

Spirit-Filled...Everything!

April 24, 2014

The Holy Spirit represents a **Promise** kept by the Father through the Son to those who would believe. In the middle of Luke 24:44-53 Jesus says, “*I am going to send you what my Father has promised.*” The anointing work and power of the Holy Spirit is for every believer, not just preachers, teachers, evangelists, and those in ministry. And he comes in when we receive Christ. But to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to give him all of ourselves, to invite him to rule completely, for that we must ask daily. **The power of the Holy Spirit is the divine authority and energy that God releases upon every true believer!**

The Holy Spirit is not an It; **He is a Person!** He is not a force; **He is Somebody!** He is God, and He is the source of divine power **Who** leads us into all truth, releasing our understanding of Scripture, and revealing the secrets of God. In Genesis 1:2 The Holy Spirit is **Who** was hovering over the waters. He will be identified by His nature and not by His signs, because, though Satan can masquerade and imitate signs, the devil has no power whatsoever over the Holy Spirit. So the embodiment of the Holy Spirit within us is our greatest witness!

The Holy Spirit cannot be manipulated, directed or ruled by us: We cannot make him do anything. We cannot fill ourselves with him, nor can we remove him from our lives once he is there! **He does His work in His way:** He energizes, enlightens and enriches our bodies; he infiltrates, influences and inflames our souls, and he germinates, generates and gravitates our hearts for devotion and service to the Lord God. Charles Stanley: “The Holy Spirit initiates and governs His relationship with us from start to finish.... **When we reach the end of who we are in the flesh, we are only at the beginning of what the Holy Spirit can do with our spirits!**”

The Holy Spirit works to conform us to the image of Christ, as we studied last week in *Reflections, Inc.*, all the while ministering the presence and power of Christ to others through us. If we have received Jesus Christ as our Savior and as our Lord, the Holy Spirit lives within. But he does not reign in us until we cease our own rule. He will permeate every area of our body, mind, will and life when we yield everything to Him. But we must submit to His authority, daily, and let the Spirit of God rule—everything!

Jesus himself was filled with the Holy Spirit! Luke 4:1-2 “***Jesus full of the Holy Spirit*** (What a duo!) *returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.*”

Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah and said that the Spirit of the Lord would rest upon Him in Isaiah 11:1-3a *“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

2“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—3and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.”

There are seven attributes of the Holy Spirit talked about in these verses, and include: **1) The Spirit of the Lord; 2) the Spirit of wisdom and 3) the Spirit of understanding, 4) the Spirit of counsel and 5) the Spirit of power, 6) the Spirit of knowledge and 7) the Spirit of the fear of the LORD.**

The actions of the Spirit of God were rife—abundant, prevalent—in the Old Testament as well: In 2 Samuel 5, the Philistines had come again to attack David and his men in the fertile-with-grain valley of Rephaim, located on the border between Judah and Benjamin. David asked for wisdom and guidance from the LORD, as he had done earlier in verse 19, but this time he was told not to attack immediately, but to wait until he hears a particular sound—marching in the treetops. Verse 24 says: *“When you hear the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, then bestir yourself.”*

The verb *bestir* according to Webster means **to rouse to action**. So the sound of the marching meant not only that it was time for David to act, but that the Spirit of God was there to go with him—the sound of the Spirit. As David followed God’s instructions and the Holy Spirit’s leading, he defeated the Philistine army and pursued them all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

Charles Spurgeon describes times in each of our Christian lives when we also would hear *‘the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees’*:

When we have a peculiar power in prayer;
the Spirit of God gives us joy and gladness;
the Scripture is opened to us; the promises are applied;
we walk in the light of God’s countenance;
we have peculiar liberty in devotion, and more
closeness of communion with Christ...**the time to bestir ourselves**. He says,
“Now is the time to get rid of any evil habit, while God the Spirit helps...spread the sail, but remember that you can only spread the sail, the Holy Spirit must breathe the auspicious gale. Only be sure you have the sail up. Do not miss the gale for want of preparation for it.”

The longer we live the Christian life, the more dependent we will need to become on the Holy Spirit. **We will never, ever outgrow our need for dependence upon Him!**

The Spirit of God imparts to us enduring strength, staying-power and steadfastness for:

- living life and following God’s plan with purpose
- speaking under the influence of the Divine
- withstanding temptation, peer pressure and ungodly influences
- persevering through hardship, trials and persecution
- walking circumspectly, with conviction and integrity
- loving the unlovable and the untouchable just like Jesus did!

And He enables and empowers us to:

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| —discern what is true | —detect the lie |
| —understand Scripture | —communicate with God |
| —do God’s will and work | —serve others |
| —choose a career | —run a business |
| —select a life-mate | —raise children |
| —manage finances | —plan for retirement |

...and so much more!

And the Holy Spirit is God’s **Gift** to us through Christ. Just before Jesus returned to His Father, in Luke 24:44-53 he appeared suddenly to his disciples and gave them their “**staying**” command, first, before their “marching” orders:

“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms!’

*45 “**Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.** 46 He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 **I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’”***

Do we recognize Luke’s account of the Great Commission? We’re used to reading it from Matthew. Jesus opened their minds in verse 48 so that they could understand the Scriptures and then he promptly quotes the Old Testament: “This is what is written.” (Last week we learned that since Moses’ day, the Jews’ understanding of the Law of Moses had been veiled, but that Jesus would open their eyes—2 Corinthians 3:14—“*But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because **only in Christ is it taken away.***”) In verse 49 Jesus promised to send what His Father had already promised—the Holy Spirit—but they are told to **stay** in the city, to wait until they have been **clothed with power from on high**.

Jesus in Acts 1:8 “**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” And then the blessed moment arrived for those who **stayed** in Acts 2:1 “*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²**Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind** came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*” Notice the sound of the Spirit again: “*a sound like the blowing of a violent wind* (a rushing mighty wind in the KJV).” And we know that all of the gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit—the essence of God. And the filling enabled them to do great exploits for God. Acts 4:31 recounts: “*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly.***”

Paul says in Ephesians 1:13-14 “*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” And the list of the armor of God in Ephesians 6:17-18 affirms the Spirit: “*Take the **5) helmet of salvation** and the **6) sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** ¹⁸And **7) pray in the Spirit on all occasions** with all kinds of prayer requests. *With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*”**

The sealer of our soul—God’s assurance that our salvation is secure—is also our counselor, comforter, guide, enabler, helper, protector; the one who covers, convicts, reminds, teaches, and gives spiritual power. He is the Spirit of truth, the sword of the Spirit and all of our prayers are to be offered in the Spirit to the Father in Jesus name. **Christ’s life pouring into us through the power of the Holy Spirit equals the fruit of the Spirit.** Rich, ripe fruit of the Spirit is the result of living life by the Spirit—as we draw near to God, as we trust and obey, as we read, and study and meditate on His Word, and pray in the Spirit, there will be transformation with resultant good fruit apparent in our lives, placed there and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23—“*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. **Against such things there is no law.***”

A few verses earlier in Galatians 5:16-18, Paul had warned: “*So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under law.**”*

Our sin will grieve the Holy Spirit! Ephesians 4:30—“*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*”

Satan will employ the effects of worthless and fruitless things, and addictive substances and situations in our lives, to put us in opposition to bearing the fruit of the Spirit. And this will grieve and quench the Spirit. We should be bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives each day, and anything that could get in the way of that should be stopped. We are not to strive to do what only the Spirit can do in and through us. The Holy Spirit will always reflect the Father and the Son and he will produce only things that present God's Truth. We must let go of any "I'm-in-charge" thinking, and choose to be aware of the Spirit's presence, directives and rule.

And to every Christ-follower the Holy Spirit will give at least one spiritual gift to be used for God's glory and for building up our sisters and brothers in the Lord, but it is our responsibility to develop and to excel in the one or several entrusted to us. (See 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and Ephesians 4:11-13 for a complete list of spiritual gifts.) 1 Corinthians 14:12 *"So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."* Charles Stanley: "The believer should rest in confidence that the Holy Spirit is the one who brings our works to the Father so that he might reward us in his timing, according to his methods, and in the way that is just right for us."

The question remains then: When did we receive the Holy Spirit? And the ANSWER is: The precise moment when we received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. In Acts 2:37-39 Peter is preaching the gospel powerfully: *"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' 38Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. **And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39**The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.**"* Behold the **promise** and the **gift!**

Today, we don't have to **stay** and wait for the Holy Spirit: **the moment we place our faith in Christ, He comes in to stay!** We need to submit ourselves to his rule and authority completely in everything—every area of our life. He will take our natural talents and abilities, add his spiritual gifting, and allow our lives to bear lasting fruit for the kingdom of God. He will fill us up with Himself, and bring His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control to ripen within us.

Charles Spurgeon speaking of the Holy Spirit says: "They who yield to **His influences** become good, they who obey **His impulses** do good, they who live under **His power** receive good." We need to recognize our need to be filled; rely on the Spirit to fill us when we ask, and then rest in His wonderful work!