



the  
**HOLY  
SPIRIT**

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Your Comforter, Helper  
and Friend

W E N D E L L P A R R



**THE HOLY SPIRIT:**  
**Your Comforter, Helper,**  
**and Friend**

**by Wendell Parr**

All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

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I would like to acknowledge my beautiful wife Linda. For 51 years, she has been my help and support for everything the Lord has called me to do. She has enthusiastically been there--supporting and cheering me on. I love you honey. We make a great team!

# Preface

There is no subject within the Church more likely to bring saints out of the woodwork than that of the Holy Spirit. Everyone seems to have a doctrinal opinion or piece of misinformation to share about it. But I prefer to rely on God's Word. The Word tells me that God has "qualified me to share in the inheritance of the saints." <sup>1</sup> This inheritance, according to 1 Peter, is life that "fades not away"<sup>2</sup>

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.*

*1 Peter 1:3-4*

*And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having*

*given them right standing, he gave them his glory.*

*Romans 8:30 (New Living Translation)*

Jesus' sole purpose, on earth, was to provide us with "abundant life."<sup>3</sup> In Christ's provision of the cross, we were given "everything necessary for life and godliness."<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, most of us aren't experiencing that type of life because we simply do not know what God has provided for those who love Him.<sup>5</sup> I know I was like that. I was ignorant of the Word of God. Even though I grew up in a Christian home, was taught to live by Christian principles, and was working in full-time ministry, I was ignorant of the things Christ provided for me. I had no idea that God really had a plan for my life or that He had provided the power and ability I needed to accomplish that plan.

*Now may God who gives peace, and brought Jesus, our Lord, up again from among the dead.. fully equip you with every grace that you may need for the doing of His will, producing in us that which will truly please Him through Jesus Christ. To Him be the*

*glory to the Ages of the Ages! Amen.*

*Hebrews 13:20-21 (Weymouth)*

I discovered that it is impossible to live the Christian life without God's ability to do it.<sup>6</sup> Growing up in a Christian home, I knew that Jesus was the Son of God. I knew that He died on the cross for my sins, and that to go to heaven, I had to believe. The message was simple, and I believed, but no one told me about the Spirit.

The first year of my born again experience, I tried living for God myself. I went to church every time the doors opened; I read my Bible and prayed the required number of hours each day. I tithed, I witnessed (heaven help us), and did all the things that my church said I ought to do as a believer. I got involved in everything. I became a Sunday school teacher, a deacon, a chairman of the board. But no matter what I did, I couldn't seem to be enough, to *do* enough. Everything I "“did for God," I did in my own strength and ability. I never felt fulfilled. I felt tired; tired enough to quit.

However, after several years of enjoying my relationship with God from the comfort of my den and the encouragement of my Sunday morning paper, my wife began to feel antsy. We were living the American dream. We had built a new house and had two cars in the driveway; we had all the stuff and all the bills, but my wife wasn't satisfied. She kept nagging me to be in

church, to get the kids in church. Eventually, we both began to hunger for the things of God and returned to the church, where I felt God calling me into full-time ministry.

One of the best seminaries I knew of, at the time, was just a few miles from where we lived in Texas, so I traveled to Fort Worth to put in my application. They reviewed my papers, called me up, and said, “Because of your position (you’re married, you’ve got two kids, and you owe everybody in the county) there’s no way you can come to school and maintain your financial integrity. I’m sorry, but we can’t accept you.” It looked like our dream wasn’t going to happen, but God knows how to work things out.

After trying unsuccessfully to sell our home and get out of debt to attend seminary, we got a phone call. Somehow, a family we hadn’t heard from in years found out we were going into the ministry, and called to ask if we’d consider preaching at their church. My pastor had advised me to get some experience, so, we drove an hour and a half to a little Baptist church in the next town. There I gave my first sermon. It lasted twelve minutes. Surprisingly, they asked me back. The next week I did a little better, got a little more comfortable, and that night they called me into the office.

“What are your plans?” they asked.

“I don’t really have any plans,” I said. “I just want to do

what God wants me to do.”

“Would you consider pastoring our church?” they asked.

I was surprised they would even consider asking me without a seminary degree, but I was also a little terrified. I didn’t know anything about pastoring. Four messages was the extent of my resume. “I’ll give you an answer on Wednesday,” I told them.

Linda and I prayed all the way home, and Tuesday evening we got a call from a man interested in buying our house. God was answering our prayers. Wednesday I called the church and started my first pastorate—debt-free—in a little southern Baptist church in Texas.

Once we settled in, I decided to visit the pastor of the largest Baptist church in town. Since I couldn’t go to seminary, I hoped he would agree to mentor me. Walking into his office, I introduced myself, “I just accepted the pastorate of the little church on the edge of town, but I haven’t had any training, would you mentor me?”

He leaned back into his big leather chair, looked across his big mahogany desk and said, “Nope. You need to go to seminary.”

*I tried going to seminary! I thought. I did everything I could to go to seminary. What now?*

Walking out his door, I had a real original idea—I'll *study the Bible and pray*.

Maybe that sounds funny, but it was new to me. Through all my years as a Sunday school teacher and all my church attendance, I depended on the quarterly or a preplanned lesson from headquarters to teach me about God. I never searched the scripture for myself. I read my lesson Saturday night and taught it Sunday morning. But as I studied God's Word, I began to grow. I began to discover things about God I'd never heard. I read scriptures I never knew existed.

During my study time, scripture began to pop up about the Holy Spirit. Now in all my Christian upbringing, the only time I had even heard of the Holy Spirit was in the doxology No one ever taught on Him, so I kept studying. I discovered the book of Acts and saw terminology like "speak with other tongues" and "baptized in the Holy Spirit." Soon I understood this "Holy Spirit" was God's plan to help His people live for Him. I was convinced this experience was something I needed.

I know the baptism and ministry of the Holy Spirit has been so misrepresented within the Church that it often makes people uncomfortable. But everything we need to know about the Spirit and His work amidst the Church is in the Word. Everything God has, who He is, what He has done for us through Christ, and what He wants to do in our lives is all contained within the pages of the Bible. According to Peter, if

we take the time to know God and to know His Word, we become "partakers of the divine nature."

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*2 Peter 1:3-4 [emphasis mine]*

<sup>1</sup> Colossians 1:12

<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 1:4

<sup>3</sup> John 10:10

<sup>4</sup> 2 Peter 1:3

<sup>5</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:9

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:27-30

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## Part One



# ANOINTED TO HEAR

*Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have. Luke 8:18*

# Chapter One

## RECEIVING THE WORD WITH MEEKNESS

My heart's desire is to communicate the truths of God's Word in such a way that they can be received and activated in everyday life. The Word is important; it reveals to us God's character—His nature.<sup>1</sup> It shares with us His good plan for our lives<sup>2</sup> and the tools He has given us to fulfill that plan.<sup>3</sup> The Word of God is our authority. But how can we receive its direction and walk as God intended if we don't know the Word?

Now don't get religious on me. I'm not talking about knowing what your church believes about God's Word. I'm not talking about following a set of traditions or written doctrines about God. I'm not even talking about being able to quote John 3:16. The Word tells us that kind of knowledge is worthless.

*And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition... making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered...*

*Mark 7:9, 13*

The American Standard version, says it this way:

You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition...thus invalidating the word of God.

We need to experience the Word for ourselves. God has a special purpose and plan for each of our lives, but if we hold so tightly to the things we've been taught and do not allow the Word of God to speak for itself, we will stop God's Word from affecting our lives. It's all about attitude—our willingness to be taught of God and not rely on man's experience. When we learn to value what God says above what man thinks, it brings peace and frees us to live life with God's ability.

*And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together; but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.*

*Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

*Isaiah 54:13-17*

The attitude we take towards the Word determines what we can receive from it. Romans tells us:

*For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...*

*Romans 3:3-4*

Regardless of whether or not our experience lines up with God's Word, it is still true. Our lack of faith cannot change God's faithfulness or the truth of His Word; compared to Him, we're all liars. As James says, we must become "doers of the

Word,” allowing the Word to be our authority. Otherwise, we "forget what manner of man" we are. We forget who we were made "in Christ," and our lives cease to accurately reflect His life.

*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

*James 1:21-24*

God's Word does not change;<sup>4</sup> His good will towards us never changes,<sup>5</sup> but He will also never force His Word or His will on anyone. He always lets us choose.<sup>6</sup> If we want to live the life His Word describes, we must choose to receive His Word with meekness. Being meek is simply being teachable. Merriam-Webster defines meekness as "enduring injury with

patience and not resentment.” Meekness accepts rebuke and allows correction to change us as necessary.

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

### *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

It's important to build our doctrine on God's Word, not on man's experience. When we allow God's Word to speak for itself, it will correct us when we get off track and prepare us for the good things God has in store for those who love Him.<sup>7</sup> But we must be teachable. We must "receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save our souls."<sup>8</sup>

I remember one of my first experiences allowing God's Word to teach me. I had just begun my first pastorate in a little Baptist church in Texas. During my study time, I came across scripture about the Holy Spirit, and not knowing anything about that, I did the only thing I knew to do; I began to pray and seek God.

I remember sitting in the church office, asking God to baptize me in the Spirit. Nothing happened, so I went back to

studying. Then I'd return and ask God to baptize me in the Holy Spirit again. I kept doing this, not really knowing what to expect, but one day, while I was sitting alone on the piano bench in the auditorium of the church I said, "Lord, I believe that this "tongues" is a vital part of what I'm after, so I'm asking you to baptize me in the Spirit. And I'm going to speak in tongues." The moment I said that, a few strange little words came out of my mouth.

*That must be it!* I thought as I ran next door to the parsonage where we lived. I was so excited to tell my wife, Linda, I'd been baptized in the Spirit and spoke in tongues. By the time I hit the second step, I heard a voice say, "You just made that up. You didn't say anything in tongues. You did all of that yourself." It stopped me dead in my tracks. *That was me*, I thought.

Frustrated, I went back to seeking the Lord. I could see throughout scripture that this experience was real, and I wanted it. One day, I read an advertisement in the newspaper. The First Assembly of God, in a town just twelve miles from us, was having a revival. The ad said the guest speaker was an authority on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I told Linda, "Let's go over there. This is what I've been searching for; maybe I can get some insight from these people."

The first night of the revival, not wanting to be obvious, we sat one row from the back. After enjoying a great praise and

worship service, the preacher got up and taught on the Holy Spirit; it was everything I had been studying. After service, I went to talk to the guest minister and said, "I've been studying all of this, and I agree with everything you said. I want this baptism in the Holy Spirit." I told him how I'd prayed and what had happened, and he looked at me and said, "Let's turn over to Acts chapter 2." I knew that one. It said:

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*Acts 2:1-4*

I performed the best I could reading that scripture for the preacher, then I looked up at him. He said, "I guess you better read it again." I thought I'd done a pretty good job, but to appease him I did it again. I read:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

He looked at me, and said, “I guess you better read it again.” *Again!* I thought a little agitated, *I know I pronounced everything correctly, had the right diction, the right volume.* But my momma taught me good manners, so I read it a third time:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...

And as I got to the part that says, “and began to speak,” I got it! I realized that I had to do the speaking. It was the Holy Spirit that gave the utterance or meaning to what I said, but I had to speak. I went out of that place rejoicing and speaking in tongues, and I’ve never looked back. That night, I allowed God’s Word to teach me, and I discovered that approaching the Word of God with a teachable heart had huge benefits! Now I

want to share those benefits with you. Will you "receive with meekness the engrafted Word?"<sup>8</sup> Will you allow God's Word to teach you about the Holy Spirit—to correct you if necessary? Will you join me on this journey?

1 Numbers 23:19

2 Jeremiah 29:11

3 Hebrews 13:20-21

4 Matthew 24:35

5 Romans 11:29

6 Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 30:19

7 Isaiah 64:4

8 James 1:21

## Chapter Two

# THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is a basic doctrine in the Christian faith concerning the triune nature of God or trinity. *Trinity* is a compound word of *tri* meaning three and *unity* meaning together. Though the word *trinity* is not likely to be found in your Bible, it does accurately express the idea Moses was trying to convey to the Hebrew nation in Deuteronomy:

*Hear, Israel: The LORD our God,  
the LORD is one. Love the LORD your  
God with all your heart and with all  
your soul and with all your strength.*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)*

To this day, Jews from all over the world, recite this verse at every synagogue service as their declaration of faith. But the

Hebrew word here for “one” is echad which speaks more to unity than to the numeral one. It can also be translated as “all at once,” “altogether,” “united” or “same.” According to the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament <sup>1</sup> this word “stresses unity while recognizing diversity within oneness.” We see the triune nature of God addressed throughout scripture, beginning with Genesis.

*In the beginning, God [Elohim, the plural name for God] created the heaven and the earth...And God [Elohim] said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”*

*Genesis 1:1,26 [brackets mine]*

*Unto thee it was shewed, that thou might-est know that the LORD [Jehovah] he is God;[Elohim] there is none else beside him.*

*Deuteronomy 4:35 [brackets mine]*

*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God*

*descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

*Matthew 3:16-17*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

Notice how, in this sampling of scripture, the Word describes God as three, yet one. Now try not to over think this. I know when we teach this concept, the Godhead is often separated so it is easier to explain. We teach about God the Father, who planned for and created all things in love;<sup>2</sup> God the Son, who showed us the Father's love by living among us and giving Himself for us;<sup>3</sup> and God the Holy Spirit who lives in us, equipping us to show God's love to others.<sup>4</sup> But Jesus said, "I and my Father are one,"<sup>5</sup> and Paul noted that the "fullness of the Godhead" dwelled bodily in Christ.<sup>6</sup> So where one member of the trinity is the others must be also.

As the third member of the trinity, the Holy Spirit's role

has taken different forms throughout history (which we will discuss later); but His ultimate purpose, like the Father's and the Son's, has always been relationship.

*The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.*

*Jeremiah 31:3*

*Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake... Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do*

*them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

*Ezekiel 36:22, 25-28*

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Romans 5:8*

God began pursuing relationship with us in the Garden, but He gives us the choice of reciprocation. God's idea of relationship is not the empty rituals or meaningless worship of people looking to placate His wrath.<sup>7</sup> Jesus told us in John, that God looks for true worshippers who will worship Him in "spirit and in truth."<sup>8</sup> But how can we live a life that pleases God and produces upward worship without the inward change Ezekiel talks about? We can't without the work of the Holy Spirit.

Now it is important for us to understand that the Holy Spirit is a person, not an object or force. He does not come in pints, quarts or gallons. Bible teacher Reuben Torrey says when we think of the Holy Spirit as only a force, we constantly think, *how can I get more?* But when we think of Him as a

divine Person, like the Bible portrays, our thoughts change to, *how can the Holy Spirit have more of me?* Are you ready to see the Holy Spirit for who He is? Jesus said,

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter; that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. ..*

*John 14:16-18*

The words translated as “another Comforter” comes from the Greek word *parakletos* which is a legal term that signifies an “advocate.” It is one who “encourages,” “represents another,” and is a “proxy.” Jesus told the disciples He was sending them a Helper who would be a stand-in for Himself. Jesus took a lot of time to describe this other member of the trinity to us. He said,

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself*

*but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

*John 16:13-15*

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*John 14:26-27*

The trinity is the highest example of unity in relationship. Each member has equal value, unique roles, but a unified purpose. The Holy Spirit's role is to point us to Jesus so we

can see God for who He truly is—a Father who loves us, who has given everything that we might know Him,<sup>9</sup> and who desires that we experience His goodness.

*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

*1 Corinthians 2:9-12*

The Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of Truth." He is our helper, our counselor, our guide. He teaches us who we are and helps us fulfill God's plan for our lives. Shortly after I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I began to experience the Spirit

leading through this revelation of truth. I began to see and hear things that I'd ignored before. All of a sudden, I realized that the Baptist church didn't believe in speaking in tongues. They didn't preach it—they didn't even like it. I began to read how they were kicking people out of the denomination, even entire churches, for speaking in tongues. I thought, *I shouldn't be a Baptist. Maybe I should join the Assembly of God—they believe.*

So I went home and told Linda that we were resigning our church to join the Assemblies of God. Sunday morning, I planned to tell our congregation that I wanted to resign, but the words wouldn't come out. I preached my message, closed the service, but barely got out of the building before Linda said, "I thought you were resigning."

"Well, we had some visitors this morning. I'll do it tonight when it's just family," I replied.

That night, I got up to preach and still couldn't resign. The words would not come. Linda asked again, "What's going on?"

"I don't know. I am going to have to talk to God about this."

I explained my plan to God, "Lord, You know I have the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Maybe You didn't realize, but Baptist doctrine doesn't agree with this. It's obvious I needed

to resign, so I've got a plan to join the Assemblies of God. They believe in the Holy Spirit; it's one of their fundamental doctrines. It's a good plan Lord, why are you stopping me?"

When I finally shut up, I heard the Lord say, "The Holy Spirit is not a doctrine for the Assembly of God. This is a doctrine for all my people."

"But Lord, you must not have heard me. Baptists don't like this. This is a Baptist church!"

He said, "They need to hear it."

"But they'll kick me out. It'll be nasty, Lord. We've grown to love these people. I don't want to hurt anyone."

"If you'll do it the way I tell you, it won't be a problem."

So the next Sunday, I began teaching on the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit. For fifty-two weeks, I preached everything the Lord told me. I passed my notes out to the entire congregation; I included scripture references to back up what I said. I didn't leave anything out. And, you know, no one got mad. One young man even received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the year, the Lord told me, "Now you may leave. But I don't want you to go to the Assemblies of God, I want you to establish a New Testament church based on New Testament patterns and principles." And so we resigned to

follow the Spirit's leading.

*As every man hath received the gift,  
even so minister the same one to  
another; as good stewards of the  
manifold grace of God. If any man  
speaks, let him speak as the oracles of  
God; if any man minister, let him do it  
as of the ability which God giveth:  
that God in all things may be  
glorified through Jesus Christ, to  
whom be praise and dominion for  
ever and ever. Amen.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

<sup>1</sup> Harris, Archer, Waltke, Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament Volume 1, (Chicago Illinois: Moody Publishers, 2003), 30.

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 33:11

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 5:2

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 13:21

<sup>5</sup> John 10:30

<sup>6</sup> Colossians 2:9

<sup>7</sup> Isaiah 1:11; Psalm 40:6; Isaiah 29:13

<sup>8</sup> John 4:24

<sup>9</sup> Romans 8:32

## Chapter Three

# THE DISPENSATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: GOD FOR ME

Let's take a look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit. What exactly does He do? As mentioned earlier, His role has changed throughout history according to the spiritual condition of man. In the beginning, when God created Adam, He created him to be a container for His Spirit. He created Adam in His own image,<sup>1</sup> to be holy as He is holy<sup>2</sup> Scripture says when God formed Adam, He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." It was God's life, His Spirit that caused Adam to become "a living soul."<sup>3</sup> However, when Adam chose to sin, the Spirit of God could no longer live in man.

*.. for what fellowship hath  
righteousness with unrighteousness?*

*And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?...*

*2 Corinthians 6:14-16*

Did God quit loving mankind? Did He quit dealing with them? Did He quit guiding, directing, and communicating with man? Of course not. We see throughout scripture how God continued to pursue man; how His heart toward man never changed. God still desired relationship.

*And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*

*Jeremiah 24:7*

*And they shall be my people, and I will be their God...And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do*

*them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*

*Jeremiah 32:38, 40*

*Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.*

*Zechariah 2:10-11*

During the entire Old Testament, God had to remain separate from unholy people.<sup>4</sup> For example, when Moses received God's instruction for the building of the Tabernacle, he was told to include a place where God's Presence would dwell. The "Holy of Holies" was separated from the rest of the Tabernacle. Nothing was allowed in it except the Ark of the Covenant—the testimony of God's promise to Israel. God gave Israel the Tabernacle as a picture of what relationship with Him looked like because of sin—separated.

Much of what is recorded in the Old Testament is there for our benefit <sup>5</sup> as a type and shadow of things to come. Type and shadow teaching uses something physical to communicate spiritual truth.<sup>6</sup> The Tabernacle is an example of a type and shadow. So is the story of Noah. Noah's story symbolizes judgment and redemption. It depicts God's judgment of the world's sin and our salvation in Christ. The ministry of the Holy Spirit during the time of the Old Testament was like that of the dove Noah released from the ark.

When Noah built the ark at God's command, waters from above and below the earth destroyed everything on the planet, but Noah and his family floated in the safety of the ark. Let's pick up this story in Genesis chapter 8 as the waters begin to recede.

*And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged.... And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: and he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up*

*from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; but the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him anymore.*

*Genesis 8:1, 6-12*

When Noah released the dove, which is a type of the Holy Spirit,<sup>7</sup> Genesis says it "found no rest for its foot for waters were on the face of the whole earth." This describes how the Holy Spirit dealt with man during the time the Old Testament.

He would empower people for a time, during a special circumstance or for a specific assignment, and then leave. Because sin could only be covered by the blood of bulls and goats,<sup>8</sup> the Spirit of God could find no place of rest for there were "none righteousness"<sup>9</sup> with whom He could dwell.

*The Lord says, "I was ready to respond, but no one asked for help. I was ready to be found, but no one was looking for me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am!' to a nation that did not call on my name. All day long I opened my arms to a rebellious people. But they follow their own evil paths and their own crooked schemes.*

*Isaiah 65:1-2 (NLT)*

*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*

*16 2 Chronicles 16:9*

God was for us, but He could not remain in us because of

sin. Let's look at some more scriptural examples of the Holy Spirit's dealings with man during this dispensation. In 1 Samuel we find the story of Saul, the first king of Israel. Saul went looking for his father's missing donkeys and approached the prophet Samuel for help. God told Samuel to anoint Saul as king over Israel, but Saul said, "I'm the least of the least, why would God choose me?" Samuel encouraged him and told him to watch for "signs" that he was the man God had chosen.

*When thou art departed from me today... After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.*

*1 Samuel 10:5-7*

These signs happened exactly as Samuel described and "the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul." God gave Saul His Spirit for a special assignment—to be Israel's king. If we continue reading through Saul's story, however, we find that he became prideful and grew more concerned with public opinion than with obedience to God. As a result, in chapter 16, "the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul."<sup>10</sup>

We see this concept at work in the life of Samson, too. Samson was one of Israel's judges during the time of the Philistines. He was born to a devout couple with no children, and was called a *Nazirite*, a man set apart to God.<sup>11</sup> The Lord honored Samson's parents,

*And the woman bare a son, and called  
his name Samson: and the child grew,  
and the LORD blessed him. And the  
Spirit of the LORD began to move him  
at times in the camp of Dan between  
Zorah and Eshtaol.*

*Judges 13:24-25*

Several times during Samson's life, we read "The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and he performed great feats of strength."<sup>12</sup> On one occasion, Samson tore a lion apart with

his bare hands. On another, he killed 1,000 men with a donkey jawbone. At yet another time, Samson ripped out the gates of the city and carried them off. Samson could do amazing things, but he did not have much self-control. During his infamous affair with Delilah, Samson broke his covenant with God and got a haircut. Scripture says, when the Philistines came upon him, “he awoke from his sleep and thought, *I’ll go out as before and shake myself free*. But he did not know that the Lord had left him.”<sup>13</sup>

These Old Testament accounts give us a clear picture of how the Holy Spirit ministered to sinful man during this dispensation. Even David (a man after God’s own heart<sup>14</sup>) prayed, “Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”<sup>15</sup> God was for us, He delighted in “showing Himself strong”<sup>16</sup> on our behalf, but He could not be in us because of sin. Unfortunately, there are multitudes of Christians that do not realize Christ came to change all that

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:27

<sup>2</sup> Leviticus 11:45

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 2:7

<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah 44:22

<sup>5</sup> Romans 15:4

<sup>6</sup> Hebrews 8:5

- 7 Luke 3:22
- 8 Hebrews 9-10:10
- 9 Romans 3:10
- 10 1 Samuel 16:14
- 11 Judges 13
- 12 Judges 14:6; 14:19; 15:14
- 13 Judges 16:20
- 14 Acts 13:22
- 15 Psalm 51:11
- 16 Chronicles 16:9

# Chapter Four

## THE DISPENSATION OF THE

## HOLY SPIRIT: GOD WITH ME

Over four hundred years separate the Old and New Testaments. During this time, Israel experienced the chaos of war and lived through Amos' prophecy<sup>1</sup> of a "famine of hearing the words of the Lord"...until suddenly "the fullness of time was come."

*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

*Galatians 4:4-5*

In the book of Matthew, a new dispensation of the Holy Spirit is introduced—one I call the gospel dispensation. During this unique time in history, we see God's promise of a redeemer fulfilled in the life of Jesus as the Holy Spirit begins a unique work not found elsewhere.

*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

In order to "prepare the way of the Lord," <sup>2</sup> John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb,<sup>3</sup> Mary was impregnated with the Word of God to miraculously conceive Jesus,<sup>4</sup> and the first recorded prophetic utterances in 400 years<sup>5</sup> were given. The transitional time of the gospels marked the end of God's dealing with man based on their performance. A new era was ushered in at Jesus' birth to fulfill what the prophets spoke:

*And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.*

*Isaiah 59:16-17*

*Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*Ezekiel 37:26-27*

Even the angels announced this time as the beginning of

“peace on earth, goodwill to men.”<sup>6</sup> But this peace was not referring to the end of all conflict. It did not signify peace amongst men. The peace the angels announced was a spiritual peace between God and man. It was the “covenant of peace” that “His own arm” established. If we return to Noah’s type and shadow of redemption, we see this peace foretold when the dove was released a second time.

*And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged.... And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: and he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; but the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took*

*her; and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him anymore.*

*Genesis 8:1, 6-12*

Notice how the dove came to Noah with an olive leaf in her mouth. Historically, the olive branch is used as a symbol of peace and reconciliation. When Noah saw the dove, he realized the judgment waters of God were accomplished, His anger over sin was assuaged, and peace was being proclaimed. During the transitional time of the gospels, the Holy Spirit testified to the same thing.

*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.*

*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet [Isaiah]. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

*Luke 4:14-19 [brackets mine]*

*The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism*

*which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

*Acts 10:36-38*

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

*Romans 5:1-2*

Throughout the Gospels, we see the Holy Spirit working with Jesus testifying to the fact that He was the “Word made flesh,”<sup>7</sup> the very Son of God, and that through Him redemption was coming. Jesus told us that the works He did “testify that the Father sent”<sup>8</sup> Him. God showed us through Christ that He was still after relationship. But this time, “His own right arm was bringing salvation.” Jesus’ ministry worked redemption before our eyes. As God With Us,<sup>9</sup> the sick were healed, the sinner forgiven, the lame made whole, the dead raised. Even the

judgment for our sin, our spiritual death, was laid on Him so that we might live.

*But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the*

*LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

*Isaiah 53:5-11*

*“I tell you the truth; those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*

*John 5:24 (NLT)*

Praise God! What an awesome time to have lived and walked with Emmanuel. But Jesus told His disciples, “Something even better is coming!”

*And I will pray the Father, and he*

*shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you... These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid... I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away.*

*John 14:16-17, 25-27, 16:7*

<sup>1</sup> Amos 8:11

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 40:3

- 3 Luke 1:15
- 4 Luke 1:35
- 5 Luke 2:25-38
- 6 Luke 2:14
- 7 John 1:14
- 8 John 5:36
- 9 Matthew 1:23

## Chapter Five

# THE DISPENSATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: GOD IN ME

Every person who has come into existence since Adam came into this world with a sin nature. The natural law God put into effect in Genesis—everything produces after its own kind—caused each of us to be born after Adam's kind, without the life-giving Spirit of God. According to Romans, we were born in sin,<sup>1</sup> but God made a promise in Ezekiel to cleanse us from our sin and put within us a new heart. He promised to give us His Spirit.<sup>2</sup>

It is important for us to understand that we came into this world as sinners, not because of anything we did, but because of Adam's sin. We are born sinners, and we live up to our name. But Jesus came to take our place. He committed no sin

and took the punishment for our sin, so that we could be "made the righteousness of God" <sup>3</sup> in Him. We don't receive righteousness because of anything we did (or do), but because of what Jesus did.

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned... For if by one mans offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one mans disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

*Romans 5:12,17-19*

*And you hath he quickened, who were*

*dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*Ephesians 2:1-7*

When we believe what Jesus came to accomplish and accept God's free gift of grace, the Spirit of God quickens us and causes us to walk in newness of life;<sup>4</sup> our relationship with God is no longer based on our performance, but on Christ's. Now we can experience the benefits of the fullness of God—God for us, God with us, and God *in* us!

Do you realize how radical this is? Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for this new dispensation of the Spirit toward the end of His ministry. He said,

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son...And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter; that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you..* Jesus answered

*and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him... These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*John 14:12-13,16-17,23, 25-26*

How is this possible? Through the Holy Spirit. Nearly all of the New Testament is devoted to expressing this dispensation of the Spirit, “Christ in us—the hope of glory”<sup>5</sup> Remember Noah? When judgment was over and sin had been dealt with, Noah released the dove a third time from the ark. Scripture says it “returned not again unto him anymore.”<sup>6</sup> At this symbol, Noah knew the waters that had covered the face of the whole earth were gone; he understood that judgment was done. And as he exited the ark, God gave him a promise saying, “Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant.”<sup>7</sup> When Christ

(our ark) saved us from God's judgment of sin, we too received a promise.

*When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

*Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)*

Now every time God sees us, He sees His Spirit! The very life of God lives in us. The same power, same authority, same virtue that was in Christ, now lives in you and me.<sup>8</sup> Praise God for the finished work of Christ! If only we were more aware of Who lives in us. Remember what Paul told the Corinthians?

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

It appears the body of Christ has struggled with this reality for years. Our churches are full of believers who are more people-conscious than God-conscious. I remember pulling into a 7-11, years ago, and getting in line behind one of my church members. He was at the counter buying cigarettes. I didn't say anything about the cigarettes, but when he turned around and saw me all the blood drained out of his face. Like someone just pulled a cork out of a water cooler.

"Oh, pastor," he said, "if I had known you were here, I wouldn't have bought these cigarettes."

I replied, "If you don't mind God seeing you buy them, why would you mind me seeing you?"

It saddens me that most Christians do not realize God lives in them. They display more respect (seem more concerned) about what people think than for God Himself. They have not grasped the fact that God is in them. Where they go, He goes. What they see, He sees. He never leaves. Jesus told the disciples, "I'm sending you a Comforter to be with *you forever.*" <sup>9</sup> He's not just coming to visit. He's not just coming for a select few. God promised,

*And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my spirit upon all  
flesh; and your sons and your  
daughters shall prophesy, your old*

*men shall dream dreams, your young  
men shall see visions: And also upon  
the servants and upon the handmaids  
in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

*Joel 2:28-29*

When Joel prophesied of the Holy Spirit, the children of Israel were still under the old covenant—the dispensation of "God for us." But Joel recorded God saying, "Now I'm going to give my Spirit to *all* flesh." On the day of Pentecost, God the Father, through Jesus the Son, commissioned the Holy Spirit to come to earth to dwell forever in vessels made clean by the blood of Christ.

*...for ye are the temple of the living  
God; as God hath said, I will dwell in  
them, and walk in them; and I will be  
their God, and they shall be my  
people. Wherefore come out from  
among them, and be ye separate, saith  
the Lord, and touch not the unclean  
thing, and I will receive you, And will  
be a Father unto you, and ye shall be  
my sons and daughters, saith the Lord  
Almighty.*

*2 Corinthians 6:16-18*

*Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

*Acts 2:33, 39*

Praise God!

<sup>1</sup> Romans 5:12-19

<sup>2</sup> Ezekiel 36:25-28

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>4</sup> Romans 6:4

<sup>5</sup> Colossians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 6:19

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 8:12

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 9:16

<sup>8</sup> Romans 8:11

<sup>9</sup> John 14:16

## Part Two



## ANOINTED TO RECEIVE

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

*1 John 5:14-15*

# Chapter Six

## BORN OF THE SPIRIT

Once we recognize and respond to the love of God, demonstrated to us through Christ, the first thing the Spirit does is produce in us an inward change. This change allows us to become God's dwelling place on earth; it produces relationship.

*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

*Galatians 4:4-7*

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is*

*a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new...For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17,21*

But being "born of the Spirit" is much more than simply receiving forgiveness for sins. When we accept what Jesus did for us on Calvary, confessing with our mouth those things our heart believes,<sup>1</sup> something changes. Actually, everything changes!

Years ago, Linda and I moved to England to start a Bible school.<sup>2</sup> The moment we landed, I began to realize we were in an entirely different kingdom. Going through the airport, we stopped for coffee at the food court.

"A cup of coffee, please," I asked pulling out a dollar and laying it on the counter.

"We can't take that," they answered.

"What do you mean? I've flown all night; I want to buy a cup of coffee. It's a good dollar—a bit worn—but it ought to buy a cup of coffee...Does coffee cost more than a dollar?"

"We don't take dollars," they repeated, "We use pounds."

Now, I could have gotten upset about that. I could have yelled, “My dollar is just as good as your pound. “ But then I’d have had to go without coffee for the two years we lived in England. So I went to the moneychangers, traded my dollars for pounds, and bought some coffee.

While in England, we leased a house with a washbasin right next to the bed. My wife loved it. She would swing her legs over the side of the bed, wash her face, and put on her makeup first thing every morning. One day, at school, she told the students, “Man, I’m really enjoying this house we’ve leased. There’s a lavatory right by my bed where I can wash my face every morning.” The students looked at her strangely. We didn’t realize the English call their commodes *lavatories*.

At another time, we went to the mall craving Mexican food. England doesn’t have too many Mexican restaurants; but I love Mexican food, I could eat it seven days-a-week. So Linda and I went to enjoy the cuisine closest to a Texan’s heart (other than steak). I told Linda, “I’m going to enjoy this, don’t rush me.”

To start, I ordered chips and salsa, but the little girl behind the counter gave me a blank stare. I thought maybe my Texas accent was creating a communication breakdown, so I tried again, “I would like some chips and salsa,” I said slowly.

“Sir,” she said, “I can take care of the salsa but you’re

going to have to go to the chipper [meaning the fish and chips place] to get chips. We don't have chips."

"Oh! I don't want French fries," I said pointing to the corn chips, "I want those."

"You mean you want corn crisps?"

And so began my steep learning curve into the practices and language of the United Kingdom. You see, different kingdoms operate on different standards. For example, the English standard of driving is not like the American one. The English drive on the wrong side of the road; even their cars are built backwards. Every day Linda and I lived in England we were given a choice, either keep doing things the way we were taught (and get ourselves killed) or start operating by the standards of this new kingdom. We had to learn to drive different. We had to learn to eat different. We even had to learn to talk different.

Scripture tells us that when we are born again, more than our eternal destiny changes.

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;) And has*

*raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

*Ephesians 2:4-6 (KJV 2000)*

*[The Father] hath made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins.*

*Colossians 1:12-14 (Douay-Rheims)*

God worked for us, in Christ, what we could not do for ourselves. He delivered us from Satan's dominion of sin and death, and "translated us" into the kingdom of His Son, the kingdom of life. Now we live in a kingdom that doesn't operate by the same standards as the old one. In the old kingdom, you "get all you can, can all you get, and sit on your can." But in the new kingdom we, "give and it is given."<sup>3</sup> In the old kingdom, when someone slaps you, you slap them back. But in the new kingdom you "turn the other cheek."<sup>4</sup> Everything's changed!

How do we learn to live by the rules of this new kingdom? Do we relive my after-salvation experience— attending church every time the doors open, joining every committee, tithing, witnessing, reading the Bible, and praying to the point of exhaustion? No. We allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to us who we are and what we have in Christ.

*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.*

*Ephesians 2:13-14*

*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*

*1 Corinthians 1:30*

When we experience new birth, “old things passed away.” We are no longer “an old sinner saved by grace.” Praise God, our sins are forgiven and we’re going to heaven (I do not make light of that), but let’s not cheapen all that Christ died to

provide. We were sinners. We were saved by grace.<sup>5</sup> But now we are the children of God.<sup>6</sup>

*And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again...Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new... Now then we are ambassadors for Christ.*

*2 Corinthians 5:15,17, 20*

*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

*Romans 8:16-17*

As we understand who we are in Christ, our actions naturally begin to change, reflecting the new nature inside us. It's no longer about what we think or what we feel; it's about

renewing our minds<sup>7</sup> to the truth of God's Word. "Sanctify them through thy truth," Jesus said, "thy word is truth." When we allow the Word of God to redirect our actions and retrain our thoughts, the God-life in us is made known. Remember when Jesus said,

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal,  
and to kill, and to destroy: I am come  
that they might have life, and that  
they might have it more abundantly.*

*John 10:10*

The word *life* here is a Greek word *zoe*. *Zoe* refers to the "life of God" or "life as God lives it." Jesus came to give us "life as God lives it," in abundance. I know preachers have taken that verse and talked about obtaining cars, and houses, and swimming pools, and money. But that's not what Jesus is talking about. He's talking about living life as God lives it. That's how our witness becomes effective. As we walk through a world of lost and dying people, our lives should reflect something that produces hope. For too long the church has been content with gathering inside its walls, making each other feel good, then going out to live life just like everyone else lives it. We have the same worries, the same frustrations, the same problems, the same sicknesses as the world. Our lives are so similar you can't tell the difference between a Christian and

one who is lost. Jesus said, “I came to give you life as God lives it, so that people will notice something different about you.” You don’t approach life like everyone else. You don’t respond to life like everyone else. You live in a different kingdom. This is what John the Baptist was talking about when he said, “I must decrease that He may increase.”<sup>8</sup> We must become true "ambassadors for Christ" by "conforming to the image of His Son"<sup>9</sup> and allowing the God-life in us to come out.

<sup>1</sup> Romans 10:9-10

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Wommack Ministries’ Charis Bible College, Walsall, England

<sup>3</sup> Luke 6:38

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 5:39

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 2:5-8 6

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 3:1-2

<sup>7</sup> Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:10

<sup>8</sup> John 3:30

<sup>9</sup> Romans 8:29

# Chapter Seven

## BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT

After the Holy Spirit produces in us the inward change Ezekiel talks about, our lives should begin to express an upward worship.

*Thus saith the Lord GOD;... A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

*Ezekiel 36:13, 26-27*

*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

*Philippians 2:13*

In John chapter 4, we see Jesus talking about this very thing to a Samaritan woman. Samaritans considered themselves Jews (descended from the northern tribes), but because of their mixed race and questionable worship practices, they were outcasts in Israel. When the Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well outside her city, she discovered Jesus sitting there. Asking for water, Jesus began a conversation with the woman about true worship.

*The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in*

*spirit and in truth.*

*John 4:19-24*

Jesus said it is by the Spirit we truly worship God as He desires. Have you ever been in a church service where hundreds of voices, singing with a full orchestra, present a beautiful song of praise to God? Inside your spirit soars with the music, but as silence prevails after the final chord, you somehow feel let down. What produces that feeling of dissatisfaction? Our spirit. Our born-again spirit cries out to bring true praise and worship to God.

I remember attending a worship service in Dallas, Texas many years ago. The church was making news because of the “tremendous move of God” people were experiencing there. Wanting to know more, Linda and I walked into the building about 30 minutes before service to discover an almost full sanctuary. I thought, *Boy this is different. Usually at the start of service, the church is half-empty.* But this place was full and everyone was happy. Suddenly the choir and orchestra appeared. As soon as they hit the first note, everyone in the place was on their feet with their hands lifted and their voices singing out to God. *Wow! This is awesome!* I thought, but then I experienced something even better. When they finished their songs, the entire congregation began to lift their voice and sing a song I’d never heard. It was so beautiful. I couldn’t

understand a word of it, but because I had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, all a sudden that emptiness that had always plagued me after a beautiful song was no longer there. I was able to release praise to God through tongues. For the first time I experienced worshipping God in the spirit.

David wrote about his struggle to worship throughout the psalms. He said, “My soul thirsts for thee, as in a dry and weary land,”<sup>1</sup> and “when can I go and meet with God?”<sup>2</sup> David spent his entire life in frustration, longing to worship God in fullness. We have the opportunity to worship God spirit-to-Spirit, but when is the last time we felt that longing, that intense desire for God? Jesus said,

*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

*John 7:37-39*

Unfortunately, many Christians never experience the fullness of God that's available to them because they don't "thirst" like Jesus said. They don't "desire intensely." When I was a kid, my mother sold Tupperware. We had Tupperware storage containers, Tupperware salt and pepper shakers, Tupperware pitchers, Tupperware plates, Tupperware cups, Tupperware everything. I hated it. I especially hated drinking out of a Tupperware cup; it felt strange, it smelt strange. I didn't like it. But you know, if I had spent a day in the Texas sun, sweating in 104° temperatures, and Mom offered me a lemonade, I didn't turn it down—even if it was in Tupperware. I was thirsty! We should come to God in the same way, not casually, not "if it's convenient," but with intense desire.

When we begin to desire after the things of God, we discover that He is a good God who desires to give good gifts to His children.

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

*Psalms 84:11*

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children,*

*how much more shall your Father,  
which is in heaven, give good things  
to them that ask him?*

*Matthew 7:11*

“But I don’t deserve the good things of God,” you say. None of us do, but praise God, it has nothing to do with us! It’s about Jesus. Remember, Jesus’ death did more than purchase our way to heaven. It cleansed us.<sup>3</sup> We’ve been changed, recreated in true righteousness and holiness.<sup>4</sup> The blood of Jesus makes us worthy to receive all things from God!<sup>5</sup>

*He that spared not his own Son, but  
delivered him up for us all, how shall  
he not with him also freely give us all  
things’?*

*Romans 8:32*

God gave us everything when He gave us Jesus, but Jesus told his disciples, “I can’t be with you forever. I’m going to send you Someone who can.”<sup>6</sup> That Someone was the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup>

*And when the day of Pentecost was  
fully come, they were all with one*

*accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*Acts 2:1-4*

Peter said this happened to fulfill Joel's prophecy.

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: ...that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

*Acts 2:17,21*

God never intended for His children to walk around as orphans, powerless to the course of the world. He gave us His Spirit to seal us for Heaven,<sup>7</sup> and to fill us with power, wisdom, and revelation to know Christ<sup>8</sup> and all that we have in Him.<sup>9</sup>

*For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

*Acts 2:39*

*And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father; which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*Acts 1:4, 5, 8*

Note that Jesus “commanded them.” He said, “Guys, this power is important! Don’t leave home without it!” You’ve heard the word *power* here is the Greek word *dunamis*, which is

the root word for dynamite. That's true, but I believe it gives us an incomplete definition of the Biblical type of power. The Biblical definition of the word *power* is "to be able," "capable," or "to have ability." Jesus told his disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes He will bring "ability." Ability to "be witnesses." Notice He didn't say, "ability to go out and witness." There's a difference. A witness is "one who remembers or has knowledge of something. "In a courtroom setting, witnesses are called to testify of what they know. Jesus said, "When the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will have the ability to tell what you know, to bring the knowledge of God to light, and demonstrate His *zoe* life."

The Holy Spirit releases abilities in our lives (which we'll discuss more in the next chapter) when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, but the first one I'd like to look at is the ability to communicate directly with God.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

*Romans 8:26 (New King James)*

*And the Searcher of Hearts knows  
what the Spirit's meaning is, because  
His intercessions for the saints are  
according to the will of God.*

*Romans 8:27 (Montgomery)*

“How?” you ask. In tongues. First Corinthians says, “He that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not to men but to God.”<sup>10</sup> When we receive the gift of the Spirit, we receive the ability to communicate spirit-to-Spirit with God. Before we’re baptized in the Spirit, the only way to communicate with God is through our unrenewed, carnal mind. This really limits what we can give to and receive from God. Paul said, “The merely intellectual man rejects the teaching of the Spirit; for to him it is mere folly; he cannot grasp it, because it is understood only by spiritual insight.”<sup>11</sup> Tongues allows us to bypass this obstacle.<sup>12</sup>

So, how do we receive the Holy Spirit and communicate directly with God? The same way we “received Christ,” the same way we receive anything from God— by faith. The word *receive*, in its simplest definition, is “to take to oneself.” Jesus said, about the Holy Spirit,

*...the world cannot receive [Him,]  
because it seeth him not, neither*

*knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

*John 14:17 [brackets mine]*

The world cannot receive the Spirit, because it does not operate by faith, "it sees him not." But when we, by faith, receive God's grace demonstrated to us in Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us and carry out the work of salvation. Now we must choose to "receive" Him and begin to experience His benefits. It is like a rich man receiving guests. When his doorbell rings, a butler opens the door to invite the guest into his house. He seats him in the living room, then tells the owner of the house, "You have a guest." Now it is up to the owner to acknowledge his guest, welcome him to his home, and begin to enjoy his company. That's "receiving" him.

Many Christians receive Jesus, acknowledging and welcoming His work on their behalf, but they are ignorant of the Spirit's presence in their lives. The Spirit takes up residence in us when we are born again, but until we acknowledge Him and give Him permission to work in us, we do not experience the fullness of His power and ability. The Word tells us that "God does not give the Spirit sparingly."<sup>13</sup> But that all who ask receive.

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

*Matthew 7:7-8*

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*

*Luke 11:13*

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

*1 John 5:14-15*

I encourage you, "Receive the Holy Ghost."

- 1 Psalm 63:1
- 2 Psalm 42:2
- 3 1 John 1:7
- 4 1 Peter 2:9
- 5 Ephesians 1:6-7
- 6 John 14:16
- 7 Ephesians 1:13-14
- 8 Philippians 3:10
- 9 Ephesians 4:13-14
- 10 Corinthians 14:2
- 11 Corinthians 2:14 (TCNT)
- 12 Corinthians 14:14
- 13 John 3:34

## Chapter Eight

# DISPLAYING THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

As the Holy Spirit works in our lives producing inward change and upward worship, we should begin to experience an outward flow of His power and ability. Jesus gave us a great word picture of the work of the Spirit in John chapters 4 and 7. He said,

*...Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:13-14*

*In the last day, that great day of*

*the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

*John 7:37-39*

Notice how Jesus contrasted the Spirit's work. He said that salvation, the new birth experience, is like a life-giving well in you. But the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a river that flows out of you giving life to others. Jesus came to give us access to God's *zoe* life.<sup>1</sup> But it is God who gives us the ability to live His life (like Jesus did) through the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus came to earth, he came as a man just like us.<sup>2</sup> He grew, increasing in wisdom and favor,<sup>3</sup> but for 30 years he did not do a single miracle. When Jesus went out to be baptized by John,

*...the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended, in a visible form,*

*like a dove, upon him, and from the heavens came a voice—“Thou art my Son, the Beloved; in thee I delight.”*

*Luke 3:21-22 (TCNT)*

After his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The Bible tells us, “he was tempted in every way, as we are, yet he did not sin.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus knew who He was, and when He returned to begin His public ministry, “he came back in the power of the Spirit.”<sup>4</sup> The outflow of the Spirit in Jesus’ life affected multitudes of people; He told the disciples,

*... Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise....I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

*John 5:19, 30*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that*

*believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

*John 14:12*

The Spirit of God caused the outward flow of power in Jesus' life, and it is God's Spirit in us that causes the same power to flow in ours.<sup>5</sup> How do we begin to release the power of the Spirit? As we discussed in the last chapter, we must hunger and thirst after the things of God acknowledging that God's power lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Contrary to popular belief, God will not force His will or His blessings on us. I guarantee, if you don't want something from God, you won't get it. He has taught us from the beginning that we were created as free moral agents. He will not override that. God has given us Jesus and "qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints."<sup>6</sup> He has given us His Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance, but it is our decision to allow the Spirit to produce within us an outward flow.

*The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*

*Ephesians 1:14 (NLT)*

Next, we must begin to understand who we are in Christ and what we have because of His work. We've discussed this before, but we must keep it fresh in our minds. We've been redeemed! Not just bought out of sin, but delivered from its authority. When God redeemed the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, He didn't just remove their bonds of hard labor and death. He delivered them out of that kingdom and gave them a new one where the Egyptians could not enslave them again.<sup>7</sup> Our new birth removes the bonds of sin in our lives and delivers us into the kingdom of God. We are completely changed and made to live life as God lives it. We must stop living with only a mental assent of the Spirit's work, and let our lives agree with our confession! It's time for the world to see that we "have been with Jesus."<sup>8</sup>

We once had a lady in our church that struggled with this. This lady knew everything. She had a tape series and book from every well-known Bible teacher in the States. She watched every Christian television program, and could win an argument about scriptural principles with a veteran pastor. She was kind of intimidating, but her life did not reflect all that she "knew." She struggled paying her bills and eventually went through eviction proceedings. During one of her hearings, she told the judge, "I don't care what you do, take my house, take my car. I'm blessed. God meets all my needs." I'm sure the judge

thought, *If that's being blessed by God, forget it. I'll do this myself.* Of course, what she said was scripturally accurate, but it wasn't something she demonstrated in her life.

God chose us to experience His life and demonstrate that life to others. We are His witnesses on the earth. He has faith in us!

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

*Luke 10:19*

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

*Mark 16:17-18*

*Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in*

*Christ, and maketh manifest the savor  
of his knowledge by us in every place.*

*2 Corinthians 2:14*

God has given us His ability. That should give us confidence! In Acts, we see how the Holy Spirit changed the disciples' abilities. Remember Peter who had earlier denied knowing Jesus. After he received the Holy Spirit's baptism, he stood up in the middle of a huge crowd and preached the Savior. Acts records 3,000 men believing because of that sermon. At another time, Peter and John went together to the temple for a prayer meeting. On the way, a lame man stopped them for alms. Peter said,

*... Silver and gold have I none; but  
such as I have give I thee: In the name  
of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up  
and walk. And he took him by the  
right hand, and lifted him up: and  
immediately his feet and ankle bones  
received strength. And he leaping up  
stood, and walked, and entered with  
them into the temple, walking, and  
leaping, and praising God.*

*Acts 3:6-8*

Peter and John were so confident in God's ability in them that they didn't hesitate to pray for this lame man. They didn't say, "Sit here, we'll go in and pray, bind up the power of the enemy, plead with God to come down and do a special work.. ."They didn't call for the pastor or the elders of the church either. Peter and John walked in the confidence of who they were in Christ and the ability they had because of His Spirit. Acts tells us,

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus... And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.*

*Acts 4:13, 33*

Everyone could see the change in Jesus' followers. Not only were they confident, but no matter what happened to them, they lived in peace. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned for his testimony when he looked into heaven, saw the glory of God and cried, "God, don't lay this sin at their charge." <sup>9</sup> Then the Bible records that "he fell

asleep.” He peacefully stepped from this life into the presence of God.

A few years ago, I had a massive heart attack. Actually, I had a series of three. By the third attack, I headed to the hospital. I remember lying there, surrounded by my wife and kids, when the doctors told me I needed quadruple bypass surgery. As they’d rolled me to the operating room I thought, *Shouldn’t I be a little nervous about this?* But I really wasn’t. I experienced what scripture calls a “peace that passeth understanding.”<sup>10</sup> I was rolled down the hall into a cold room, and put on a well-lit surgical table.

As the doctors put on their masks and gathered ‘round, a mental image of vultures around a dead steer came to mind. But the surgeon said, “Do you have anything you’d like to ask before we put you under?”

“Just one,” I said.

“What’s that?”

“You have done this before haven’t you?” I joked.

What I’m telling you is not just theory—it’s real. The Holy Spirit produces in us an inward change that creates a pure upward worship and will produce an outward flow if we allow it.

*For we are his workmanship, created*

*in Christ Jesus unto good works,  
which God hath before ordained that  
we should walk in them.*

*Ephesians 2:10*

- <sup>1</sup> John 10:10
- <sup>2</sup> Hebrews 4:15 (2)
- <sup>3</sup> Luke 2:52
- <sup>4</sup> Luke 4:14
- <sup>5</sup> Romans 8:11
- <sup>6</sup> Colossians 1:12
- <sup>7</sup> Exodus 12-14
- <sup>8</sup> Acts 4:13
- <sup>9</sup> Acts 7:60
- <sup>10</sup> Philippians 4:7

## Part Three



# ANOINTED TO GIVE

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*

*1 Peter 3:15*

## Chapter Nine

# GOD'S PLAN FOR ALL BELIEVERS

Jesus referenced the Holy Spirit's work many times throughout His ministry. He consistently gave the Spirit of God in Him credit for His ability to work signs and wonders before the people.<sup>1</sup> Just as Jesus could do nothing on his own, neither can we.

Do not be confused. Jesus made it very clear that He came to earth as a man, without any heavenly attributes or abilities. He was born from His mother's womb, nursed, diapered, and disciplined just like we are. He had to grow in wisdom and face temptation as well. However, Jesus did all this without sinning—showing us the way God intended man to live.

*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for*

*you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

*Colossians 1:9-14*

Since God has given us redemption through the blood of His Son, “even the forgiveness of sin,” Paul says we now can walk worthy of God and please Him in everything we do. Notice how forgiveness is just tacked on to the end of redemption like it’s a bonus. Paul understood, and we need to

understand, that redemption is much more than just forgiveness. It is a new way of living because of the new ability we've been given to live it—the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, the same ability He had (through the power of the Holy Spirit) was made available to all who believe. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we give Him liberty to work in and through us with God's ability. Jesus told the disciples,

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

*John 14:12*

*... Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:*

*John 20:21-22*

Jesus was so passionate about our need for the Holy Spirit that He also said, "Don't attempt to go anywhere or do

anything until you have received this promise of the Father.”<sup>2</sup>  
Without the Spirit’s ability working in us, our lives look just like the world. At best, we appear ordinary and the world views us with a type of apathy. But that is not how God wants us to live!

*For if because of one man’s trespass  
(lapse, offense) death reigned through  
that one, much more surely will those  
who receive [God’s] overflowing  
grace (unmerited favor) and the free  
gift of righteousness [putting them  
into right standing with Himself]  
reign as kings in life through the one  
Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the  
Anointed One).*

*Romans 5:17 (Amplified)*

Since we are representing heaven, just like Jesus did, everything we do should follow His example and display the God life in us. Remember when Jesus came to be baptized by John? John protested saying, “I need to be baptized by you.” But Jesus told him to allow it so that he could "fulfill all righteousness" or do all things right before God. How was Jesus’ baptism ‘doing things right before God?’ He had no need of repentance. Essentially Jesus was giving us a picture of new life (or righteousness) in Him.

When we make the decision to follow Jesus in baptism, we are not simply proclaiming our belief in His Sonship.

*No, indeed; how shall we who have died to sin, live in it any longer? And do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Well, then, we by our baptism were buried with Him in death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from among the dead by the Father's glorious power, we also should live an entirely new life. For since we have become one with Him by sharing in His death, we shall also be one with Him by sharing in His resurrection. This we know—that our old self was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our sinful nature might be deprived of its power, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin; for he who has paid the penalty of death stands absolved from his sin.*

*Romans 6:2-7 (Weymouth)*

According to Romans 6, we are identifying with the work of His death and resurrection, so that we "should live an entirely new life." The old nature is dead! It has no control over us. So why do so many Christians live as if it did? They simply have not allowed the Holy Spirit the freedom to complete Christ's work in them, renewing their minds to the truth of who they are in Christ.

John Osteen, one of the greatest ministers of our time, told this story. One night, in a dream, he was taking a walk when all of a sudden his body was encased in fog. Terrible looking demons came at him from the midst of the fog. Terrified and looking for an escape, Jesus appeared. *I'm saved*, He thought, *Jesus is here!* But Jesus didn't move to take up his defense. John recalled Jesus stepping in front of him and seeing Jesus' arms enter his own. He felt Jesus' body transpose his own. He saw Jesus' legs insert themselves into his, and saw Jesus' feet reflected in his own. "Now," Jesus said, "Rebuke the demons."

John realized, in that dream, that as a believer, Jesus Christ lived in him. He did not need to fear; even the worst demon was no match for the power of the Spirit at work in his life. When we believe, the same is true of us. We are more than just natural human beings. We are containers for the Spirit of God. We are SUPERNatural, and we ought to operate according to the new nature we've been given.

What does this new nature look like? We'll discuss this in

greater depth in chapter 12, but essentially, it looks like Jesus. Jesus loved people. He was selfless and kind. He was confident and full of wisdom. Jesus operated in authority and demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit everywhere He went. Jesus got people's attention and changed their hearts toward God.

God was so proud of His firstborn; He desires all His kids to be like Jesus.<sup>3</sup> But before we can operate in the power of the Spirit like Jesus did, we have to understand authority. During Jesus' earthly ministry, He taught the disciples about the power of authority by sending them out for "field training."

*Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. ...And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.*

*Luke 9:1-2,6*

They returned on fire, sharing with Jesus all that was accomplished in His name saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us!" Had Jesus just given the disciples a "magic

word" to get their prayers answered? No. Jesus told them:

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

*Luke 10:19-20*

What was Jesus saying? Did He tell the disciples that the demonstration of the Spirit wasn't important? Religion has taught that, but Jesus didn't. He's simply took a moment to remind the disciples, "That's great guys, but remember it's not you doing these amazing things. The power you've just experienced works because your name is written in heaven. It works because of relationship."

For example, when my wife and I got married I gave her the right to use my name. Before our marriage, her name was Linda Eubank. She wasn't a part of my family, even though I loved her. She couldn't make business decisions for me or use my credit card. She couldn't talk to my doctor about my health. She couldn't ask my banker to release funds for her to buy me

groceries. But after we were married, her name changed to Linda Parr. Now she's a part of my family; she can talk to the doctor about my healthcare. She can make decisions in my name. She can even use the money in my bank account. I gave her authority to use my name, and she knows it!

You see authority works by relationship. If tomorrow morning the mail clerk at work told you you'd just been fired, would you start cleaning out your cubicle? No. He doesn't have that authority. But if your manager called you into his office to deliver a pink slip, you'd know it was official. He has the authority to make those decisions because of his relationship with the company. When we come into relationship with Jesus, He gives us the authority to use His name. It's not about us or what we can do, it's about Him.

*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

*John 14:13-14*

*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

### *Colossians 3:17*

Jesus death provided redemption for us and relationship with God. He gave us authority to represent Him on the earth, and He gave us an Encourager to help us “fight the good fight of faith”<sup>4</sup> so we can “finish our course with joy.”<sup>5</sup> Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit.

When we decide to take advantage of the gift God has given us, in the Person of the Holy Spirit, one of the first things we experience is the ability to speak in tongues. Speaking in tongues is a humbling experience. Isaiah 28:11 says, “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.” The Amplified Bible says it this way, “[the Lord will teach the rebels in a more humiliating way] by men with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people [says Isaiah, and teach them His lessons].”

When we speak in tongues, “our spirit prays but our mind is unfruitful.”<sup>6</sup> Speaking in tongues is an exercise of faith. It completely disengages our mind as we pray words we didn’t think of to God.<sup>7</sup> Relying on the Holy Spirit to give meaning to what we say, speaking in tongues builds our confidence in God’s ability to keep His Word. It encourages us.

*But ye, beloved, building up  
yourselves on your most holy faith,*

*praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

*Jude 20-21*

1 Corinthians 14:4 says, “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself...” How does that work? I don’t really know. I cannot fathom how praying in a language I don’t understand, builds me up spiritually. I also don’t understand how something as large and heavy as an airplane gets off the ground. Even though I don’t understand how it works, that doesn’t stop me from enjoying the benefits of turning a 12-hour trip into a 2-hour one. After years of walking with God and enjoying the benefits of my salvation, I have decided that I don’t have to understand everything about God. I can accept what His Word says as Truth and enjoy the blessings of believing Him.

<sup>1</sup> John 5:19,36

<sup>2</sup> Luke 24:49

<sup>3</sup> Romans 8:29

<sup>4</sup> 1 Timothy 6:12

<sup>5</sup> Acts 20:24

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:14

7 1 Corinthians 14:2

# Chapter Ten

## RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many Christians describe the “great commission” as Jesus final and most important words to the church, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations....” But this wasn’t the last thing He spoke to the disciples. Instead of telling them to “go,” Jesus told them to “tarry.”

*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

*Luke 24:49*

*And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father; which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.... But ye*

*shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*Acts 1:4-5, 8*

Jesus knew his disciples would need the Holy Spirit to fulfill their God-given purpose on earth. So, He promised to send the Spirit once He "returned to the Father."<sup>1</sup> The promise of the Holy Spirit is a promise of power—the power to walk in God's ability to change the world. But how do we receive the power of the Spirit to live as witnesses on the earth? We discussed this briefly in chapter 7, but let's look more in-depth at the Biblical precedents for receiving the Holy Spirit.

## Prayer

In Acts 2, we see the church's first encounter with the Spirit. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come... they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance." But prior to that, Luke records that they were praying.

*Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room... [and] continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.*

*Acts 1:12-14 [brackets mine]*

Now let me interject here and mention that the disciples were “tarrying” for the promised power, as Jesus instructed them. The disciples had to wait for the moment when the Holy Spirit could come and remain with God’s people. We, on the other hand, do not have to wait a specified amount of time. The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. He is here now. God has not taken Him away; He promised the Spirit would be with us forever.<sup>2</sup> However, the principal of waiting on God remains.

The modern-day church is missing the attitude of perseverance. We live in an age of instant gratification; we want everything **now**. But perseverance, the ability to wait, shows true hunger for the things of God. The believers who experienced the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, were willing to demonstrate their desire for God by waiting in prayer. Jesus extended an invitation to all 500 believers, but only 120 were willing to wait.

Some things in life are worth the wait. There's a difference between a fast-food hamburger with fries that takes 90 seconds to prepare and a meal at a good steak-house. Wouldn't you rather see an inch-and-a-half thick, medium prime rib sitting on your plate in its own juices than a paper-wrapped, barely-there slice of ground beef on a soggy bun? I can see it now (after a crisp garden salad with crumbly blue cheese dressing and a steaming bowl of French onion soup) my beautifully marbled, medium prime rib would come to the table topped with horseradish and served next to a baked potato loaded with butter, sour cream, bacon bits, and chives. I'd finish up with a slice of key lime pie or maybe some warm bread pudding drizzled in rum sauce. Delicious! But would that meal come to me in 90 seconds? No, I'd have to wait a good 20 minutes. Would it be worth it? Absolutely!

## The Laying on of Hands

After the day of Pentecost, the disciples began to disperse and preach the Gospel everywhere they went. In Acts 8, we see Philip visiting the city of Samaria and "preaching Christ." As the people believed, they were water baptized, but if we pick up the story in verse 14, we see,

*When the apostles in Jerusalem heard*

*that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

*Acts 8:14-17 (NIV)*

Notice that the apostles "laid their hands on them" and they received the Holy Spirit. I know that the "laying on of hands" is a doctrine that many are uncomfortable with. Perhaps you've been taught that laying hands on someone is only the job of an apostle or minister, but let's look at the scriptural record for receiving from God by the "laying on of hands."

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on*

*of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

*Hebrews 6:1-2*

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

*Mark 16:17-18*

In Acts 9, a man named Ananias laid hands on Saul to receive the Holy Spirit and his sight. Ananias was not an apostle or church leader. He was a disciple—a believer like us.

*And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias... And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus. For, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in*

*a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.... And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou earnest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.*

*Acts 9:10-12,17-18*

Even the Old Testament contains references to this practice. In Genesis 48, when Joseph took his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh to meet his father, Jacob laid his hands on them and blessed them. What is it about the "laying on of hands" that helps people receive from God? It is simply a connection point that allows the power of the Spirit to flow from one person to another—sort-of like jumper cables.

## Hearing the Word

Another way the Bible shows people receiving the Holy Spirit is by hearing the Word of God. In Acts chapter 10, Peter went to Cornelius' house at God's direction. Cornelius was a Gentile who feared God and gave to the poor. He desired to know God, but until Peter arrived he had never heard of Jesus. Peter proclaimed Christ to Cornelius' entire house,

*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word....For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...*

*Acts 10:44, 46*

Hearing the Word of God preached is powerful. As Christians it is our foundation of belief. Everything we profess should be backed up by the Word. We had a neighbor once who received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and tried to share her experience with us. Linda told her, "Show it to me in the Word." But the woman couldn't, and because of that, we ignored what she said. Just like Romans 10:14 says, we couldn't believe on what we'd not heard with the ears of faith. For "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."<sup>3</sup>

Most people probably receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit with a combination of hearing the Word and the laying on of hands. In Acts 19, Paul passed through Ephesus and found disciples there who had not yet heard of the Holy Spirit. He preached Christ to them and laid hands on them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.*

*Acts 19:4-7*

Over the years, I have personally seen this combination of ministering the Holy Spirit to people most effective. When it's not, it is usually the result of ignorance, misinformation or denominational tradition. But the Word of God breaks through those barriers and produces faith in the heart of its hearers.

If a Christian doesn't believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from our new birth, I show them Paul's experience with the disciples in Acts 19,

*And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?...*

*Acts 19:1-2*

...And Phillip's experience in Samaria.

*Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*

### *Acts 8:14-17*

Even Jesus told the disciples in John 14 that believers are the only type of people who can receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup> If Jesus separated the two experiences shouldn't we consider it?

When believers use 1 Corinthians 12:13 to explain their denomination's belief in one baptism, I take them to Hebrews chapter 6 and begin to teach them about the doctrine of baptisms (plural).<sup>5</sup> There are actually three different baptisms found in scripture: water baptism, baptism into the body of Christ, and baptism in the Holy Spirit. To tell which baptism the Bible refers to, one should look at who is doing the baptizing, who is being baptized, and what element they are being baptized into. For example, in water baptism (the baptism of repentance), believers baptize new converts in water.

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Ghost.*

### *Matthew 28:19*

*Can any man forbid water, that these  
should not be baptized, which have  
received the Holy Ghost as well as  
we?*

*Acts 10:47*

When we receive Christ's redemptive work of the cross, the Holy Spirit baptizes (places) us into the body of Christ. This new birth experience is what 1 Corinthians refers to in chapter 12, and what Galatians talks about in chapter 3.

*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

*1 Corinthians 12:13*

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

*Galatians 3:26-27*

But being baptized in the Holy Spirit is different—as different as taking a drink and taking a bath. John the Baptist said, “I baptize you in water, but Jesus is coming to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” <sup>6</sup> When we are baptized into the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit lives in us (like taking a drink of water).

But when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we completely yield our lives to Him (like taking a bath) and begin to live life as God intended.

<sup>1</sup> John 16:7-8

<sup>2</sup> John 14:16

<sup>3</sup> Romans 10:17

<sup>4</sup> John 14:17

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 6:1-2

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 3:11

# Chapter Eleven

## THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit works in each of our lives from the moment of our birth to the time we die. Before we believe, it is the Spirit who draws us to God and convinces us we need a Savior.<sup>1</sup> Jesus said it was for our (mankind's) benefit that He leave and send the Holy Spirit.

*...It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*

*John 16:7-8*

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would “reprove the world of sin.” Now obviously, the world is not the believer. Throughout scripture, the world represents those who are holding on to and participating in this world's system of behavior and/or belief. As a believer, we have been removed from the kingdom

of darkness and “translated into the kingdom of God’s Son.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus said we are in the world but not of it.<sup>3</sup> So we know that whenever scripture uses the terminology “world” it’s talking about this world’s system.

The Holy Spirit’s job (in the world) is to *reprove* them of sin. *Reprove* is not a word we use regularly, but it means “to convict or convince,” “to tell a fault,” “to rebuke or admonish.” *Reprove* implies not merely a charge, but the truth of the charge. As humans, we have a tendency to point out faults, even when what we’ve expressed is not completely accurate. But the Holy Spirit doesn’t do that. When He reproves someone, it follows the complete cycle of conviction. They’re rebuked and convinced that what He says is true.

Before we move on, notice that Jesus qualifies the type of sin the Holy Spirit convicts people of. In verse nine, He says, “of sin because they believe not on me.” Jesus did not say the Holy Spirit would convict the world of lying, stealing, adultery, murder or idolatry. He didn’t mention any of our “big ten.” Why not? Because those sins are not responsible for people going to hell. If they were, then the only thing necessary for that person to avoid hell would be to quit doing those sins. We know that’s not accurate; the Bible says the only way to the Father is through Jesus.<sup>4</sup> So apparently the only sin that keeps people out of heaven is rejecting Jesus and His sacrifice.

The Holy Spirit's job is to convict the world that they need Jesus. Who wants to be the best sinner in hell? You know my testimony. I grew up in church and lived a good, moral life, but I was lost. When I finally came to understand that my goodness wasn't going to get me into heaven or improve my life, it wasn't because of the sermons I heard at church. A good friend of mine showed me the way.

There was something about my friend that drew me; he lived the Christ-life in front of me. He was my boss for about three years, and I never remember him having a bad day. He enjoyed life. He was always talking about God or His Word—not preaching at me, but just having fun talking about God like a friend. After he moved, I remember quitting my job and driving cross-country to visit him. Late Saturday night as we were preparing for bed, he said, “My wife and I are going to church in the morning. You're welcome to join us.”

I thought, *I just drove halfway across the country to visit you, and you're going to church in the morning!* But I wanted to spend time with my friend, so the next morning, I went to church with his family. That morning I remember having an encounter with Jesus. I don't recall the sermon. I don't recall my prayer, but I know I didn't spend a lot of time confessing my sins. I'd still be at that altar in Danville, Virginia trying to remember them all. But I know I left that place “a new creature in Christ.”

The church has got to start representing the completeness of Jesus' sacrifice. We've got to change our messages from *Stop Sinning* to *Jesus!* We are called to be fishers of men; our job is to catch them; His responsibility is to clean them.

Not only does the Holy Spirit reprove the world of sin, but of righteousness and judgment. Again, Jesus explains what He's talking about in the following verses.

*And when he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father; and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

*John 16:8-11 [brackets mine]*

When the Holy Spirit shows the world the truth of their sin, He also deals with the falsehood of their righteousness and the fullness of Satan's defeat. Self-righteousness and self-justification is running rampant in our world. Everyone tries to explain why their lives and their choices are okay. But God's Word declares that apart from Christ, our righteousness "is as filthy rags." <sup>5</sup> Romans says, "there are none righteous." <sup>6</sup> The

only way to become righteous is through accepting the finished work of the cross. The Holy Spirit shows the world that having right standing with God is only achievable through Jesus. On our own, we can never measure up to God's standard. The only way to win with God is through Jesus. The Holy Spirit shows the world that when we accept the finished work of the cross, we join the winning team. Satan has been defeated. He has been judged and found guilty. His sentence is final. It cannot be revoked.

*Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being*

*justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

*Romans 3:19-24*

*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

*Colossians 2:14-15*

Once we make the decision to submit our lives to Christ, the Holy Spirit works the new birth experience in our hearts<sup>7</sup> and begins the process of teaching us all that we now are and have because of Jesus.<sup>8</sup>

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

Now our lives should begin to demonstrate the character and nature of God because He lives in us. God's character is love. Everything He does, He does because He loves. As humans, we often love because we've found a desirable trait in someone else. We admire their looks or ability to sing. We love because they helped us or gave us something. That type of love is caused; it is based on the other person's actions.

The Bible mentions three different types of love. The first is *eros* or physical love. This type of love is based on attraction. The second type of love is a soulish or friendship love called *phileo*. This love is generally based on personality and common interest. Then there is God's kind *of love*. *Agape* love is based on a decision. It is completely uncaused. *Agape's* not an emotionally driven love based on appearance or personality or relationship. It has nothing to do with the object of love. *Agape* is the type of love Christ gives us to demonstrate to the world.

*By this shall all men know that ye are  
my disciples, if ye have love one to  
another.*

*John 13:35*

As we grow in the knowledge of all we've been redeemed from and created for, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and

the understanding that we cannot live as God intends and fulfill His purpose for our lives without help. That help is the Holy Spirit. As we've discussed before, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to live as a testimony of the grace of God.

*For it is God who is producing in you  
both the desire and the ability to do  
what pleases him.*

*Philippians 2:13 (ISB)*

As a Church body, it is our responsibility to start living like who we are. The world needs to see the life of God in us demonstrated through us. Scripture says, “God inhabits the praises of His people.”<sup>9</sup> Inhabit means “to make at home,” and praise refers to acknowledgment. When we make ourselves at home, we get comfortable. We stop trying to impress people. We take off our shoes, we slouch, we belch without saying ‘excuse me’—we start acting like who we really are. God makes Himself comfortable when people stop to acknowledge Him. He heals, He delivers, He saves—He acts like Himself.

If we truly want to demonstrate the *zoe* life of God to the world, we need to take the time to acknowledge Him. We need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, preach righteousness found only in Jesus, and keep ourselves built up to demonstrate the victory that Christ won for us.<sup>10</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> John 6:44
- <sup>2</sup> Colossians 1:13
- <sup>3</sup> John 17:14-16
- <sup>4</sup> John 14:6; Acts 4:12;
- <sup>5</sup> Isaiah 64:6
- <sup>6</sup> Romans 3:10
- <sup>7</sup> 1 Peter 1:3, 23; Titus 3:5
- <sup>8</sup> 2 Peter 1:3; Colossians 3:10
- <sup>9</sup> Psalm 22:3
- <sup>10</sup> Colossians 2:7; Jude 20

# Chapter Twelve

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The natural outflow of the work of the Spirit in the life of the believer is what we call the “fruit of the Spirit.” Just like natural fruit, an apple, orange or pear is a reproduction of the life of its parent, so the fruit of the Spirit is a reproduction of the life of God inside us.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
peace, longsuffering, gentleness,  
goodness, faith, Meekness,  
temperance: against such there is no  
law.*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

We do not have to ask God to give us love for our neighbor. We do not have to ask God to “return to us the joy of our salvation” like David did.<sup>1</sup> We do not even need to ask God for peace. That’s who God is and that’s what He naturally produces in us. If we revisit Galatians, we’ll see that the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit is the “works of the flesh.”

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, un-cleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Galatians 5:19-21*

Paul is talking to believers in Galatians. He says that continuing to live in adultery, fornication, lasciviousness (or any other sin) after being born again is unnatural. It is no longer a part of our nature. Believers don't naturally sin; they have to work at it. For example, no one walks down the street, sees someone they find attractive, and then "accidentally" commits adultery with them. It takes planning. You have to work out the details of how you're going to commit sin—you have to provide the time and place, plan how to get the other person involved, *etc.* You say, "That's a bit extreme," but it's true. Your new nature does not sin.

*We know that whosoever is born of*

*God sin-neth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

*1 John 5:18*

*And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

*Romans 8:10-11*

Have you ever seen an apple tree struggle to bring forth apples? It doesn't lift its face to the sky and shout, "I am an apple tree. I confess I *will* produce apples. Apples grow, in Jesus name!" It just produces apples because that's its nature. Our nature is Christ.<sup>2</sup> We shouldn't have to work at producing love, joy or peace. It's part of who we are. The old works of the flesh are gone, the new fruit of the Spirit has come.<sup>3</sup> But just like we cultivate apple trees to produce more apples, we can cultivate our character to produce more of the *zoe* life of God in us.

## Love

The first fruit listed in Galatians is love. If the fruit of the Spirit could be ranked in order of importance, love would be at the top of the list. Every other characteristic emanates from love. According to 1 Corinthians 13, without love everything else we do is unfruitful. Love fulfills the whole law<sup>4</sup> It encompasses all that God is.

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

*1 John 4:7-8*

God's kind of love is different than human love. God's love is uncaused. We don't do anything to deserve it. We don't do anything to keep it. He loves because that's who He is.

I had a revelation of this type of unconditional love when my son hit his teenage years. We were pastoring in a small town, directly across from the high school. Every day my children were asked what it was like to attend "that church." We tried to help them through the process of persecution, but my daughter just began to withdraw and my son began to rebel

—a lot. Every member of the local police force knew my son by his first name.

No matter what we did, my son's response was the opposite. It got so bad I was ready to put an ad in the local paper disowning my son. I wanted no more connection with him, and I wanted to make sure everybody knew it. I was at my wit's end until God spoke up.

“How would you feel if I disowned you?” He said. “You don't please me in everything you do. Would I get your attention? Would you change?”

I got to thinking about God's kind of love—for me and my son. God's rebuke showed me that even though I wasn't in flagrant sin, I had fallen short of His Glory. I knew I didn't want God to deal with me based on my actions. And I realized I had to stop dealing with my son based on his actions.

“But how do I do that Lord? How do I love my son unconditionally?”

“Do it like I do,” God replied. And He brought Romans 2:4 to mind.

Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

“I never thought of that,” I answered sheepishly.

“You might want to start practicing this,” God said. “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”<sup>5</sup>

“I’m going to need some help God,” I said. “I just don’t know how to do this. I’ve been trying to discipline him, teach him the right things, make him go to church ...What should I do?”

God said, “Buy him a new pick-up.”

“Excuse me?”

“A pick-up,” God repeated. “A new one.”

Everything within me wanted to scream, he doesn’t deserve a new pick-up! But I knew what God had said, so I went out and bought my son a baby-blue Ford Ranger. When my son got off the school bus, he walked right past that truck, came in the front door, grunted, and went upstairs to his bedroom. A few minutes later, he came down and said, “You bought yourself a new pick-up.”

“No,” I replied. “It isn’t mine.”

Back up the stairs he went. A bit later, he returned asking, “Whose is it?”

“It’s yours,” I said and threw him the keys.

Silence.

“Seriously? Can I drive it?”

“Go talk to your mother,” I told him. I wasn’t quite ready for that kind of "quality time" with my son. But Linda showed amazing restraint and taught him how to drive. As the days and months passed, we began to notice a change in my son.

Now he calls regularly just to chat. “How you doing, Dad?...Anything new happening?...I love you.” And every time he calls, I pause to thank God for His goodness that led both of us to repentance and a restoration of our relationship.

## Joy

The next fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5 is joy. Joy, as the Bible defines it, is "an internal, eternal delight in God, not tied to circumstance." Our joy is dependent upon God. It delights in who He is and what He has done for us. And since God never changes, no matter what we’re going through, we can have joy.

*... the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

*Nehemiah 8:10*

*...[He has sent me] to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for*

*mourning, the garment of praise for  
the spirit of heaviness;...*

*Isaiah 61:2-3 [brackets mine]*

In the Old Testament, Habakkuk learned the importance of joy. During his lifetime, the nation of Israel went through some difficult circumstances that God seemed to ignore. Out of frustration, Habakkuk cried out to Him, but God did not respond like Habakkuk thought. Instead He said, “The just shall live by faith.”<sup>6</sup> As Habakkuk mulled that over, day rolled into day, circumstance into circumstance. Eventually Habakkuk understood what God was trying to tell him.

*Although the fig tree shall not  
blossom, neither shall fruit be in the  
vines; the labor of the olive shall fail,  
and the fields shall yield no meat; the  
flock shall be cut off from the fold, and  
there shall be no herd in the stalls, Yet  
I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in  
the God of my salvation. The LORD  
God is my strength, and he will make  
my feet like hinds' feet, and he will  
make me to walk upon mine high  
places...*

### *Habakkuk 3:17-19*

Habakkuk realized that his circumstances had nothing to do with God's faithfulness. Regardless of what happened to him or what he saw, Habakkuk determined to "live by faith" and rejoice in his God. Habakkuk chose joy—

## Peace

Another fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians is peace. Like joy, peace has nothing to do with our circumstances. Peace means "calmness and rest in one's soul." Scripture tells us that that type of peace only comes from God. Jesus said,

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*John 14:27*

Notice that Jesus said "let not" your heart be afraid. Apparently, we have to make a decision to operate in peace. How do we do this? By "thinking on these things," as Paul said.

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

*Philippians 4:6-9*

## Patience

The fourth fruit of the Spirit is longsuffering or patience.

Patience is “steadfast endurance” in spite of difficult people or circumstances. By now, I’m sure you’ve discovered that life is not a bed of roses. It comes equipped with thorns. But the ability to endure what comes our way without losing faith is in us. Paul said,

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;...*

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

*1 Corinthians 15:57-58*

Jesus was the embodiment of all the fruit of the Spirit. He lived His life as an example of who we are in the Spirit and what our lives can look like in the flesh. *But that was Jesus*, you say. *He didn't have to deal with a sin nature*. Honestly, neither do you. Remember our old nature passed away; now we possess all the fruit of the Spirit. As impossible as it may feel to always operate in love, joy, peace, and patience, we can. Seeing the ugliness of our old habits does not change the fact that we are "new creatures" filled with the Spirit of God.<sup>7</sup> We just need to take the time to renew our minds<sup>8</sup> to who we are in Christ and control our flesh until its old habits die.

## Gentleness

God's Spirit in us also produces gentleness or kindness. The traditional definition for this fruit is "warm-hearted tenderness." However, I think "mellowing that which is harsh" is a better descriptor of the Spirit's work in us. The Spirit of God helps to balance us and round out our sharp edges. Jesus was very gentle. Even though He always told people the truth, He did it in love and gentleness.

*[They] refused to obey, neither were  
mindful of thy wonders that thou didst  
among them; but hardened their*

*necks, and in their rebellion  
appointed a captain to return to their  
bondage: but thou art a God ready to  
pardon, gracious and merciful, slow  
to anger, and of great kindness, and  
forsookest them not.*

*Nehemiah 9:17 [brackets mine]*

*And be ye kind one to another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
even as God for Christ's sake hath  
forgiven you.*

*Ephesians 4:32*

## Goodness

Another natural outflow of the Spirit's work in our heart is goodness. Goodness is different from the other fruit in that it is active. It benefits others. Jesus personified goodness.

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Ghost and with power:  
who went about doing good, and  
healing all that were oppressed of the*

*devil; for God was with him.*

*Acts 10:38*

Now that we've been born again and given the nature of Christ, we can insert our names into that verse. God has anointed *us* with the Holy Spirit to do good and heal all that are oppressed of the devil, for He is with us. Praise God!

## Faithfulness

Next is faithfulness. Faithfulness is “steadfast commitment.” Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of examples of faithfulness to draw from in the world—or in church. No one, it seems, is willing to commit. But God is faithful. He has made a steadfast commitment to us! Let's take a look at God's faithfulness and begin to pattern our lives and actions after His. But when you do, prepare yourself for blessings!<sup>9</sup>

*Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.*

*Deuteronomy 7:9*

*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:24*

*Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; you established the earth, and it stands.*

*Psalm 119:90 (NASB)*

## Meekness

Meekness is also identified throughout scripture as humility. It is the ability to allow God (or anyone else) to deal with you justly without defending yourself. This does not mean you allow someone to rebuke you for something that isn't true. However, if God brings something to your attention, you accept it and allow His Word to change you. You don't say, "But that's not my fault."

*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

### *Galatians 6:1*

We need to understand that meekness has nothing to do with debasing oneself. According to scripture, Moses was the meekest man on earth—and he wrote that! Meekness is being submissive—realizing that God is the potter and we are the clay<sup>10</sup> Meekness agrees with all that God says about us.

## Self-Control

The last fruit of the Spirit is temperance or self-control. It is defined as "rigid self-discipline." This fruit should relegate several areas of our lives, including our tongue and our thoughts.

*The tongue is afire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

*James 3:6*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

*Proverbs 18:21*

*Not that which goeth into the mouth  
defileth a man; but that which cometh  
out of the mouth, this defileth a man...  
But those things which proceed out of  
the mouth come forth from the heart;  
and they defile the man.*

*Matthew 15:11, 18*

*to be made new in the attitude of your  
minds;*

*Ephesians 4:23 (NIV)*

*Casting down imaginations, and  
every high thing that exalteth itself  
against the knowledge of God, and  
bringing into captivity every thought  
to the obedience of Christ.*

*2 Corinthians 10:5*

As we begin to recognize the need for our words and thoughts to change, we often turn to God for intervention. However, God says, “You have the power to do that yourself” The working of self-control, like the other fruit, is

completely dependent on us. We are the only ones who can control what we say and think. We have to choose not to gossip or backbite or lie. We have to choose what we spend time thinking about.

In the airline industry, check pilots randomly board aircraft to observe and grade their pilots for safety and efficiency flying the plane. You see, pilots don't make planes fly. The manufacturer made the plane to fly, but the pilot has to do some things to keep the plane in the air. God made us to fly, but there are some things we need to do in order to stay in the air. We have to choose to live life as God lives it. The Holy Spirit is like our check pilot. He develops the fruit (or character) of the Spirit in our lives so we can "hold on to a good conscience"<sup>11</sup> and accurately portray Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 51:12

<sup>2</sup> Colossians 1:27

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:17

<sup>4</sup> Romans 13:10

<sup>5</sup> Romans 12:21

<sup>6</sup> Habakkuk 2:4

<sup>7</sup> Romans 8:2, 9

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 4:23

<sup>9</sup> Proverbs 28:20

<sup>10</sup> Romans 9:21

<sup>11</sup>1 Timothy 1:19

# Chapter Thirteen

## THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Most Christians truly desire to please God and receive everything He has for them. They realize God is good and wants the best for them,<sup>1</sup> but they often don't feel worthy to receive His gifts. But remember, it's not about us. On our own, we are not worthy to receive anything from God. But the blood of Jesus changed that! Now "out of His fullness, we receive grace upon grace."<sup>2</sup>

When we are born of the Spirit our nature changes. The fullness of God's character exists in our hearts, but for others to see the evidence of our new birth, we have to act like who we are and display the fruit of the Spirit. When we are baptized in the Spirit, we give Him permission to work in our lives and give us the ability we need to demonstrate God's life to the world.

"Which is better," I'm often asked, "the fruit or the baptism?"

"Neither," I respond. "We need both."

You see the fruit of the Spirit is for character. The

wbaptism is for ability. We need both character and ability if we are to live the God-kind-of-life on the earth. The baptism in the Holy Spirit (which includes speaking in tongues) opens the door for all the other gifts of the Spirit to manifest in our lives.

The gifts of the Spirit are defined in 1 Corinthians 12. There are nine manifestations the Spirit gives to be used "as He wills" to profit the entire Body. According to Paul, any believer who is baptized in the Holy Spirit can be used by the Him to demonstrate God's ability by participating in the working of these gifts as the Spirit directs.

*Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to*

*another discerning of spirits; to  
another divers kinds of tongues; to  
another the interpretation of tongues:  
But all these worketh that one and  
the selfsame Spirit, [distributing] to  
every man [individually] as he will.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11 [brackets  
mine]*

The Gifts can be categorized as gifts of revelation, of power, and of inspiration. The revelation gifts show the church God's way of seeing in the spirit—His perception. I like to remember them as "God's eyes." They include the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits. The gifts of power are like "God's hands." They include the gift of special faith, the gifts of healing, and the working of miracles. These gifts demonstrate God's power to the world. The inspirational gifts are those vocal gifts that share God's Words with the church. I remember them as "God's mouth," and they include the gift of prophecy, different kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

Many people confuse the gift of different kinds of tongues with that of our personal prayer language. Often they misunderstand the context of 1 Corinthians 12:28 and build a doctrine of "have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with

tongues? Do all interpret?” But if we look at the context of that verse, we’ll find that Paul is speaking about the operation of spiritual gifts in the church. Later he even says, “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues...”<sup>3</sup> So what is the difference between speaking in tongues and the gift of tongues? The ability to speak in tongues is given to all who are baptized in the Holy Spirit and is meant to be used as a personal prayer language that encourages the speaker.<sup>4</sup> God is “not a respecter of persons”<sup>5</sup> He will not give one person the ability to edify themselves, but not give it to another. God wants us all to be encouraged. The gift of tongues is a vocal gift given to the church that when partnered with interpretation, edifies the entire body.

*How is it then, brethren? **when ye come together...**If any man speak in an un-known tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

*1 Corinthians 14:26-28 [emphasis mine]*

Are there other ministry gifts given to the church? Yes. The Bible tells us that Jesus gave "some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." <sup>6</sup> God is a God of order. He understands the value of leadership. In the Old Testament, God used the nation of Israel to lead the world to relationship with Him. Within Israel, He instituted the offices of prophet and king to lead the people. In the New Testament, God uses the Church to lead the world to relationship with Him, and within the Church, He instituted the office gifts or five-fold ministry to equip the saints "for the work of the ministry."

As we study these gifts and their place in the body, picture the life of Jesus. He demonstrated each of their workings perfectly.

*And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints; for the work of the ministry; for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That*

*we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

*Ephesians 4:11-16*

The leadership offices in the church are supposed to work somewhat like our military organization. In the military, officers equip or train those under them for the specific duty to which they are assigned. None of those duties are truly effective if used on their own, but when combined, they create the most feared fighting force on the planet. In the church, the apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, and teachers train the body of Christ to work together, encourage each other, and minister to the world.

Briefly, let's look at each office's position. An apostle is one who is sent. He is usually involved in starting new ministry endeavors. Often we identify him as a missionary, but a true apostle would not just start a new ministry, but equip others to go and start their own ministries.

A prophet is one who hears from God and proclaims what God is saying to the Church. This is probably one of the most misunderstood offices in the Body. Not all who prophesy are prophets. A true prophet does not tell you what to do with your life, he equips you to hear from God yourself and proclaim what you hear with confidence so that it can edify and comfort those who hear.<sup>7</sup>

An evangelist is one who attracts people to the message of the Gospel and equips others to go out and share that message with others. He stirs up the Church and inspires us to win the lost. A pastor is a shepherd of the sheep. He feeds God's people the Word and equips them to care for and minister to one another. A true pastor stirs up the Body's love for one another. A teacher takes the things that God has revealed to him and shares them with the Body in a way they can understand. Teachers teach the Body of Christ the truth of God's Word and train them to teach others also.<sup>8</sup>

The Holy Spirit takes the Word the five-fold Church leadership team presents, makes it real to you and me, and gets

us involved in ministering to others. In the body of Christ, everyone has a place; every member has a function. Not every member is called into Church leadership, as we defined it, but each one of us is called to carry out "the work of the ministry."

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.... For the body is not one member; but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

*1 Corinthians 12:12,14-18*

Aside from the gifts of the Spirit (which are more accurately called manifestations or workings of the Spirit) and the office gifts (which are given to the church to prepare it for

ministry), there are also motivational gifts given to every believer. These gifts are foundational in a believer's life. They influence how that person perceives others and determines what motivates that person to act. Each of these gifts is important in the Body. Not one is greater than another, but each shows a different faucet of the nature of God and helps the Body operate in completeness.

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on*

*exhortation. He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*Romans 12:3-8*

The motivational gift of prophecy is the supernatural ability to discern motives. This gift is a protection mechanism for the Body. The motivational gift of ministry is a service gift. This gift looks for ways to reach out and help others. The gift of teaching is the ability to reveal truth. Exhortation is encouragement. This gift motivates others to continue walking in the ways of God. Giving is a supernatural desire to give to see the work of God done. The gift of ruling is also known as administration. This gift helps the body stay organized so as to be more effective. And lastly, mercy is the gift of compassion in the body. These members feel the hurts of others and desire to do something about it. Most of us will see all seven foundational gifts functioning in our life, but one will be the predominant force that motivates us to act on the behalf of others.

Regardless of what our gifts or our talents are, we are all valuable in the kingdom of God. Each one of us has been placed into the Body to use the gifts and talents He has given us to minister to one another. The words “gifts” and “talents”

are often used interchangeably in the Church, but they are not the same thing.<sup>9</sup> A talent is an ability that God gives us at birth. Some people are born with athletic ability, others with musical ability, still others with artistic ability or the ability to invent things. These talents are given to us to care for and develop. According to Jesus' parable in Matthew 25, when we use our talents, they grow and become more valuable. The talents God gives to us are uniquely ours. They should be used to help meet the needs of the Body and cause it to grow. Gifts, on the other hand, are given to us at salvation and used to show the completeness of Christ's work in and through the Church.

<sup>1</sup> Luke 11:11-13

<sup>2</sup> John 1:16

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:5

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:4

<sup>5</sup> Acts 10:34

<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 4:11

<sup>7</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:3

<sup>8</sup> 2 Timothy 2:2

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 25:14-30

## Afterword

I hope, as you've read the scriptures and stories in this book, that I've been able to play some small part in better acquainting you with the Person of the Holy Spirit and His work in your life. Just as it takes time to develop meaningful relationship with those around you, I'd like to encourage you to continue spending time in these scriptures and develop a deeper intimacy with the Spirit of God. Get to know the Holy Spirit, and begin to recognize when He is speaking to you. Let Him take the Word of God and make it real to you so that you can grow and become even more valuable to the Kingdom.

Far too many people are doing what the Pharisees did in Jesus day. The Pharisees knew scripture. They could quote it with their eyes shut, but they didn't allow the Word of God to penetrate their hearts and affect their lives. For example, a cow can produce both milk and meat. Obviously, both types of sustenance hold benefits for us, but it is the meat's nutrients that our bodies need most to thrive.

When a cow produces milk, she eats the grass of the field

and begins the process of digestion in one of her four stomachs. The milk she produces is predigested food, which makes it easy for the human body to absorb. When we hear the truth of God's Word from other ministers and teachers, we are receiving the "milk of the Word." Those teachers have predigested the Word of God and are feeding it to us to make it easy to absorb. However, when the Holy Spirit makes the Word (either presented to us by others or read for ourselves) real to us, it's like taking a knife and slicing off a hunk of meat from the rear end of that cow. We cook it and sit down to enjoy a nice steak dinner. The benefits of that type of meal are much further reaching.

When we experience God's Word for ourselves, its benefits are also far reaching. That is my prayer for you—that the Holy Spirit would take the Word that was brought before you and make it real. My hope is that, as Paul told the Ephesians, you would.

*..know what is the hope of his calling,  
and what the riches of the glory of his  
inheritance in the saints, And what is  
the exceeding greatness of his power  
to us-ward who believe, according to  
the working of his mighty power,*

*Ephesians 1:18-19*

Many blessings,

**Wendell Parr**