

Spirit, The Holy Ghost

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26

We are a society that prides ourselves on learning and placing a value system on ranks attained towards an education to master a specific skill, or profession. Our success is often measured by this platform, and likewise, promotions in the workplace are scored accordingly. Classroom participation is mandatory throughout our youth; however, procurement of degrees in specialized education is by choice. Thus, we are influenced by our peers based upon such a protocol.

There is another learning environment which should be taken far more seriously, and it is the classroom of life. There is a life-altering education to be obtained in studying the Word of God, and the school book is the Bible. In this book, we are given lessons about God and His Kingdom, and how to live a spirit-filled life even though we continue our physical and temporary residency on earth. Our thoughts, words, actions, and deeds must align with the Holy Spirit's teachings on the Word. Within the Scriptures is the key to living an abundant life today with the promise of an eternal homeland in the New Jerusalem.

However, there is one stipulation. This treasured book is written in two languages with only one being for the spirit-filled person. *And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.* Mark 4:11-12 The Bible can be read with a carnal mind which is our intellectual comprehension, or with spiritual discernment.

Accepting the prophetic writings at face value, or simply as written is reading from a human perspective whereby the truth will be lost to the reader. It is possible to be a born-again believer and read with carnal awareness. To those with a quickened spirit, God's Word is revealed through the interpretation of the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke to His disciples: *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.* Matthew 13:13

The Holy Spirit is the third in the trinity and is sent on the authority of Christ that each born-again person may have an intimate communion with the Father. He is our tutor, intercessor, and advocate before the Lord. We are virtually helpless to receive anything from the Kingdom without the Holy Spirit, for heavenly gifts and power come through the Spirit of Truth who is God. Jesus teaches: *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. John 14:16-17 This is why Jesus told His disciples He must go, but would send a Comforter knowing the need man would have for the Holy Ghost. *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.* 2 Corinthians 1:22 What Jesus spoke to His disciples remains effectual today. As Jesus is our Savior and mediator, the Holy Spirit is our intercessor and advocate within the Kingdom of Heaven. We can understand the trinity of God as Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, for His Kingdom purpose in reuniting man for a relationship with Himself as it once was with Adam.

The Holy Spirit knows what is in our heart and mind, so when we pray He renders our prayerful petitions to be acceptable and appropriate to the Kingdom. If not for the Holy Spirit's intercession, our prayers would not be translated from carnal thought to spiritual interpretation. *And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* Romans 8:27 God hears our prayers; however, the channel of communication to God is through the Holy Ghost.

To personally receive the Holy Spirit, we must first be reborn into the spirit person we were created, and we already know to do so with a repentance prayer. Christ comes into our life and God sends the Comforter. Think about what must transpire when we ask to be received, spiritually, into the Kingdom. It is an awesome occurrence and so joyous that angels sing because another child has returned to the Father. *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.* Luke 15:10

Many doctrines teach that baptism of the Holy Spirit is received simultaneously when we repent of our sins and accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. We are given the gift of the Comforter; however, baptism requires action on our part. Like someone handing you a present, but you have yet to open the box to see what is inside. *If ye 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

As a born-again child, we have the Comforter but if not active, His power will be limited because of our restrictions. There is much within the Kingdom that we have been given entitlement on the authority in Christ, but we receive these gifts through the Holy Spirit. As John the Baptist said: *I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.* Mark 1:8 It is crucial to ask God for the quickening or awakening of the Holy Spirit. Here's an analogy that may help. If someone gives you a bank card as a gift, and you hold onto it without calling the number on the back to activate the card, but instead place it in your wallet, or throw it into a drawer, there are no benefits from the gift. The card is useless in making purchases. Likewise, this is true of the Holy Spirit.

In our request to be a spirit-filled person with privileges in the Kingdom, it is important to understand our role to the divinity of the trinity of God. We are required to establish a relationship with Christ first, and then the Holy Spirit, for the sole preparation of our complete

communion with God, the Father. Without Christ, there is no Holy Spirit, and without the Holy Spirit there is no channel to God.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit can be accomplished with a brief prayer right where you are at this moment. It doesn't require anyone else, only you praying to the Father. An example is: *Father, thank you for sending your Son to free me from the bondage of sin, and as I am reborn in Christ, I am also thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit. I come before you asking that the Holy Ghost be awakened within me, so that I may live and serve according to your Word. On the name of Christ and the blood He shed at Calvary for me, I pray, Amen.* Now you are prepared for the Holy Spirit to have an active role in your life.

We must present ourselves with belief, trust, and faith confident in our relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. When we do, there are spiritual gifts from the trinity. The Holy Spirit gifts are of power which is why it is vital to have the Holy Spirit quickened that we may receive what God has set forth for us. The Holy Spirit's gifts are wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. *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, dividing to every man severally as he will.* 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Notice that healing and miracles are forthcoming from the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Father and the Son are administration and ministry.

The Holy Spirit will discern and administer the gifts according to the desire of our heart in appropriation for the glory of the Kingdom. He knows which gifts we will ask for, and we are to exemplify the ability to apply our gift correctly. For example, just because your twelve year child wants the keys to the car to drive around the block, doesn't mean he or she is knowledgeable in the operation of the vehicle to trust them with the use of the car.

Another example, we may ask for the gift of healing. If we are requesting a healing for ourselves, or namely someone specific, the gift may be given to use accordingly. However, if we claim the gift so that we may attempt to perform random acts of healing, this is not Holy Spirit empowerment but rather man's ambition. Not only does the Holy Spirit grant the gifts, but tells us when to apply them. It is His provision of power that flows through us to heal, or for whatever the requirement. We are merely the vessel God can use.

We may be given more than one gift for the Holy Spirit *divides to every man severally as He wills.* Asking for God's gifts benefits our life and those around us because of the Holy Spirit. He empowers us to live fully within God's grace that we may receive miraculous blessings because it is the Father's will to give gifts to His children. If only we understood the magnitude of what God has done, we would not be without the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Now that we have the Holy Spirit, our new life begins. We don't feel any different, and yet, we are a completely new person in Christ even though our reflected image shows the same person in the mirror. The Holy Spirit will teach us as likened to a kindergartener and carry us through to maturation in the Word.

Our prayers petitioned on the authority of Christ are fulfilled through the Holy Spirit when we ask according to His Word. *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* John 14:13-14 This is not a name it and claim it mindset. There is a stipulation not only for how we pray, but also what we pray for that it be in accordance to the principles set forth. Therefore, *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.* John 15:7 Praying for a yacht because it would be wonderful to have one isn't a prayer in alliance with the Kingdom. Our prayers should be concentrated with knowledge of His precepts whereby in our quest for His provisions, we automatically give God praise and glory as we manifest His Kingdom on earth.

Many individuals are seeking God for a healing whether for a long-term illness, a devastating disease, an accident that presents a physical challenge, mending a relationship, removing emotional bondage, or overcoming addictions. No matter the circumstance that overwhelms our lives, God has already provided the remedy. He has given us the means to triumph, so we may be free of whatever holds us captive. He put your need in His plan at the foundation of creation and accomplished it through His Son. It is His will that we live happy, healthy, and productive lives.

The Holy Spirit dwells within our heart and when we hear from God, the communion is of the heart before His Word takes hold in our mind as a thought. Logically, it would seem a thought would appear in our mind before the heart's discernment, but not so. *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.* Hebrews 8:10 Therefore, *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.* Hebrews 10:22 When a thought enters our mind before the heart's conception, it would be our own self effort. We should listen carefully to not miss what the Holy Spirit is teaching us.

We must be able to differentiate between the Holy Spirit giving us wisdom and our soul's persuasion through emotions and the senses. The words we speak, the way we conduct ourselves, and how we handle situations all must be a good and positive reflection of the Kingdom of Heaven. Sadly, many are unaware of what is amiss in their life because they take direction from the carnal with expectation of supernatural power. *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace: not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.* Hebrews 13:9 We forget that the natural world and the spirit realm do not mix. We need the supernatural power of God to overcome the negative circumstances of this earthen life, but to receive it we must step away from carnal interference and remain fervent in the spirit that the power of God may be manifested.

The Holy Spirit provides clarity as we gain understanding and knowledge. We can take charge of our circumstances and handle matters that confront us with confidence and forthrightness. *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.* John 15:16 Our fruit is the example we present by living in obedience to His Word.

As a faithful child of God, our spirit is sealed with everlasting life. Our world is no longer earthen but heavenly, and we can call upon the Father through the Holy Spirit to supply for all our needs. While living with mercy and grace, we have His blessings, gifts, and power for our life that we may overcome adversities. It requires our trust in the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to teach and direct our daily walk in faith.

Approach the Father's throne with perseverance so that what you ask in prayer gives honor to God, and the Holy Spirit will give you an expected response. The Holy Spirit is God and He does not go against Himself, for what the Father promises, He always provides.

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