fellow workers (1 Cor 3:9).

## II. The Leading of the Dove – Mark 1:9-12

Mark 1:9-12

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, NIV

1. Sin – What not to do.

Matt 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. NIV

*The wilderness temptation dealt primarily with "thou shalt not."*

Matt 4:4 "Man **does not** live on bread alone"

Matt 4:7 "**Do not** put the Lord your God to the test."

Matt 4:10 "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him **only**." (Don't bow down.)

2. Righteousness – What to do.

Luke 4:14, 18-19

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." NIV

3. Judgment – Who to do it to.

John 12:31-33

31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. NIV

*The devil was judged at the cross along with our sin. Because of the cross, we can execute His judgment against the devil. This same pattern can be seen in Luke 4, with conviction of sin (vs. 1), righteousness (vs. 14, 18-19), and judgment.*

Luke 4:31-36

31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people.

32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,

34 "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

35 "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" NIV

### III. Doves in the Marketplace

#### 1. Cleansing the Temple

##### A. Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

John 2:14-17

14 In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

16 **To those who sold doves he said,** "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." NIV

*This was during the first Passover mentioned in the Gospel of John. John mentions 3 Passovers (1<sup>st</sup> – John 2:13, 23; 4:45; 2<sup>nd</sup> – John 6:4; 3<sup>rd</sup> – John 11:55; 12:1; 13:1) which is why we believe that his public ministry lasted at least three years.*

*Note that he addressed his comment about marketing to the dove sellers. When questioned about his authority to cleanse the Temple, Jesus had a simple answer.*

John 2:19

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." NIV

##### B. End of Jesus' Ministry

Matt 21:12-14

12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

13 "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'"

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. NIV

*After driving out those who were buying and selling, Jesus healed the lame and the blind. The Holy Spirit causes us to see how and where we should walk.*

Mark 11:11, 15-16

- 11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.
- 15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,
- 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. NIV

*Several points are of note with regard to the record in Mark:*

- Jesus did reconnaissance the night before he cleansed the Temple (vs. 11). This shows wisdom in cleansing. Time was needed to accomplish the task. He visited (time of visitation) the night before. Judgment came in the morning.
- There was buying and selling in the house of God. I don't think it was so much the act as it was the spirit in which it was done. People needed to purchase sacrifices and exchange money. By overcharging, the people were being robbed. By transacting in the Temple's Court of the Gentiles, Gentiles were being robbed of their worship experience and the Temple was being robbed of its sanctity.
- He would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the Temple courts. Jesus guarded the house of God against the spirit of mammon (Matt 6:24).

*We need to be aware of the market / evil spirit connection.*

## 2. The Market / evil spirit Connection

### A. Tyre

Ezek 28:4-5, 16-18

- 4 By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and amassed gold and silver in your treasuries.
- 5 By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud.
- 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.
- 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.
- 18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. NIV

### B. Babylon

Rev 18:3, 11-13, 17-19

- 3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."
- 11 "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more-
- 12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;
- 13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.
- 17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.
- 18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'
- 19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! NIV

*It is not without reason that the Bible tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim 6:10). Jesus directed his comments on marketing to dove sellers. I don't think that is a coincidence. We have freely received, we should freely give. There is no room in the Church of Jesus Christ for selling the Holy Spirit!*

### 3. Freely Received, Freely Give

#### A. The Apostles

Matt 10:7-8

- 7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'
- 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.  
**Freely you have received, freely give.** NIV

*Please note that signs follow the word (Mark 16:20). They were to preach and then heal, etc.*

#### B. Simon

Acts 8:18-24

- 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money
- 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
- 20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!
- 21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.

- 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.  
23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."  
24 Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me." NIV

*We cannot buy the gift of God with money. We cannot buy it, neither can we earn it. It is a gift!! Peter says, "may your money rot with you." Why? It wasn't offered as a sacrifice or donation, a gift that would be recorded in the account books of heaven. It was offered in an attempt to buy a ministry and as such would rot on earth with Simon's body.*

C. Us

Acts 20:33-35

- 33 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing.  
34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.  
35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**" NIV

*Though it is true that those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel (1 Cor 9:14), we don't do what we do for money. We do what we do because of what the Lord has done.*

*The Holy Spirit chose the shape of a dove when He anointed Jesus in the Jordan River. By studying the anatomy and the eating and mating habits of doves and pigeons, we have seen much of how the Spirit deals with us in conviction, calling, and comfort. Led by the Dove in his earthly ministry, we saw Jesus walk through the conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment. But the overwhelming use of the dove in Scripture is as an animal of sacrifice. By appearing as a dove, the Holy Spirit was marking out the sacrificial nature of the Messiah and all who would be his disciples. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of self-sacrifice, one that does not seek its own but the betterment of others.*

*In this world of wolves, Jesus gives us direction on how to walk successfully in the spirit of the dove.*

Matt 10:16

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. NIV

*Amen!*