

Come Holy Spirit, We Need You!

The Holy Spirit's Work in the Body of Christ Part 4

Key Scripture:

"And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:4-8 NASB

Portion for the Journey:

Never had the world seen the full power of the Holy Spirit's potential until it was released upon the Church. In the Old Testament we see the Holy Spirit move upon an individual for a specific purpose or specific season, but in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit was sent not just to individuals, but into the collective Body of Christ. Note that in the New Testament, no one has just a "portion" of the Spirit, all references speak of being "filled" with the Spirit. The book of Acts is called the "Acts of the Holy Spirit." Andrew Murray stated, "Pentecost was only the beginning of what God was willing to do. The promise of the Father, as Christ presented it, still waits for its perfect fulfillment. His promises were not meant only for the disciples, but also for us and so the command, "Tarry...until you are endued with power from on high... wait for the promise of the Father You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.... Let us realize the only remedy that can be found for ineffectiveness or powerlessness, to enable us to gain victory over the powers of this world and of darkness, is in the manifested presence of the LORD in the midst of His hosts and the power of His Holy Spirit....nothing except the supernatural, almighty intervention of our LORD Himself will rouse His hosts for the great battle against evil."

Pray for the power of God on the ministers of the Gospel, and on all His people, to fill them with power from on High that will make the Gospel the power of God unto salvation. As we connect the prayer for the whole Church on earth with the prayer for the whole power of God in heaven, we will feel that the greatest truths of the heavenly world and the kingdom of God have possession of us, and that we are indeed asking what God is longing to give, as soon as He finds hearts utterly yielded to Him in faith and obedience." Mark 16:15; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5

We all believe in the need for "revival" but true revival will come only when the Church is filled with the indwelling life of the Holy Spirit and is empowered to pray and act under His full anointing. Pray for the Church to recognize their dependence on the Holy Spirit and for God to fill His people with His Spirit's power from on High! We desperately need a fresh outpouring of His Spirit to breathe His life in our hearts! Luke 1:15, 1:41, 53, 67; 2:40; 4:1; 10:21; Acts 2:2,4; 4:8; 4:31; 9:17; 13:52; 2:Cor. 7:4; Eph. 3:19, 5:18; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:4

Digging Deeper in the Word

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity of God. Many in the Church either ignore the work of the Holy Spirit altogether or focus on only one aspect of the Spirit's work in the Church. Many focus on the power of the Spirit to perform miracles or to give gifts to God's children. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their focus on the gifts and sought to teach them to walk in greater balance. The Holy Spirit must not be robbed of His personhood as the third member of our Triune God. When Jesus promised to send the disciples "another Helper," the word in the Greek for "another" is "allos" which means "another of the same kind." Jesus was sending us the Spirit who is equal to God the Father and God the Son to live and dwell with us.

The Holy Spirit is never self-serving. His purpose is always to illuminate and lead us to the Father and to Jesus. He glorifies the Father and the Son, Jesus...never draws attention to Himself. He is the Shekinah Glory, the revealer of God's glory. John 16:14; 15:26

He is Spirit. Older translations of the Bible often called the Holy Spirit a "Holy Ghost." This is actually inaccurate for the Holy Spirit is not a 'ghost' or disembodied spirit in our understanding of the word. Pneuma is the Greek word which is translated "spirit," "ghost," or "wind." The pneuma was that aspect of the person which was real and yet as immaterial to grasp as the wind that blows through the tree tops. It means to breathe, i.e. the breath or the wind. (See Part 1 reference to the Old Testament definition of Spirit.) The name "Holy Spirit" comes from two Greek words: "pneuma" and "haggios" (holy, sacred, pure, blameless, consecrated, morally blameless.) The Holy Spirit is Holy! The Holy Spirit is absolutely perfect with complete separation from all that is of the flesh and the world.

The Holy Spirit is also called Helper, Advocate, Counselor, Comforter. The Greek word is Paraclete or "paracletos" 3875. It comes from the joining of two words, "para" means "alongside" and "kaleo" meaning "to call." Hence, "one called alongside to help or aid" from "parakaleo" 3870 (comforter, encourager, strengthener, supporter, to entreat, exhort, implore, invite, appeal, preach, urge). Even though the Holy Spirit is referred to as "paraclete" only four times, Jesus used it in the most intimate context of the Upper Room discourse. John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; John 14:16, 26-27; 15:26; 16:7; 2 Cor. 1:4-6; 2 Cor. 7:4,7

What are the Functions of the Holy Spirit on the earth today?

He convicts the world, concerning sin, righteousness and judgment. John 16:7-11

He restrains evil in the world: 2 Thes. 2:7

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth: The Holy Spirit inspired those who recorded God's Word of Truth. He will guide us into all Truth. Those who have the Spirit of Truth will delight in His Word and walk in His truth. Truth is a source of freedom. In John 17, Jesus prayed that the Father would sanctify us in His truth. Note His prayer that we would be sanctified in His truth is an essential aspect of His prayer for our unity. True unity can never take place unless there is first sanctification in truth. Pray for the LORD to sanctify His church in truth!! John 17:17,19; John 14:17; John 15:26; 16:13 (AMP); Ps. 51:6; Prov. 2:6; Isa. 42:1; 1 John 4:6; John 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:11

We depend entirely on the work of the Holy Spirit for the conversion of sinners. Even the best preacher in the world, one who knows the Scripture and clearly communicates the Gospel, unless he has the Spirit of God, could preach for months or even years and never bring a single lost soul to salvation.

The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God, reveals the Truth and plants it in the sinner whom He will save, that Word, that seed is watered and nurtured by the Holy Spirit, and springs up into eternal life. When we are saved, we receive the gift of the Spirit which is the entrance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Gift of the Spirit remains the same. John 6:63; Acts 2:38; We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we are consecrated to Him. These two actions of the Spirit can come close together or years apart. Being filled with the Spirit may never come, because it is possible to live and die as a carnal Christian. Being filled requires continuous prayer and consecration. Rom. 6:13; Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:22-23; 1 Thes. 5:19

Are you renewed by the Holy Spirit? This is the momentous point, whether through faith in Lord Jesus Christ we are partakers of the Holy Spirit or not. If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His. Whatever we have, if we have not the Holy Spirit, we do not belong to Christ. In whatever way we seek to resemble the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ— we may be in the habit of reading our Bibles, of bowing our knees, of singing together with them, of meeting together with them, of partaking with them at the Lord's supper, we may be reckoned among them as disciples—and yet with all this, far from God. With all this unregenerate. With all this, wanting the Spirit of Christ. With all this, not born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.¹

- We are brought to repentance by His Spirit. He shines His light and speaks truth regarding the sin in our hearts, making it possible for us to see our need for the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38-39
- We are born again by the Spirit. He shows us the way of salvation. He removes the hardness of our hearts and gives us a new Spirit. We are made new. He puts the gift of His Spirit within us when we believe. John 3:5
- He give us new life and lives within us. He is the Spirit of Life and the One who sustains life within us. Rom. 8:2 Note the similarity of the Spirit's work in Creation, in overshadowing Mary, and in our salvation. John 6:63; John 14:17; Rom. 8:9,11; Rom. 8:16; 2 Cor. 4:6; 2 Cor. 2:11, 13,14; 1 Cor. 12:3; John 3:3-7; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:8-14; Gal. 3:3; Gal. 4:19; Tit. 3:5; Eph. 4:30; John 6:63; 1 Pet. 1:3, 23; Ezek. 36:24-27
- He gives us power to put to death the deeds of the sinful nature. Rom. 8:13
- He bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:15-16
- The Holy Spirit is the gift from God for all who believe and obey Him. Acts 5:32
- He comes to dwell within each one of us. When Jesus walked with His disciples, He taught them as an external influence. It was not until the Spirit came at Pentecost that the disciples were truly transformed into new men with wisdom and power. John 14:17-20; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16,17; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 John 2:27
- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of future inheritance. He testifies that we are His children, so that we ourselves know and believe and have a guarantee for what is to come. Rom. 8:16; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30

¹ Taken from: *The George Müller Treasury*, Ed.by Roger Steer, (Crossway Books, Westchester, IL., c1987)

- The Holy Spirit is the witness of the covenant. Heb. 10:15-17
- **The Holy Spirit is our Teacher:** He testifies to the truth and gives us understanding. He testifies about the Jesus and the Father. Just as Jesus taught the disciples, so will the Spirit of Truth teach us all things and bring to our remembrance what Jesus has spoken. He will teach us to do His will. He will teach us what to say. 1 Cor. 2:12; Eph. 1:17; Luke 12:12; John 14:26; John 16:12-14; Neh. 9:20; Isa. 30:18-21; Job 36:22; Ps. 143:10-11
- **In the beauty of His Holiness:** Holiness is referred to as consecrated closeness to God. We become holy as we chose to love the LORD our God with all our heart, to set our heart to know Him, to obey Him and to take His side against sin, turning away from what would offend Him. J.I. Packer in his book, *Keep in Step with the Spirit* says that "...holiness takes the form of a single-minded passion to please by love and loyalty, devotion and praise. Holiness, in a word, is God-taught, Spirit wrought Christlikeness, the sum and substance of committed discipleship, the demonstration of faith working by love, the responsive outflow in righteousness of supernatural life from the hearts of those who are born again."
- **He is our Sanctifier.** One of the primary manifestations of the Holy Spirit's influence in our lives is to bring us into His holiness through His sanctifying power. He sanctifies us, separating us unto the Father and helps us to grow into all aspects to be like Jesus. Holiness is one of the primary characteristics of our God and should be one of the main characteristics by which we can recognize Christians who are "set apart" to God. The Holy Spirit reproves, and convinces of us sin. One of the first manifestations of the Holy Spirit in our midst will be that we have a changed attitude toward our sin. We are more readily brought to repentance. He grieves when we sin. When we walk in the Spirit, we will not want to fulfill the desires of the flesh. John 16:8-11; Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4,13; 15:16; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Thes. 4:3-7; 5:23; 2 Thes. 2:13; Eph. 1:4; 5:25,26; 2:10

Sanctification: The generic meaning of sanctification is "the state of proper functioning." To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer. A pen is "sanctified" when used to write. Eyeglasses are "sanctified" when used to improve sight. In the theological sense, things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose.

The Greek word translated "sanctification" (hagiasmos) means "holiness." To sanctify, is the process by which we are made holy. In one sense only God is holy. No human being or thing shares the holiness of God's essential nature. There is one God. Yet Scripture speaks about holy things. Moreover, God calls human beings to be holy as holy as he is holy ([Lev 11:44](#) ; [Matt 5:48](#) ; [1 Peter 1:15-16](#)). Another word for a holy person is "saint" (hagios), meaning a sanctified or set apart one.

What is the LORD speaking to your heart?

Your Response to the LORD: