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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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The Holy Spirit – Part III

BY THE EDITOR

NOTHING in the Bible is clearer than the Spirit's work. Over and over He is working with people. Some people think a new dispensation or age began with Pentecost. How can this be? Much more of the work of the Holy Spirit is listed in the Old Testament than in the New. Some advocate the Church had its beginning at Pentecost. Show me this in the Bible. The Disciples had already received the resurrected Spirit of Christ prior to Pentecost. (John 20:21,22)

In the Old Testament

While all of the Bible is for us and our understanding, it is not all about us. The prophet tells of the enemy coming in like a flood and the Spirit lifting up a standard against him. (Isaiah 59:19) This promise was given to Israel, referring to her final deliverance. We can still appropriate this same power today. Never forget our present standard is the cross, and Calvary's finished work is the Spirit's weapon of victory over all Satanic powers.

The Holy Spirit is the embodiment of goodness. (Nehemiah 9:20, Psalm 143:10) He inspires fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-5) He represents judgment and righteousness. (Isaiah 32:15-17) He motivates devotion to the Lord. (Isaiah 4:3-5) He generates obedience and a new heart. (Ezekiel 36:28) He leads the soul to repentance and prayer. Zechariah 12:10-14 in the Old Testament recognizes the Holy Spirit as the source of inward moral purity, but even so, such work is not so fully revealed or developed as in the New Testament.

Activity of the Spirit

The Spirit comes UPON men. A number of examples are in the Old Testament. The word "come" means "clothes Himself with men." He came upon Gideon (Judges 6:34), Amasai (I Chronicles 12:18), Zechariah (II Chronicles 24:20), Samson (Judges 14:6,19); 15:14), Saul (I Samuel 19:6,10), and David (I Samuel 16:13). The Holy Spirit dwelt within men in the Old Testament: Joseph (Genesis 41:38), Joshua (Numbers 27:18), and Daniel (Daniel 4:8,9).

New Testament Activity

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon men independent of their character, which is not true in the New. The indwelling of every believer by the Holy Spirit is a New Testament blessing dependent upon the death and resurrection of Christ. (John 7:39, 16:7; Acts 2:33; Galatians 3:1-4) Be sure to keep the record correct. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came UPON the believers in the Upper Room, not all Christians. The purpose of this outpouring was power for witnessing to the unsaved

around the world: "But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost IS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Here is the biblical statement as to what actually took place at Pentecost: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). This was not an unknown tongue. "Because every man heard them speak in his own language. And now hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" (Acts 2:6,8). The biblical terminology of Pentecost is that they were filled with the Holy Spirit to be equipped for witnessing to an unsaved world. There were additional times in their ministry when they again were filled with the Holy Spirit. The purpose of Pentecost is misunderstood by many Christians. Further discussion of this truth is found in my free message "What Happened at Pentecost?" It is yours for the asking.

Names of the Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13, Romans 1:4)
- Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29)
- Spirit of Burning (Matthew 3:11,12)
- Spirit of Truth (John 14:7, 15:26, 16:13)
- Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2)
- Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge (Isaiah 11:2, 61:1,2, Luke 4:18)
- Spirit of Promise (Ephesians 1:13)
- Spirit of Glory (I Peter 4:14)
- Spirit of God and of Christ (I Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9)
- The Comforter (John 14:15,18; 15:26)

(continued on page 2)

The Holy Spirit (continued from page 1)

His Work to the World

- He will convict and reprove the world of sin. (John 16:8-11) It is the work of the Spirit to constantly witness of Christ and His finished work to a world of sinful people. (John 15:26) No one will ever be saved until the Holy Spirit, through the Word, reveals the condition of the sinner in the sight of a holy God.

His Work to the Believer

- Regenerates the believer (John 3:3-5, Titus 3:5).
- Indwells the believer (I Corinthians 6:19, 3:16; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:3).
- Seals with assurance of salvation (Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:14,16)
- Infills the believer (covered in this message)
- Empowers for life and service (Romans 8:12,13)
- Produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23)
- Guides the believer's life (Acts 8:27-29; 16:6,7; 13:204)
- Anoints the believer (I John 2:27, I Corinthians 2:9-14, Luke 4:18 (Christ), John 14:26, 16:13)

His Relationship to Scriptures

- Author (II Peter 1:20,21; II Timothy 3:16; Revelation 2 and 3; John 16:13)
- Interpreter (I Corinthians 2:9-14; Ephesians 1:17; John 16:14,15)

His Relationship to Christ

- Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 4:1)
- Christ was led by the Spirit (Matthew 4:1)
- Christ was anointed by the Spirit (Acts 10:38)
- Christ was crucified in the power of the Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)
- Christ was raised from the dead by the Spirit (Romans 1:4, 8:11)
- Through the Spirit, Christ gave commandments to His disciples and the Church (Acts 1:2)
- Christ is the bestower of the Spirit (Acts 2:33)

Offences by the Unbeliever

- Sinners can resist the Holy Spirit. (Acts 7:21, 6:10) When the sinner refuses to believe or accept the testimony of the Spirit, he thereby insults the Spirit by esteeming the work of Christ a deception and a lie.
- Sinners who blaspheme the Spirit. Here is the most grievous sin, as there is no forgiveness. (Matthew 12:31,32) There is much controversy as to what this sin is. Some say it must be a final rejection of Christ as Savior and Lord. Others are inclined to conclude it is attributing the works of God to Satan. We do know it is dealing with the Holy Spirit.

Offences by the Believer

- We can grieve the Spirit. (Isaiah 63:10) To grieve means make sad or sorrowful. (Ephesians 4:30,31) Continued grieving of the Spirit means vexation. Don't allow this to happen to you.
- We can lie to the Holy Spirit. One couple dropped dead because of such action. (Acts 5:3,4)
- Christians can quench the Spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:19, Ephesians 6:16) This action is related more to our service for the Lord.
- Resisting (dealing with the regenerating power of the Spirit)
- Grieving (our reaction to the indwelling Spirit)
- Quenching (Holy Spirit equipping us for service)

Remember the Holy Spirit can indwell only a cleansed vessel. Never will He enter the heart of an unrepentant sinner. God classifies the saved as "SAINTS" — holy people! We are not in God's family by raising a hand, repeating a prayer, coming to the front of the church, or joining some religious system. We must be born of the Spirit. (John 3:3-7) This takes a miracle provided by the grace of God. We Christ-like ones are worked upon by the Holy Spirit in regeneration. (Ephesians 2:10) Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin and reveal the Savior's death on the cross to be your deserved penalty? Has His resurrected power made you the holy person in whom the Holy Spirit resides?

My Pleas for You

I have provided you with a good Bible study. Spend some of your personal devotion time reading the scriptures given. Your intimacy with the Holy Spirit, Who lives within you as a Christian, will revolutionize your Christian walk with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Talk to the Holy Spirit. Welcome His presence. Depend upon Him for all you need. God has made Him available for your fellowship and spiritual growth.

The Gift That Keeps on Giving!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 MARIAN PORTER and
 EVA VOUTSAKIS

GIVEN BY
 LOVING FRIENDS
 IN CHRIST

Personal Word



I have been pleasantly surprised how many readers mention that they read this publication in its entirety the moment it comes their way. I am indeed privileged to visit with you through this medium as well as by our printed messages, the audios on our web-site, and the regular mailings of our cassettes and CDs. My prayer is that by each visit, the Holy Spirit will reveal His unchanging Word in such power and authority that you will grow toward the mature Christian God desires of all of us.

Now that Marian is in the Lord's presence, I realize more her vital part in all of our activity. We must now invest \$150 per month to prepare this publication for second-class delivery at the post office. I am confident we are in today's ministry because of the labors of my wife, alongside many others. What wonderful, thrilling memories I have of dear Marian. Only God knows our intimacy, joy and delight in one another, in our service for the Lord down through the years. Thank you for your prayers in my behalf.

Our Web-Site

Have you seen it? Downloaded any messages? Heard our audios? The one and only way I know is when you indicate so to me. We have some specially printed cards announcing our web-site. How many do you desire for your personal distribution to your neighbors, friends, fellow workers, and unsaved people? The Internet is astounding! Anyone the world round can benefit from all that is available without cost or obligation.

I Am Still Excited

It still works! No time or effort is wasted when declaring the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). "So shall my Word be that goes forth out of My mouth, it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). I thank God for you who believe these verses.

Marching On

We just printed over 14,000 biblical messages. Plans are being made for our next printing to be near 24,000. Our present activity means 5,000 copies of the booklet, "Fear, Frustration, and Worry." This particular discourse is becoming popular in our prison ministry and is near the top request on our web-site. It is the investment of your prayers and purse that enables us to place these spiritual truths in hearts and minds without any financial solicitation on our part.

Into His Presence

Marian was active working in the yard until my sister and husband arrived for a visit. They drove from California. Together, we had three delightful days. Marian began to sleep during the day, and we thought it to be the overcoming of a cold or a touch of the flu. But the second or third day we began to notice a change in her breathing and a bit of disorientation. At 11 o'clock p.m. we took her to the hospital emergency room where we were informed she was dying. They worked on her for five hours and about 5 o'clock in the morning she went into the presence of the Lord. All of her organs gradually shut down. Without pain or suffering, God called her unto Himself. This

came as a tremendous shock to us all.

My limited vocabulary cannot possibly express her loyal devotion to her husband, son, relatives and friends. Her personal ministry extended far and wide. All my married life, I was constantly asked, How in the world did you get hold of such a wonderful wife? That question began with the first visit she had in our home. I received many cards and phone calls from across our nation. Those who knew of our closeness assured me of their prayers. I am grateful to God that our son now lives about five minutes away.

The graciousness of the local churches was refreshing and encouraging. Thanks to you who shared in Marian's memorial offering. An attorney from northern Florida stated, "I will always remember Mrs. Porter for her seemingly angelic personality. I cannot recall a visit with her where I did not sense the very essence of compassion and selfless humanity, rarely encountered with others. I can only imagine the godly servant and example she must have been to many others in your years of ministry."

For 59 years, hand in hand, we traveled life's pathway together. Often we looked back over the thrilling ride. We talked of death many times and committed ourselves in the absence of one another. The one remaining would continue to serve the Lord with his or her whole heart. This I intend to do. Your prayer support is vital during these days of tremendous adjustment. Soon we shall be together again.

Until Then

"In hope of eternal life, which God . . . promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2)

My heart can sing when I pause to remember

A heartache here is but a stepping stone

Along a trail that's winding always upward,

This troubled world is not my final home.

But until then my heart will go on singing,

*Until then with joy I'll carry on —
Until the day my eyes behold the city,
Until the day God calls me home.*

— Stuart Hamblen

FROM THE DESK OF . . . DR. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

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AND GOD SAID, “... CONSIDER YOUR WAYS.”

I would like you, when you get the opportunity, to read in the book of the minor prophet, Haggai, the whole of chapter one. It is very apparent that God’s Word is very concerned about our daily lives beyond just getting saved. If we would heed the scripture readings, in vv. 5 and 7, surely we would avoid much heartache, sorrow, pain, bitterness, punishment, and, of course, loss of fellowship with the Lord. “Consider your ways” was the message God gave to Haggai. It is by way of application, a message to all the saved today as well.

The remnant of Israel, numbering 42,360 people (Ezra 2:64), had just returned from the Babylonian captivity after 70 years. They began to construct an altar for worship, and offered sacrifices upon that altar in thanksgiving for their return. Their brother, the prophet Daniel, wasn’t as fortunate, and was still in Babylon. One year later the Israelites laid the foundation of the temple. But opposition set in from the Samaritans and, ultimately, the work stopped. By the time God gave Haggai this message, 15 years have slipped by. Nothing further has happened with the temple — but much has happened with the people: they have declared that it wasn’t God’s will to keep going with the temple construction, but rather that they take care of themselves, their families, and their welfare and housing . . . first! Fifteen years later, they are still first, and God, well, you know where He is in the priority chain, and it isn’t first.

Haggai comes on the scene to bring to remembrance what is important. He is like a spiritual alarm clock that disturbs us in our indifference, apathy, and disobedience. It may not be our most treasured possession — but it is a needed one. **“Consider your ways.”** It is a plea for self-examination and judgment of our lives as they are: to look at what really has been happening to you, and where *your* ways have taken you. Israel had a conflict of interest — they were putting self-interests first and using them for their own glory, while God and His work were left undone. The solution comes quickly. Vs. 8 says,

“Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.”

It would take effort, a lot of effort; it would take work, a lot of work!

You know, if you’re not willing to do what God wants you to do, whatever that might be, all the Bible studies you attend, all the prayers you pray, and all the church services you attend aren’t going to help you much. You need to get busy and do your part, or do you falsely believe that the trees of the mountain will providentially fall down for you and then roll down the mountain, and strip themselves into usable lumber? Of course not. However, we all are told to:

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

Your world may not be as broad as some others, but you still have the same command, and your world is as important as the next person’s world. We may be profoundly involved in one way of the Lord’s work and totally deficient in the other. For me to send the gospel forth but not be personally giving forth the gospel is inexcusable. Both are vital to obedience. That lost soul in a third world country, or the lost souls in other states of our country, are surely not more important than the souls you come into personal contact in your everyday affairs.

How many of the every day routines of your lives have taken precedence over Jesus Christ’s substitutionary blood atonement and resurrection for your entire debt of sin? **“Consider your ways.”** Wake up, shut off the alarm, and go forth in His power and strength today. Proverbs 24:11 and 12 state:

“If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? And he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? And shall he not render to every man according to his works?” **“Consider your ways.”**

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“Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:58

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