



Holy Spirit

Module 2

Work of the Holy Spirit

Copyright

This work is a distributed edition from Lighthouse Ministries International.

The author's intellectual property rights are protected by international copyright law.

You are licensed to use this copy of work strictly for your personal studies only: it must not be redistributed or offered for sale in any form

Distribution for Lighthouse Ministries International

<https://bibleschool2.wixsite.com/discipleship>

lmi.bibleschool@gmail.com

+27 66 245 0517 (Whatsapp & Telegram only)



LEARNING OUTCOMES :

On completion of Module 2 you will be able to know the Work of the Holy Spirit

SPECIFIC OUTCOMES :

On completion of this Chapters you will be able to know:

+ Chapter 1

What is the holistic overview

+ Chapter 2

What it is to be Led in wisdom and counsel

+ Chapter 3

What is The Dunamis from above

+ Chapter 4

What it is to be Empowered and enabled

+ Chapter 5

To know and understand The Gifts of the Spirit

+ Chapter 6

What is Welding the Sword of the Spirit

+ Chapter 7

What is Conformer of our moral fabric

+ Chapter 8

What it is to be Led in the Truth of the Lord

+ Chapter 9

What it is to be Made alive in Christ

+ Chapter 10

To know Our divine Parakletos

+ Chapter 11

How to Discern the Voice of God

Work of the Holy Spirit

Holistic Overview

Module 2

Chapter 1



lmi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

So those who truly walk in the Holy Spirit will find themselves walking in righteousness and peace and joy, which is the way of the Kingdom of God. And such a way is acceptable to God and approved by men. Do you want to be acceptable to God? Then seek the Kingdom of God, which means a life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Let us first look at John 16 which says the following:

5 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

There is a lot of truth to this Scripture. From the outset, we learn according to verse 7 that it was to the advantage of the disciples, and to all who would follow, for Jesus to "go away". This was so that in order He would send the "Holy Spirit, the Helper, Comforter, the One called along-side," to help. In this study on the Holy Spirit we will see how this pertains to the work of the Holy Spirit as the Parakletos. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus would not be confined to one body but would reside in every Believer. This would allow Him to minister anywhere in the world, simultaneously.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would simply come upon a person to empower and to equip, but under the New Covenant the Holy Spirit actually comes to live inside of us. So now the Spirit is with us 24 hours a day, to lead, to guide, to equip, to counsel and to advise.

There are many things about the Christian life that differs from other religions, but one distinguishing difference is that no other religion has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We also read the following: And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

So we need to understand that convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment is the work of the Holy Spirit. And this will be done through the followers of Jesus to witness, teach, and preach His Word.

After all, concerning sin, it is Adam who committed the first sin and caused all of humanity to be separated from God. Concerning righteousness, we need to preach that it is through Jesus that mankind can be restored to righteousness. And concerning judgment we need to keep in mind 2 Corinthians 5:10 : "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

Christ is the Righteousness of God. When someone accepts Christ as their Saviour, God then sees that person as Righteous. This is the message we must preach, and we do so as witnesses in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We also must bear witness to the truth that judgment was introduced for, and because of, Satan. If not for him, there would be no judgment. Even now, Satan stands judged and condemned. All who follow the serpent of old will receive the same judgment and destiny.

We need to understand the Holy Spirit works in all areas of the Christian's life. The work of the Holy Spirit is to grant believers the proper and correct understanding of the Scriptures. And so we will read "He will not speak on His own."

The Holy Spirit is not independent of the Father and the Son for He is a third part of the "Trinity". His place is to speak what He hears. He draws from and conveys in the authority of Christ. He glorifies Christ in all that He does. He never exalts Himself. He continually glorifies Christ, who glorifies the Father.

As mentioned, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is Christ-centered and Christ-glorifying. It says in John 16: 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. Jesus implicitly affirms His deity in these verses. The Holy Spirit's role is not to glorify Himself, but Christ. He does not call attention to Himself, but to Christ.

When Jesus says, "All things that the Father has are Mine," and that the Spirit will take these things and disclose them to the apostles, He is referring to all the glorious truths about Himself that are written in God's Word. So if the Holy Spirit is working in your life, you will be revelling in Christ, exalting Christ, loving Christ, and telling others of His glory.

So the Spirit leads us to all of Jesus, therefore meaning His nature, character, His teachings, His way of thinking, His spiritual outlook, His behaviour, and His ministry. Jesus said that no one can go to the Father except coming through the Son who is the Truth. Therefore the Spirit comes to lead us in all truth so that we can draw closer to Jesus in order to come closer to the Father.

The Holy Spirit will lead us progressively to understand all truth, to walk in the nature of the Lord, to walk by the gifts and by the fruits. It is important to understand that that the Spirit will progressively teach us all the truth, starting with the basics.

A young believer needs the milk of the Word: to understand what salvation means, who God is, how to live by faith, how to read and study the Bible, how to pray and so on. Later, he can begin to digest some meat (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14; 1 Peter 2:2). Yet, we must continually submit to the Holy Spirit so that we can grow up and become spiritually mature to understand the deep truths of the Kingdom.

The Spirit of the Lord has come to "guide", meaning this is a process and since the subject is "the unfathomable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8), it is a never-ending process. The Holy Spirit is the divine guide, who reveals the riches of Christ to your soul. The Holy Spirit wants to guide us through life, and on our everyday journey. Question is, do we allow Him to guide us or do we still wish to guide ourselves?

The work of the Holy Spirit is all about the truth. Jesus repeatedly refers to the Spirit as “the Spirit of truth” (John 14:17; 15:26). Here, He says (John 16:13), “When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

Jesus pointed towards one of the key fundamental works of the Holy Spirit, which is that the Spirit leads us in all truth. It is written that the truth shall set us free according to John 8:32. Therefore, the work of the Spirit sets us free. And by freedom comes life! And who is the Truth? Jesus who is the way, truth and life.

And so the work of the Holy Spirit is truth-centered, and Christ-centered and Christ-glorifying. Also, the Spirit does not reveal anything to anyone contrary to Scripture. The Spirit of the Lord has come to teach us in all the Truth as taught by Jesus and upheld in the eternal Kingdom.

The aim of the Spirit is for the believer to become holy in thought, word, and deed and to be a worshipper in spirit and truth (John 4:24) for God is Spirit. When you don’t know how to pray as you should, the Spirit prays for you in ways that you don’t understand (Romans 8:26). So it’s important that we don’t grieve or quench the Spirit, but rather yield every area of our lives to the Spirit’s control.

What we read in John 16 is repeated in John 14: 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 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. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Praise the Lord! The Lord deemed for us not be left alone and so the Holy Spirit will always be with us to comfort, to strengthen and to empower. For it says in Matthew 5: 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Yes, the Spirit of the Lord shall comfort, and give us the strength and the hope to carry on no matter the storms of life.

The comforting truth is, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in you and tailors His ministry to you personally.

He knows what you're feeling and ministers His comfort to you through the Word or through other believers or sometimes through your unique circumstances.

Now, Isaiah 11 paints a clear picture. If we understand this Scripture, then we shall understand this is the point to where we need to journey towards so that we are completely and utterly led by the Spirit in order to be interwoven in the Lord. Isaiah 11 (Amplified Bible):
1AND THERE shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse [David's father], and a Branch out of his roots shall grow and bear fruit. 2And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him--the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord-- 3And shall make Him of quick understanding, and His delight shall be in the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord. And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, neither decide by the hearing of His ears; 4But with righteousness and justice shall He judge the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the downtrodden of the earth; and He shall smite the earth and the oppressor with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5And righteousness shall be the girdle of His waist and faithfulness the girdle of His loins.

Isaiah 11 speaks of the same Holy Spirit that came upon Jesus (Matthew 3). But that same Spirit that came upon Jesus is the same Spirit [dunamis] that comes upon the disciples of Jesus when they submit their lives to the great inner working of the Spirit. Thus, that same Spirit that led the disciples to be so fired up for the Lord in the New Testament works within us as well!

So we discover of the Spirit the seven manifested work of the Spirit:

- a) He is the Spirit of the Lord
- b) Wisdom,
- c) Understanding,
- d) Counsel,
- e) Power,
- f) Knowledge,
- g) Fear of the Lord

We also read of the "seven spirits of God" as mentioned in Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; and 5:6. Revelation 1:4 mentions that the seven spirits are before God's throne. Revelation 3:1 indicates that Jesus Christ "holds" the seven spirits of God. Revelation 4:5 links the seven spirits of God with seven burning lamps that are before God's throne. Revelation 5:6 identifies the seven spirits with the "seven eyes" of the Lamb and states that they are "sent out into all the earth." There have been much debate on this, but most likely this all ties in with the Holy Spirit as described in Isaiah 11, therefore the perfect and complete work of God.

So according to Isaiah 11, the Holy Spirit was poured after the ascension of Jesus to therefore lead us in wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge and fear of the Lord.

Now, also consider 1 Corinthians 12 that speaks of the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit

- a) Wisdom
- b) Knowledge
- c) Prophecy
- d) Faith
- e) Miracles
- f) Discernment
- g) Interpretation of tongues
- h) Speaking in other languages
- i) Healing

So we need to therefore understand that the Holy Spirit has come to empower the disciples in the spiritual gifts to walk as witnesses to the Truth of God and to fulfil the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

We can only fulfil the Great Commission when we walk in the wisdom, knowledge, power (might), counsel, understanding, and fear of the Lord. And we walk in such a manner when we are reborn in the Spirit. And the gifts of the Spirit empower, enables and equips us to be witnesses and to establish His Kingdom in the hearts of all man.

Isaiah 11 speaks therefore of a deep inner working of the Holy Spirit. It speaks not of gifts, but it speaks of a natural spiritual state of the believer when they are completely submitted unto the Lord. 1 Corinthians 12 connects to the anointing of the Spirit, for by the gifts we move in the power of God to set the captives free and to see God glorified.

Also consider Galatians 5 that speaks of the fruit of the Spirit and they are:

- a) Peace
- b) Love
- c) Joy
- d) Patience
- e) kindness,
- f) goodness,
- g) faithfulness,
- h) gentleness,
- i) self-control.

So when we truly submit to the Holy Spirit, are led by the Holy Spirit and remain submitted to the Holy Spirit, we then become effective witnesses unto the Kingdom of God. Remember the work of the Holy Spirit is truth-centered, and Christ-centered and Christ-glorifying.

So the fruit of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit and the perfected work of the Spirit according to Isaiah 11 leads us to become more like our Lord in character, nature and manner. By the Spirit, we then walk in the fruit of the Spirit, which speaks of our character and moral fortitude, but we also walk in the very nature of God, empowered and equipped to do His will and fulfil the Great Commission. We therefore have to connect Isaiah 11 with 1 Corinthians 12 with Galatians 5 to understand the work of the Spirit within the believer.

When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jesus, He imparted to the Son of God wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, power, and the fear of the Lord. Didn't Jesus after all delight in the fear of the Lord?

We need to come to a very deep realization what the Lord is saying here – we, His people, are supposed to walk like Jesus did, and we do so because the same Spirit that was on Jesus and that imparted wisdom, knowledge, counsel, understanding, power, fear of the Lord and the delight in the fear of the Lord is also upon us!

Jesus after all says in John 14: 12 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.

We have to comprehend that even though Jesus was the Son of God, He did all the signs and wonders and miracles, and He ministered and did the will of the Father because of the Spirit that was upon Him! And that same Spirit was given to us! Can we comprehend the paramount important of being baptized in the Spirit? How else are we going to walk in wisdom, knowledge, power, understanding, counsel and the fear of the Lord without the power of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit came to rest on Jesus in the River Jordan. When the “power from above” came upon Jesus, He was ready and prepared for ministry. He was ready to move in the Spirit, not judging by flesh. He was ready to move with divine wisdom and counter Satan’s unholy intentions in the wilderness. He was filled with divine knowledge and understanding to speak the truth of the New Covenant, to speak of a better way, to speak of the Law of Moses being fulfilled in Him, being able to judge what was right and He was able to heal, to deliver and to set free.

This happened as prophesized in Isaiah 11 and Isaiah 61! But this same Spirit is upon us. That same Spirit is upon us to discern between right and wrong, to discern between the forces of the spiritual realm and those of the natural realm, to act wisely, to act justly, to speak the truth that shatters the stronghold and to deliver His Word to the lost, the needy and the spiritual dying.

Isaiah 11 also speaks about the Spirit empowering Jesus, hence the ability not to judge by the sight of His eyes. And He [Jesus] shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, neither decide by the hearing of His ears; 4But with righteousness and justice shall He judge the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the downtrodden of the earth; and He shall smite the earth and the oppressor with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5And righteousness shall be the girdle of His waist and faithfulness the girdle of His loins. This means that we are to look at the spiritual condition of things, and not the physical. Paul after all confirmed this important truth in Ephesians 6: 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Isaiah also spoke about the Lord's ministry, and hence our ministry, in chapter 61 in the book of Isaiah: (Amplified Bible): 1THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound, 2To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor]and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion--to give them an ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit--that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

That same Spirit, as prophesied over by Isaiah, came upon Jesus in the River of Jordan. The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord came upon Jesus so that the Son of Heaven could preach the Gospel to the poor and the lost; to the meek and the broken-hearted; to set the spiritual captives free; to free those who are bound; to comfort those who mourn; to bring joy where there is sadness.

Now, if we take the work of the Holy Spirit as spoken in chapter 11 and 61, we see how the Lord was empowered to do His work! We cannot complete our task without the Holy Spirit? Why then are we not walking in that same power and authority as Jesus did? The Lord was not walking in such power and wisdom because He was merely the Son of God, but also because of the Holy Spirit! The Lord calls us to walk a walk which is supernatural, dynamic, powerful and radical!

He calls us to walk in the fullness of the Spirit, in the power of the Spirit, in the might, comfort, knowledge, counsel and gifts of the Spirit so that we may be effective witnesses.

The Holy Spirit does not empower us to glorify ourselves but God alone, and for this reason our very character, nature, behaviour and actions must also glorify God. This is therefore the entire work of the Spirit – changing us progressively to become more like the Lord, thus progressing from glory to glory to His glory.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Led in Wisdom and Counsel

Module 2

Chapter 2



Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

It is about understanding and discerning which path to tread, the right decisions to take, and the correct choices to make. It is about knowing the path to follow, and ultimately, who to follow. And the one we follow shall determine our outlook, our perception, our conduct and our ways. Consider therefore if the Church lacks wisdom, then this implies path to tread or even what to believe. Is it then any wonder we find the Church lost, confused, directionless and divided?

It says in Ephesians 5: 15 Look carefully then how you walk! 17 Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.

More than ever we need to be careful how we walk, for we need to walk in the wisdom and the counsel and understanding of the Lord.

It is written in Proverbs 8 (AMP): Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice? 2 On the top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, wisdom takes her stand; 3 Beside the gates, at the entrance to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: 4 “To you, O men, I call, And my voice is directed to the sons of men. 6 “Listen, for I will speak excellent and noble things; And the opening of my lips will reveal right things. 7 “For my mouth will utter truth, And wickedness is repulsive and loathsome to my lips.

There is still the clear call to walk in the ways of wisdom, and in the ways of truth, but we can only do so as we are led in the understanding, knowledge, counsel and wisdom of the Spirit. Wisdom cannot be detached from God as a separate identity or entity, for this is the path of the scholars and the academics.

True wisdom comes from God and God alone. We can only walk in wisdom when we yield and submit to the Lord, abiding in Him, seeking Him day and night lest we walk in the ways of foolishness and wickedness. In the wisdom of God we shall know what is right and wrong, and we shall understand the ways of the Lord and we shall know how to walk upon such ways.

Job 28:28 says wisdom begins with the fear of God, meaning we submit to the Lord's wisdom and His truth, and not our own.

Wisdom dictates that we follow the true path of God, for those who are wise are those who seek the Lord's ways and truths. Not to follow God is foolishness.

We read in Proverbs 14: The Wisdom [godly Wisdom, which is comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of [self-confident] fools is to deceive (verse eight). 9 Fools make a mock of sin and sin mocks the fools [who are its victims; a sin offering made by them only mocks them, bringing them disappointment and disfavor], but among the upright there is the favor of God. 12 There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death. 14 The backslider in heart [from God and from fearing God] shall be filled with [the fruit of] his own ways, and a good man shall be satisfied with [the fruit of] his ways [with the holy thoughts and actions which his heart prompts and in which he delights]. 16 A wise man suspects danger and cautiously avoids evil, but the fool bears himself insolently and is [presumptuously] confident. 19 The evil men bow before the good, and the wicked [stand suppliantly] at the gates of the [uncompromisingly] righteous. 24 The crown of the wise is their wealth of Wisdom, but the foolishness of [self-confident] fools is [nothing but] folly. 26 In the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children shall always have a place of refuge. 27 Reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death. 30 A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body, but envy, jealousy, and wrath are like rottenness of the bones. 33 Wisdom rests [silently] in the mind and heart of him who has understanding, but that which is in the inward part of [self-confident] fools is made known.

Those who are foolish are those who seek not the ways of God, but rather abandon the true path of holiness to seek their own destiny and truth. Foolishness is to seek wisdom and knowledge apart from God, who is the source of all wisdom. And the Holy Spirit guides and leads us in such wisdom.

Remember, wisdom begins with the fear of God, and part of the work of the Spirit is to lead us to walk in the fear of the Lord. If we fear the Lord, thus respect Him as God – the true divine being of all – then we shall begin to walk in Wisdom. This is the work of the Spirit.

We know the story of the prodigal son. He left his father's house to pursue his own dreams and aspirations, and so he left and got 'lost'. He ended up in deep trouble, without provision or hope. The prodigal son was indeed foolish in his folly to take such a path, but it was a path he chose. It was a path of rebellion. He, however, eventually made a wise choice when he returned unto his father, where he was welcomed and where a feast was held to celebrate his return.

The prodigal son teaches us about foolishness and wisdom. Foolishness thus is to leave the comfort of our heavenly Father's house, forsaking His guidance, protection and provision, to seek our own fate and our own path. This is the way of the fool, for our arrogance, ignorance and rebellious heart forces us to leave the comfort of the Lord.

Wisdom is, however, to stay in the father's house, which means staying true to the father's house where he is protected and nurtured. And so the Spirit of the Lord will reveal our foolish ways and path, and will lead us back home to embrace the Lord and the wisdom that comes by fearing and loving Him.

Jesus prays for all believers in John 17, which reflects the Lord's desire for all mankind to seek the Lord and to be saved (John 3:16): 20. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - 23 I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Solomon, the wise king of Israel who asked for wisdom, spoke in Proverbs as a father giving advice to his son. Solomon reminded his son to follow his example, and to follow the ways of the Lord. Just as it would have been wise for the Solomon’s children to heed such advice, it is also wise for us to heed to commandments and statutes of the Lord. And such Truth and the Way of the Kingdom is revealed by the Spirit of the Lord.

Those who are wise, they follow the Lord. Those who are foolish, they listen to their own wisdom, and such wisdom brings us down dark paths of confusion. Those who are wise, place their trust and strength in God, and those who are foolish, seek their own path of foolishness.

After all, it says in Isaiah 55: 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

How do we walk in the wisdom of the Lord? It says in James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God. Yes ask the Lord and He shall give, just as Solomon cried for wisdom. It is the will of God for us to walk in His wisdom and truth. And so it says in Matthew 7: 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For it is written in James 3: 13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Indeed, we must seek the wisdom of above, which is the wisdom of God. So this reminds us of Proverbs 19: Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Therefore, since it is important to be led in the Spirit's wisdom and counsel, it stands to spiritual reason that we must also disciple others in wisdom so that they may be led in the wisdom of God. **Matthew 28: 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** This is of course the Great Commission.

Here the Lord spoke to His disciples to go and make disciples. In Acts 1, we read of how the Spirit will be poured out so that they can be witnesses of the Gospel throughout the ends of the earth. Of this Spirit it says in Zachariah 4, not by might nor by power but by the Spirit. Indeed, we fulfil the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit. We thus disciple also in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us understand, the Lord never said we must disciple disciples who will solely rely on intellectual knowledge, or who are solely equipped and trained by man. While it is all good and well to train people in the Word of God, the sole purpose of discipleship is to lead people to the Lord, and to show them how to be a disciple in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The goal of such a process is to raise a disciple who worship in spirit and truth and who grows in spiritual maturity by the leading of the Spirit of the Lord. Of the same Spirit it says the following in 1 John 2: **27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**

The Holy Spirit came according to Jesus 16 to lead us in all the Truth, and to lead us to the Lord Jesus. There is no greater teacher than God who knows all and created all. If we do as Jesus commanded in the Great Commission, we will find equip disciples who are discipled as followers of Jesus, who walk by the Spirit, and therefore walk by the wisdom, counsel and the understanding of the Spirit.

Our authority in the spiritual realm comes from our relationship with God, and if we are abiding in Him, then we are walking in the Spirit of the Lord, thus the Spirit of wisdom, counsel and knowledge. Paul said the following in 1 Corinthians 2: 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The wisdom we must seek is the wisdom of the Lord, and such wisdom is to know good, to do good and to bring glory to God. And in such wisdom we cannot boast, just as we cannot boast in the power and might that comes from above. We are called to remain humble and pure before the Lord. Such wisdom and understanding which is pure and good only comes when we are led by the Spirit of the Lord.

King David understood the need to sit in council with God. He relied, leaned on, trusted and heeded the Word of God, for it guided him in his lifetime. Sadly, many times David also listened to his own wisdom, such as when he lusted after Bathsheba and so hatched a plan to kill her husband. He also didn't take action against his sons, Amnon [whom raped his sister] and Absalom [who killed Amnon out of revenge).

David did not escape unpunished, for his first born child was born dead while the sword never left his house. There were other mistakes made by David, but it reminds us that we always need to follow God's wisdom otherwise we shall reap the consequences of our folly.

Let us be reminded of Psalm 1: 1 Blessed (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.

2 But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

When Jesus came to call His first disciples, He did something radical but we keep missing it. He told His disciples to FOLLOW HIM. He was thus saying follow MY WAY and then you will be wise. When we follow Him, staying within His presence and shadow, we will not get lost. Indeed, for those who follow the Lord, they walk in wisdom.

The same Spirit that was upon Jesus, as prophesied by Isaiah hundreds of years earlier is also upon us! And this Spirit is one of understanding, wisdom, knowledge and counsel. After all, it is by the working of the Spirit that we operate in the function or gifts of wisdom, knowledge and discernment and prophecy. Thus, unless we are reborn in the Spirit, and led by the Spirit, how can we walk in wisdom and in God's ways?

How we need to follow God, remaining in His presence and shadow (Psalm 91), so that we remain true unto Him. And those who remain true are those who seek a path of sanctification that leads to holiness. As we follow Him, and no one else, we walk in the fear of the Lord and it is in this relationship [COVENANT] with the Living Lord where we learn wisdom and truth and gain knowledge and understanding.

Psalm 32: 8 I [the Lord] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. 9 Be not like the horse or the mule, which lack understanding, which must have their mouths held firm with bit and bridle, or else they will not come with you. 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but he who trusts in, relies on, and confidently leans on the Lord shall be compassed about with mercy and with loving-kindness. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you [uncompromisingly] righteous [you who are upright and in right standing with Him]; shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

A mule is an animal that is resistant, stubborn, lazy, and needs constant discipline and encouragement to perform a task. A mule can therefore be quite rebellious. A horse on the other is an animal of pride, arrogance, strength and dignity.

Like the mule, the horse can also be rebellious, because such rebellion lies in its arrogant ways. So we must not be like a mule that is always lagging behind or like a horse always wanting to run ahead, but we must stay in step with God.

Neither the mule nor the horse has understanding – meaning they lack wisdom. Understanding is needed to apply knowledge in order for us to live wisely. Therefore, if we are not in step with God, we do not have understanding which is needed for us to walk in wisdom. Wisdom again is all about abiding in God, learning from Him, so that by His teachings and commandments we can be wise in our thoughts and actions

The Lord said His people Israel are perishing because of a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). The people of Israel at the time of Hosea, especially in the southern kingdom, had forgotten God's Laws, Ordinances and Commandments, and so they didn't know how to walk in the ways of God.

Without God's guidance through the Law that governs every aspect of their lives, the people lost their way and walked in wickedness and idolatry. They were therefore without understanding, and without knowledge, behaving as fools instead of being wise. This is still true today.

We live under the Covenant of Jesus, but if we do not know Jesus or His teachings and commandments, we lack His knowledge to guide us in wisdom and discernment. If we therefore walk not in His ways of knowledge and wisdom, we shall be starving and perishing spiritually in our foolishness, which leads to rebellion and apostasy.

However, those who are led by the Spirit shall not perish, for they live according to the Truth. The Spirit of the Lord after all was poured out so that we can live and know all truth (John 16). Such Truth leads us to knowledge. Again, wisdom is nothing more the ability to apply knowledge, to understand knowledge and to walk in knowledge. And since Jesus is the WORD that became Flesh and He is the Truth, the Holy Spirit was thus sent to lead us in the ways of Jesus, and such ways leads us to the Throne Room of the Father. True wisdom is when we follow the dictates of the Spirit (Romans 8) and not the dictates of the flesh.

We cannot walk in wisdom – implying walking in the fear and in the ways of God – if we are not being led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit was sent to lead us in the ways of God. We are but merely foolish if we do not follow the Spirit.

Wisdom is therefore in essence the application and understanding of the knowledge of God, the applications of His commandments, teachings, and ordinances. It is by the complete and utter submission to the Holy Spirit that we walk in wisdom and not in the wisdom of man. How we need to again walk in God's Wisdom so that the power of the Lord will be demonstrated and manifested through us!

And as we walk by the Spirit, we shall walk by the fruits of the Spirit, and such fruit blossoms as we walk in the fullness and maturity of God through submission and obedience. It is by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we can truly walk in God's Truth and in God's Wisdom. We can only know spiritual wisdom if we are connected spiritually with God.

Proverbs 3 speaks of great truths, for it was written by Solomon, who sought wisdom and walked in the wisdom of God: My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

Thus Solomon reminds us that if we seek strength, blessings, favour and peace, then we must continue to walk in truth. And we can only do so when we seek God's wisdom and not ours, and we do so when "trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him." This speaks about being in the counsel of God, listening, heeding, and obeying. For then we shall overcome and be victorious.

As Paul reaffirms, we walk by the Spirit of God and not the spirit of this world (Romans 8:9). For this reason, as Jesus taught in John 3, we need to be reborn in the Spirit so that we may no longer think as carnal men but operate as those who walk and function in the wisdom of the Lord. Those who remain carnally-minded cannot receive the wisdom of God, for as Paul writes the “natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God”.

Want to be wise? Then we need to fall in step with God and forsake our carnality, lest we remain foolish. We need to ask for wisdom, seek to walk in such ways, and we need to forsake the wisdom of the self and the world for the wisdom of God.

Work of the Holy Spirit

The Dynamics from Above

Module 2

Chapter 3



FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

Layout E Cloete

Acts 1:8:”But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.”

The Greek word for power as used in Acts 1 is “dunamis” from where we get the words dynamite and dynamic from. Thus, the power we receive “from above”, thus from the Lord, is dynamic and explosive. “Dunamis” means in essence: “act of power” (Young’s); “miraculous power, ability” (Strong’s); “natural capability, inherent power; capability of anything, ability to perform any-thing; then, absolutely, not merely power capable of action, but, power in action” (Bullinger’s).

The word dunamis is also used in numerous other Scriptures in the New Testament where the word “power” is mentioned. For example in Luke 1:35 when it comes to the supernatural birth of Jesus in the womb of Mary: 35 Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God. So when the power of God – dunamis – overshadowed Mary the supernatural became reality in her life. This is surely what we need more than ever in the Church – for the power of God to really overshadow us so that we can walk in His glorious supernatural ability to His glory.

We read in Ephesians 3:20 when Paul speaks of Jesus: 20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]. Ephesians 3 speaks about a power that is at work within us to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]. And what is this power within us? The Holy Spirit – who grants us “dunamis” from above to function supernaturally and to believe in the reality of a supernatural God.

It is so important that when we are dealing here with Dunamis to keep in mind it comes from above. Throughout history, man in his own arrogance and pride have tried in his power and intellect to rule the world, yet we are reminded in Acts 1 that we will be wise when we allow the power of God and the wisdom of God to rule our lives so that we may exist by such divine guidance. This power can also not be detached from the Lord, or be wielded separately without the Lord. Such power never comes from man, or can be harnessed by man, or be manipulated by man. God is the Power from above, and such power works in those who abide in the Lord.

Thus, Paul reminds us in his epistle that the “dunamis” has already been given, but it is only beneficial when it is working in us. Therefore, we are reminded of John 3 when Jesus says the following: Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

We can only walk in the power of God, thus walk in His dynamic and radical nature, when we allow ourselves to be submitted to the inner working of the Holy Spirit. This therefore requires one to be reborn in Spirit, which simply means a complete submission unto the Holy Spirit and to allow God to be the king, ruler and master of our lives. For then through obedience, faithfulness and loyalty unto God shall the “power from above” be manifested in our lives. It says in Philippians 4:13: I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency].

This dunamis – the power from on high – was already manifested during the first miracle performed by Jesus when water was turned into wine. The story is told in John 2. At this time Jesus was already baptized in the Spirit and was empowered by the “power on high”. Yes, Jesus is the Son of God, but He still was baptised in the Spirit who is the “power on high” so that we can walk in the power of the Kingdom.

It says in Acts 10:38 KJV: 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.

In order to walk in the power of God, we need to remain in God and God in us, which comes by a proper relationship forged by the Covenant of Blood. This is the teaching of Jesus in John 15: I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. 2 Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit. 3 You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the word which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you]. 4 Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit.

Let us therefore understand, the Spirit of the Lord is the ACTIVATION OF POWER. What God the Father speaks and wills, the Spirit of the Lord will activate in a manifestation of power. We see the reality of this activation of power in Genesis 1: 1 In the beginning God (Elohim) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void or a waste and emptiness, and darkness was upon the face of the deep [primeval ocean that covered the unformed earth]. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

You see, the Spirit of the Lord was hovering. The Spirit of the Lord was WAITING for the command of the Father. Once God spoke, then the Spirit of the Lord moved and there was an activation of power, which resulted in the creation of earth as we know it. We need to note here that the Spirit of the Lord was “hovering”, and clearly the Spirit of the Lord was not acting according to his own purpose. So the Spirit of the Lord will activate through power what the Father speaks and desires.

But what is the purpose to receive such “power from above”? Is it for self-exaltation, self-glorification or self-empowerment? No. God empowers spiritually those who follow Him for the purpose of His glory and Kingdom being manifested and established on earth. God grants “dunamis” through the infilling/baptism of the Holy Spirit so that we may be able to complete the Great Commission and also the general commission of the disciple.

We receive “dunamis” to see the fulfilment of Mark 16: 15 And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race]. 16 He who believes [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is baptized will be saved [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] will be condemned. 17 And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; 18 They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.

And also the fulfilment of Matthew 28: 19 Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).

We see throughout the Book of Acts the constant demonstration of how the disciples were empowered to fulfill Mark 16 and Matthew 28. They were able to do so because of the “power from above”, which made them bold and brave and courageous to preach the Good News and to minister the Word of God no matter the dangers or challenges.

In Acts 2, following the outpouring of the Spirit so that the disciples may receive the “power from above”, we read of how Peter boldly addressed the crowd.

Remember, this is the same Peter who betrayed Jesus three times out of fear of being persecuted and most likely being crucified. We read for example in this chapter (this follows people mocking the disciples for speaking in other tongues and languages following the outpouring of the Spirit): 13 But others made a joke of it and derisively said, They are simply drunk and full of sweet [intoxicating] wine. 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: You Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be [explained] to you so that you will know and understand; listen closely to what I have to say. 15 For these men are not drunk, as you imagine, for it is [only] the third hour (about 9:00 a.m.) of the day; 16 But [instead] this is [the beginning of] what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions (divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams. 18 Yes, and on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels and [predicting future events pertaining especially to God's kingdom]]. 19 And I will show wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth beneath, blood and fire and smoking vapor; 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the obvious day of the Lord comes—that great and notable and conspicuous and renowned [day]. 21 And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord [invoking, adoring, and worshiping the Lord—Christ] shall be saved.

Peter, whose courage betrayed him, now boldly declared his loyalty to Jesus, despite facing persecution! That is what happens when the “power from above” comes upon us and empowers us for ministry. The crowd could not understand what was happening, for they had not been touched by God. They mocked the signs and wonders they witnessed, mocking the disciples who spoke in other tongues and declaring them drunk. Still today, the world will never understand the disciple of God who really moves in dunamis – for such power from above radically changes a person and causes a disciple to operate supernaturally and not merely naturally. Yes, with God all things are possible!

In Acts 4, Peter also challenged the Sadducees, who upheld the Law of Moses. They after all rejected the New Covenant of Jesus. Peter was summoned to appear before the Sadducees following a healing that was performed – once again, *dunamis* in action.

Peter then says the following: 8 Then Peter, [because he was] filled with [and controlled by] the Holy Spirit, said to them, Rulers of the people and members of the council (the Sanhedrin), 9 If we are being put on trial [here] today and examined concerning a good deed done to benefit a feeble (helpless) cripple, by what means this man has been restored to health, 10 Let it be known and understood by all of you, and by the whole house of Israel, that in the name and through the power and authority of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified, [but] Whom God raised from the dead, in Him and by means of Him this man is standing here before you well and sound in body. 11 This [Jesus] is the Stone which was despised and rejected by you, the builders, but which has become the Head of the corner [the Cornerstone]. 12 And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by and in which we must be saved. Take note of verse 8: Then Peter, [because he was] filled with [and controlled by] the Holy Spirit. Indeed, Peter had changed into a dynamic and explosive disciple for God because of the “power from above” – the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Again, we read of this mighty power manifested in the Lord’s disciples in Acts 5: 12 Now by the hands of the apostles (special messengers) numerous and startling signs and wonders were being performed among the people. And by common consent they all met together [at the temple] in the covered porch (walk) called Solomon’s. 13 And none of those who were not of their number dared to join and associate with them, but the people held them in high regard and praised and made much of them. 14 More and more there were being added to the Lord those who believed [those who acknowledged Jesus as their Savior and devoted themselves to Him joined and gathered with them], crowds both of men and of women, 15 So that they [even] kept carrying out the sick into the streets and placing them on couches and sleeping pads, [in the hope] that as Peter passed by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them.

16 And the people gathered also from the towns and hamlets around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those troubled with foul spirits, and they were all cured.

And also Acts 4: 23 After they were permitted to go, [the apostles] returned to their own [company] and told all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, lifted their voices together with one united mind to God and said, O Sovereign Lord, You are He Who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything that is in them, 25 Who by the mouth of our forefather David, Your servant and child, said through the Holy Spirit, Why did the heathen (Gentiles) become wanton and insolent and rage, and the people imagine and study and plan vain (fruitless) things [that will not succeed]? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand in array [for attack] and the rulers were assembled and combined together against the Lord and against His Anointed (Christ, the Messiah). 27 For in this city there actually met and plotted together against Your holy Child and Servant Jesus, Whom You consecrated by anointing, both Herod and Pontius Pilate with the Gentiles and peoples of Israel, 28 To carry out all that Your hand and Your will and purpose had predestined (predetermined) should occur. 29 And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servants [full freedom] to declare Your message fearlessly, 30 While You stretch out Your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage. 32 Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything which he possessed was [exclusively] his own, but everything they had was in common and for the use of all. 33 And with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) rested richly upon them all.

Sadly, this great “power from above” has for thousands of years been ridiculed by man, who have even tried to exploit the Lord for own gain and benefit.

We are dealing here with God and not man. God should always be respected, and as such, how we conduct ourselves in the Spirit should be out of reverence.

We bear witness to the exploitation of the Holy Spirit in Acts 7: 18 However, when Simon saw that the [Holy] Spirit was imparted through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he brought money and offered it to them, 19 Saying, Grant me also this power and authority, in order that anyone on whom I place my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. 20 But Peter said to him, Destruction overtake your money and you, because you imagined you could obtain the [free] gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is all wrong in God's sight [it is not straightforward or right or true before God]. 22 So repent of this depravity and wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, this contriving thought and purpose of your heart may be removed and disregarded and forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in a bond forged by iniquity [to fetter souls]. 24 And Simon answered, Pray for me [beseech the Lord, both of you], that nothing of what you have said may befall me!

Indeed, we need the fear of the Lord back in the churches, and for religion and tradition to stop confusing the walk of the disciple! The "power from above" is after all been quenched for too long by the ways of man. Indeed, the dunamis would continue to influence the disciple of the first Church, turning them from being spiritual lambs into lions. We read for example of Stephen (Acts 7) who was martyred for His undying faith in God. We need this again in our churches! We need servants of the Lord who move in His power to His glory!

One disciple who is a demonstration of what happens when dunamis takes hold of you is Paul, who was once known as Saul who persecuted the Christians. He had a powerful encounter with God on the road to Damascus; subsequently he was no longer Saul the murderer of Christians but Paul who became one of the greatest evangelists and teachers in the way of Jesus!

In his great humility, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2: As for myself, brethren, when I came to you, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony and evidence or [mystery and secret of God [concerning what He has done through Christ for the salvation of men] in lofty words of eloquence or human philosophy and wisdom; 2 For I resolved to know nothing (to be acquainted with nothing, to make a display of the knowledge of nothing, and to be conscious of nothing) among you except Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and Him crucified. 3 And I was in (passed into a state of) weakness and fear (dread) and great trembling [[c]after I had come] among you. 4 And my language and my message were not set forth in persuasive (enticing and plausible) words of wisdom, but they were in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit and power [a proof by the Spirit and power of God, operating on me and stirring in the minds of my hearers the most holy emotions and thus persuading them], 5 So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men (human philosophy), but in the power of God.

Paul could never have endured all the suffering and hardship (2 Corinthians 11) while courageously proclaiming the Good News if he was not empowered and bolstered by the “power from above” – the Holy Spirit. In other words, we can never truly serve God in a dynamic and powerful manner – beyond fear, doubt and trepidation – unless we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Following the brave and powerful declaration of Peter in Acts 2, we read in verse 41 how 3000 souls accepted and welcomed Peter’s message. They were also baptized. This is the result of when we walk in dunamis – which comes through submission to the Holy Spirit and being baptised in the Spirit.

Of these 3000 souls, who numbered among the first disciples at the birth of the Church, we read: 42 And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord’s Supper] and prayers. 43 And a sense of awe (reverential fear) came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were performed through the apostles (the special messengers).

44 And all who believed (who adhered to and trusted in and relied on Jesus Christ) were united and [together] they had everything in common; 45 And they sold their possessions (both their landed property and their movable goods) and distributed the price among all, according as any had need. 46 And day after day they regularly assembled in the temple with united purpose, and in their homes they broke bread [including the Lord's Supper]. They partook of their food with gladness and simplicity and generous hearts, 47 Constantly praising God and being in favor and goodwill with all the people; and the Lord kept adding [to their number] daily those who were being saved [from spiritual death]. Talk about a powerful ministry! Surely these men were not only baptized in water but also by the Spirit, for they received dunamis to preach the Good News boldly.

Now, let us see how Isaiah's prophecy came true. When Jesus came out of the wilderness, having defeated Satan's subtle attempts of deception, He spoke of the Beatitudes (witness how everything He says lines up with Isaiah 11 and 61): The Beatitudes: 1Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2and he began to teach them saying: 3"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Glory to God! Didn't we read the following out of chapter 61 - to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound? How many times did Jesus not heal, or deliver or set someone free from the bondages of spiritual deception? Isaiah spoke about the opening of the eyes to see; how little he knew Jesus would be doing this literally as well (John 9).

In Acts 12 we see the *dunamis* in action when it comes to physically and spiritually setting the captive free: It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. 4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. 6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. 8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. 9 Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. 11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

There is power from above, yet we need to walk in faith to see such power in action. As Jesus said, we simply need to believe, yes just believe, for in the power of God all things are possible and in the power of God we become spiritually bold and enflamed for His glory! Just believe; just believe, for His power works within all believers who seek to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. It is also interesting to note that when the "*dunamis*" of God is working in our lives it will also produce holiness unto God. The "*dunamis*" power of God sets God's standard within us, so that all we do and are reflects back to God's honour and glory. True "*dunamis*" is that inner working to mould our character in the image of God. Just believe in the power from above so that we may be effective ministers and servants unto the Lord to His Glory and for His Glory!

Work of the Holy Spirit

Empowered and Enabled

Module 2

Chapter 4



Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

This may sound far-fetched, but the calling or the mandate upon our life is not up to us, it comes from God. And God does not mandate you for a task because you are so clever or so trained or educated, but because He is Sovereign. He therefore will empower and equip you through the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task. So whatever God has called us to do, we must do it to His glory, because the 'power' or the 'influence' of the task is not wrapped up necessarily in the 'matter of the task' but in our obedience to God's call.

This is therefore the work of the Holy Spirit. To strengthen and empower us to do the work of the Lord that He has started in our lives. He is after all the author and finisher of our faith. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

We have been called to finish what God has placed within us, meaning finishing the race by faith. And we can only stay true to the calling upon our lives, whatever it may be, if we remain loyal and true to the Lord. As we are constantly guided and led by the Spirit, then we shall finish the race to the glory of the Lord.

When it comes to being empowered and enabled, we read in 1 Corinthians 12: 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 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. 13 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. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 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? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

It is very clear in the above Scripture we are all part of the Body, and we perform different functions, but each function is of equal importance to the Body. If we still struggle with the concept that God's mandate carries the same worth no matter the task, consider Exodus 31: And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: 3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. 6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee ...

Have you ever heard of Bezaleel? Few people have. Yet, this important Bible character had an experience with God that should inspire and encourage each one of us. Bezaleel was chosen as the chief architect, in building the Tabernacle, he was to design and execute the work, and assign work to those that God had given him. God had anointed Bezaleel to work with his hands. He was gifted for manual labour (yes construction work!). God had not called him to preach, he was not gifted for music, and he was not placed on field of battle. God simply called him to build the Tabernacle.

God needed men like Moses, Aaron and Joshua; but He also needed Bezaleel! The work God called him to do was of such importance that God gave him a special anointing for the task. Moses had the spirit for administration and prophecy, Aaron had the spirit for the priesthood and Joshua had the spirit for conquest. But Bezaleel had the spirit for design and building.

Problem is we keep on allocating 'weight' to certain tasks based on our own perceptions. After all, we consider Moses, Daniel, Gideon, Abraham, David, Samson and Solomon for example as great men of God because of their exploits and fame. But the reason why we remember them is because of their obedience to the call on their lives. Sure, Bezaleel might not have been as famous as David, but was his calling inferior to Abraham for example? No. For this reason it says the Lord filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.

Let us pause here for a moment. Remember Isaiah 11? It speaks of the Spirit of the Lord of knowledge, might, wisdom and understanding. So yes, Bezaleel was completely under the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord to complete a construction. We must remember Bezaleel because he obeyed the Lord and was empowered and enabled to do the work assigned by the Lord. Yes, he simple construction worker was empowered by God to fulfil a task!

Do you realise many people are slow to answer the call for service because they fear their work is not good enough; they feel that the work that is noticed is the only way to serve God? But that is not true. Bezaleel's name means "under God's shadow". He never became the great statesman and organizer that Moses did. His voice was never heard to preach to the host of Israel. Neither was he qualified for the priesthood. He was not gifted in military, was not able to accompany Joshua as he rode in the forefront of Israel's army. Unable to preach, sing, make music or serve as a priest or wage warfare. Yet, this man had within a divine gift, a spiritual anointing for a specific job, to build the tabernacle.

Just so, the Kingdom of God needs a multitude of workers in the various fields of labour, according to 1 Corinthians 12. Each of us needs to find our place in the service of the Lord, and accept God's anointing to fulfill that task.

Let us look at Acts 6: 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

The 12 disciples sought people to serve tables, therefore a modern day waiter. You would have thought they would pick someone randomly. I mean, this is about serving tables. But no, they chose Stephen, who was a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. Yes, a Spirit-filled man of God chooses to serve tables! According to our perceptions, this is a lowly job in the Kingdom of God, but not in the eyes of God. In His eyes, this was a task that still required a Spirit-filled disciple. And so we find that “Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people”. Yes, Stephen was called to serve tables, and because he was faithful to the weightiness of the matter, God moved powerfully in his life.

After all, was Jesus not a carpenter and Paul a tentmaker? At the right time Jesus was empowered and enabled to fulfil His task on earth, while at the right time Paul was empowered and enabled to bring the Good News to the Gentiles. It should be noted Paul would never have ceased in his task of making tents, but the Lord ordained it so for the Apostle to travel and to be a missionary of the Good News. It doesn't matter what God has called you to do, as long as you remain faithful and true. For then God shall work mightily through you.

We need to remember that we are called to fulfil the Great Commission and Mark 16 applies to all disciples. If you remain faithful and obedient to the task to which the Lord has called you, then the Spirit will work powerfully through you to bring honour and glory to God.

You might be called to serve tables, meaning a heart of a servant (and how does God not love servants!), but because you remain true to God, He will still move mightily in you by the Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission and to walk in the reality of Mark 16 and Isaiah 61.

After all, it says in Zachariah 4 verse 6 we walk not by might or by power but by the Spirit. This means we are not called to change this world according to our influence or expertise, but by the anointing of the Spirit that enables and empowers us to do His work on earth.

We read the following in 1 Kings 10:23-24: So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

Did Solomon become so wise because of his education? Of course not. The Lord gave him wisdom because Solomon asked for wisdom, and because of the wisdom he could govern and rule in the fear of the Lord. Solomon was therefore empowered and enabled for a certain task. We must just remain true to the Lord, true to our calling and then the Spirit of the Lord can work mightily in us, no matter our mandate, purpose or calling.

We serve a wonderful and awesome God. Not only did God divinely come down in human form to us to show us personally the way of love and truth, but once Jesus ascended triumphantly, we received the glorious empowering and enabling work done by the Holy Spirit.

God in all His wisdom and glory never intended 2000 years ago to leave the believers high and dry in their spiritual commission to draw closer in relationship to Him and to spread the gospel across the four corners of this globe. God the Father first sent His Son to show us and teach us the heart of heaven and how we should live to glorify Him and to be at peace with each other. And behold, the Spirit was then poured out to empower and enable us to live according to His teachings, His ways and to accomplish what He has called us to do.

This is the work of the Spirit – to empower and enable us to do the work of the Lord. God has always intended by His divine plan that those who believe in Him will not go through life alone and that they will not have to carry their burdens unaided.

It has always been God's perfect purpose that the Holy Spirit will be the one who walks with us, guide us, help us, aid us, encourage us and enable us. The Spirit will grant us the wisdom and knowledge and understanding and the might to fulfil our tasks on earth.

The Holy Spirit is here to stay with us until the coming of the Lord. And so we can rejoice that the Holy Spirit is our Counsellor, whom the Father sent in the name of Jesus, to teach us in all things and who reminds us of everything that Jesus said to us. Jesus Himself did not begin ministering until the Holy Spirit came upon Him (Matthew 3:13-17). God the Father never even intended for His own Son to minister the Word for more than three years without the wondrous enabling and empowering work of the Spirit.

And just as Jesus, even though God Himself, was led by the Spirit to spread the Gospel in times of persecution and mockery and trial and tribulation, just so we as His followers surely cannot go through life without being completely submitted to the work of the Spirit within us.

In Acts 2 (verse 3-4) we read of how the first disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. This was the Day of Pentecost. But the true work of the Spirit is evident in the verses that follow where we read of Peter addressing the crowd. We have to remember this is the same disciple who denied Jesus three times for he was afraid that the crowd will turn on him.

But in Acts 2 we read of a man, who was struck down by guilt and condemnation for his denial, who boldly speaks to the same people whom he once feared. This crowd was mocking the 12 disciples for they thought they were drunk on wine, not realising they were witnessing the outpouring of the Spirit. And so we read from verse 14: Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17" 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Glory to God! Just as Jesus was enabled and empowered, just as the 12 disciples were enabled and empowered, we can also in Spirit and Truth lead a life worthy of His Name and we can also boldly and with courage stay true to His teachings and ways despite what life throws at us. For God as the Spirit works in us and this same Spirit is pure, holy and wise beyond thoughts or words.

Throughout the Bible we encounter this glorious work of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Samuel 10 we read of Samuel anointing Saul to becoming king. Saul, however, was not yet ready for such a task and must have feared the challenges that awaited him. Samuel, however, told him to go to Gibeah of God, and as he approaches the town he will be met by a procession of prophets. We read then from verse 6 the words of Samuel to Saul: 6 The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

And so verse 7 rings so true for us ... Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. Yes, if we are obedient to God, then let our hands do what God has commanded, for He shall be with us to empower and enable us!

The Holy Spirit is not veiled in secret. His presence is neither hidden. It is up to us to come to Him, to allow the Spirit into our lives and we need to earnestly and with great intent seek the Spirit's enabling and empowering work in our lives. This is God's intent and purpose, for us all to be clothed with the Holy Spirit, as spoken in Joel 2, so that we can be empowered and enabled in our personal lives and in our ministry and in our work place to follow in His footsteps. And yes, we need the Spirit to enable and empower us in all our daily tasks.

Let us submit and yield to Him, for then He shall empower and enable us to fulfil the task we have been assigned by the Lord to fulfil on earth. It does not matter what God has called you to do, just do it faithfully, in obedience, in the fear of the Lord and in the character of Christ. For then the Lord shall move powerfully in your life to bring Him glory and honour and servants unto the Lord to His Glory and for His Glory!

Work of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Spirit

Module 2 *Chapter 5*



FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

Layout E Cloete

The gifts of the Spirit are the manifestation of dunamis (activating power) in the life of the disciple. And such gifts ultimately are used to set the captive free (Isaiah 61) but it also underscores the call of Ephesians 6 to fight the spiritual battle.

THE GIFTS ARE USED TO EDIFY, TO EMPOWER, AND TO EXHORT.

We must also remember according to 1 Corinthians 12 the following: All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.

So we first need to understand all the gifts come from the Holy Spirit, and secondly it is by His choice. So the gift never operates beyond the Holy Spirit.

The gift never belongs to the disciple, but it is activated as the Spirit leads. And such gifts are ultimately activated in one's life to also support, edify and empower the disciple in his or her calling.

We read in 1 Corinthians 12 of these gifts: And there are distinctive varieties of operation [of working to accomplish things], but it is the same God Who inspires and energizes them all in all. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good and profit. 8 To one is given in and through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge and understanding according to the same [Holy] Spirit; 9 To another [wonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern and distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues.

Therefore, the gifts of the Spirit are:

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophetic insight
- Spiritual Discernment
- Speaking of Unknown Tongues/Languages
- Interpretation of Unknown Tongues/Languages

These nine gifts of the Spirit of the Lord speak of **POWER IN ACTION**, and it speaks of an activation of power in order to equip, to encourage, to edify and to empower the disciple to fulfil the Lord's calling. The gifts, however, do not work as if a light switch. They operate as gifts of the Holy Spirit, because they come from "the power above", so therefore we are dealing here with the powerful inner working of the Spirit [dunamis].

Remember, each and every believer has been given by the indwelling of the Spirit of God the gifts of the Spirit (Acts 2:38). In Acts chapter 8 and in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14 we see the manifested external gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation.

These spiritual gifts were not gifts that have been developed by human capacities; therefore the believer has absolutely no right to brag on these gifts. We are talking here about a gift that was not yours but given to you freely and it is given apart from any inherent capabilities that you have within you.

No believer can say that they have no gift of the Spirit from God if they walk in the Spirit. God has given all believers gifts. There is also no rule to say that by the Spirit you only operate in a few of them – you can operate in all nine gifts, even if it be only for a season. For it remains the will of the Lord.

It should also be noted these are spiritual gifts, not natural gifts that relate to our talents and abilities. Paul alluded to such abilities and talents in Romans 12: 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly: if [someone has the gift of] prophecy, [let him speak a new message from God to His people] in proportion to the faith possessed; 7 if service, in the act of serving; or he who teaches, in the act of teaching; 8 or he who encourages, in the act of encouragement; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, [a]with diligence; he who shows mercy [in caring for others], with cheerfulness. Here Paul also speaks of the gift of serving, or teaching, or who encourages, or who gives, or who leads and he who shows mercy. These are different to the spiritual gifts. These are gifts that determine who we are and it is also part and parcel of our calling in Jesus. It therefore connects to our personality, to our nature and our natural ability to do certain things. And so Paul wrote in the same chapter ... 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly. So these gifts also come from God, for God determines who we are, and He imparts our talents and natural abilities to be used for His Kingdom and Glory.

The gifts mentioned in Romans 12 are certainly not an exhaustive list of the gifts of the Lord. Ephesians 4:11 for example reveals yet more ascension gifts as Paul indicates there are "...apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers."

The purpose of the spiritual gifts is to aid us in our ministry of establishing God's Kingdom on earth and to live out the Great Commission. Thus, the gifts are sure signs of God's dunamis by the Holy Spirit. These gifts of the Spirit are given not for the believer but for the Body of Christ. It is therefore to make the Body complete. These gifts are intended for the church to edify it, to strengthen it, to feed it, to exhort it, to encourage it and to have the Body of Christ empowered to do the work of Christ. These gifts are always to exalt Christ, to witness of God's power, to build up the Body, and to work to enlarge the Body of Christ by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost.

Paul tells us that "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them" (1 Corinthians 12: 4). So again, the author of the gifts given for the common good of the church (verse 7) is the Holy Spirit.

As the Spirit leads, a person for a season could be moving in all the gifts, but many times the disciple will move in certain set gifts over the course of his ministry. We must therefore be open to the Spirit and be willing to move in any gift at any time as the Spirit leads. This calls for us to move close to the Spirit and be led by the Spirit at all times.

Let us have a look at the gifts, which operate as a manifestation of activated power:

The Gift of Wisdom: The Church desperately needs the Wisdom of God in her midst. This is the precious gift that Solomon asked for and received from God to be able to rightly rule God's nation (I Kings 3:12). With this wisdom, Solomon could understand what do in difficult decisions. Wisdom is also associated with fearing the Lord. Fear is simply standing in awe of God in reverence and respect. It entails loving His Word and being obedient to what it says. There is no wisdom in disobedience. Wisdom will ultimately help the disciple and the Church to move in God's will, to know His heart, to seek His Kingdom and to guide others on the right path of Jesus. The gift of wisdom empowers us with the ability to make decisions and give guidance that is according to God's will.

The Gift of Knowledge: The gift of knowledge helps a person to know when to speak particular words, when not to, and what words to speak with. It is the ability to have an in-depth understanding of a spiritual issue or situation. Often, the gift of wisdom and knowledge goes hand-in-hand. For example, when we minister to someone, by the gift of knowledge we become aware that they have a certain cancer. Then by the gift of wisdom, we then will advise them according by the Holy Spirit how they must deal with the cancer, be it through prayer or a change of diet for example.

Let us take a case study: a person says he is very ill but despite prayer and fasting, has not been healed. By the gift of knowledge it is revealed he has cancer of the lungs caused by excessive smoking. By the gift of wisdom the person is urged to first give up smoking and also embrace a healthier lifestyle; then through such action healing, supernaturally or naturally, will be take place. This is how the gift of wisdom and knowledge works in order to edify, support, aid, and assist the Body of Christ.

The Gift of Faith: The next gift of the Spirit Paul mentions is the gift of faith (v 9). Those with this gift are truly amazing in how they see things – they have a deep faith and trust in God no matter the circumstances or the situation. They tend to exude confidence in all situations. Often this gift works hand-in-hand with the gift of miracles or healing. After all, we need God’s supernatural faith to believe in the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit when it comes to, for example, the blind seeing, the lame walking, the dead hearing and even the dead being resurrected. At times, the miracles and signs of God are beyond our human level of faith, yet God instils a deep trust and faith that all things are possible with God.

The Gift of Healing: The gift of healing has been a controversial one (v 9). Some “faith healers” claim to have this gift yet have often been exposed to be frauds. Many of those “healed” have been interviewed prior to their supposed healing. Some tap the power of positive thinking to convince them that they are healed. Others have even used “scam artists” or actors to portray someone that has been healed from an infirmity that they never actually had. This gift was more prominent in the New Testament church to confirm that Jesus Christ’s name had power and that God was working in the Church. Yet, supernatural healing still takes place, but it is done according to the will and way of the Lord, not man. We must also note that when it comes to healing, it is important, if not more, for a person also to be healed spiritually and in the realm of the soul. So often we seek physical healing, but the ailment transcends the flesh and rather is an ailment that is found in the spirit or the soul.

This is why we need the wisdom and guidance of the Spirit, and this is often where the word of knowledge and wisdom plays a role. Before we even pray for someone to be healed physically, we first need to discern the will of the Lord and we need to follow the guidance of the Spirit. For example, let us say someone has become deadly sick but prayers for healing have not helped.

Then, by the guidance of the Spirit, it is revealed the person is in fact involved in occult activities that has polluted his spirit and soul, which has resulted in the physical ailment. So before there can be a physical healing, the person first needs to repent of his occult activities, and then be delivered from demonic forces, then restored in the soul which will have a knock-on effect on the physical. Again, we need discernment, and lots of it!

The Gift of Miracles: Sadly, a lot of bogus faith healers also claim that they have the gift of miraculous powers. Remember the devil also deals in counterfeit signs, wonders and miracles, just as the in days when the Egyptian magicians challenged Moses. We are reminded in Mark 16 that signs and wonders will follow the disciples of God. Therefore, healing and miraculous powers is the domain of all believers. The difference is that those who have the gift of miracles find themselves constantly involved in this ministry. These gifts are often accompanied by the gift of faith. Signs, wonders and miracles are, however, not for personal glorification or exaltation, and neither is it activated by the Spirit for show, for entertainment or to draw attention. Whatever the Spirit activated, it is for the purpose of a meeting a need, always to the glory of the Lord and never for the glory of man.

The Gift of Prophecy (Speaking): Prophecy has several different interpretations and it is clear that in this context, within the church at Corinth, prophecy is the gift of proclaiming a message from God. Let it be noted, there is a difference between those who are in the office of the prophet and those who function according to this gift. For the prophet, prophecy is part of his spiritual DNA and his entire outlook on the supernatural and natural is prophetic.

This is different to those who move in the gift, for they will only now and then receive a word to bring to the Church or to someone. This gift is different to the gifts of wisdom and knowledge as it deals with God's purposes, plans, agendas, and God's will. By a prophetic word, the will of God is revealed, and also God's plans, ways and actions. These days, a lot of people who operate by this gift are mistaken for being prophets, because the office also deals with authority and mandate. The prophets function within the authority of the office while the bearer of the gift functions only according to the revelation of God when needed.

The Gift of Discernment: The gift of "distinguishing between spirits" is having the gift of discernment. It is able to discern scriptures and their application to believers in the church. It is also being able to tell whether someone is earnest and sincere, or they appear to have an agenda. It is also being able to discern by what "spirit" a person functions and operates – a person for example is not always operating in the Holy Spirit but can be under demonic oppression or influence.

We therefore need the gift to discern where God is working and where the devil has now taken centre stage. We need discernment to identify when a false word of doctrine is spoken or taught. The gift of discernment works within those who are often called to do deliverance or counselling, for they will be able to identify the reality of the situation, and the cause of ailments of traumas.

When we talk about deliverance, it is deliverance of spirit, soul and body therefore we need deep discernment to understand root causes of affliction and bondage, and how to set the captive free. It is true that many times not all things are what they appear, and often when dealing with people who need help, the truth is often obscured and hidden. Thus, discernment helps to reveal the truth and the true nature of the matter. Nothing can be hidden in the eyes of God. It should also be noted there is a fine line between discernment and imagination, so we need to follow in earnest the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Gift of Tongues: The next gift is the ability to speak in different tongues. This has been one of the most controversial and most misunderstood gifts of all. When the original outpouring of the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, there were many speaking in tongues. Paul wrote about tongues extensively in 1 Corinthians, chapters twelve through fourteen, but he was reproofing the Corinthians for misusing the gift.

In Acts 2:4 it speaks about “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages”. The literal translation in Greek is “glossa” and means tongues. This same word “glossa” (language) is used again in Acts 2:11. This means it is a known language not some unknown tongue. Then it says (in Acts 2:5-11) that there were unbelievers present at Pentecost and were hearing God’s message in their own “dialektos” dialects or language: “Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?”

Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues” (dialektos or dialects)!

So there were unbelievers present at Pentecost hearing God’s message in their own languages and their own local dialects. Sometimes it is necessary to communicate the gospel in a language that is unfamiliar to us. When this happens, the Lord can bless us with the ability to speak that language. Many missionaries have received the gift of tongues.

This gift is, **HOWEVER**, different to those who by the baptism of the Holy Spirit can speak a heavenly language – not merely a language on earth. This is the language of the Holy Spirit and it is granted to all those who walk according to the Spirit. This language is pure from heaven – uncorrupted and undefiled. We may not know what we speak but we can trust in the Spirit to speak on our behalf. The Lord can provide even an interpretation for the heavenly languages.

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues: This gift is someone who is able to interpret another tongue or language. Tongues (earthly languages) are a sign for unbelievers and not for the church, as it proves to unbelievers God works supernaturally. Paul writes, “In the Law it is written: ‘With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.’ Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers” (1 Corinthians 14: 21-22).

Isaiah 28:11-12 is where Paul quotes Isaiah the prophet, “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, ‘This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.’” This clearly indicates that the gift of tongues (Greek for languages) and the interpretation of them is that of a known language as a witness to unbelievers.

Paul wants to make clear that we should not elevate one gift over another but esteem each and necessary for the completeness of the Body of Christ as Paul says in I Corinthians 12:12-23, “Now if the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.”

So as we move in the dunamis power of the Holy Spirit by operating in the spiritual gifts, let us always keep in mind everything but everything must always be done in love for God is love. In whatever gift we move, may it glorify the Lord, may it glorify His Name and let it be done in love. For Paul wrote at the end of 1 Corinthians 12: And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one of the choicest graces and the highest of them all: unselfish love].

And so Paul continued with his writings on love in chapter 13 saying: If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love [for others growing out of God’s love for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction]. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy [and speak a new message from God to the people], and understand all mysteries, and [possess] all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love [reaching out to others], I am nothing. 3 If I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body [b]to be burned, but do not have love, it does me no good at all.

Indeed, God wants us to move in the dunamis of the Spirit by moving in the gifts, but we can only do so when we remain in the Spirit, thus in the Lord, and therefore walk in His Presence. Then we shall bring glory and honour to the Lord.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Wielding the Word of the Spirit

Module 2 *Chapter 6*



FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

Layout E Cloete

We read in Ephesians 6, regarding the spiritual armour, that we wield the sword of the Spirit. When dealing with the sword of the Spirit, we need to take into consideration Hebrews 4: 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. So the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. But as we will see, this is not merely the Logos (written word), but the Rhema (the utterance of the Spirit).

We need to know how to wield the Sword effectively as a means to wage war against the principalities, authorities and rulers of the darkness as recorded in Ephesians 6. We need to know how to wield the sword effectively when it comes to ministry, to be witnesses unto God and to move in the power of God. A sword in the hand of the warrior is of no use unless the sword is being wielded and used.

We can only wield the sword of the Spirit when we are completely submitted and yielded to the Spirit. To wield the sword is simple – it is when you speak as the Spirit leads, and this applies to our daily walk, not just when we are ministering. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. We can only be an example in word and in conversation and in spirit when we are led by the Spirit, and therefore when we are completely and utterly submitted to the Spirit. After all, everything we must say and do must be by the Spirit of the Lord.

It is written in Luke 12: 11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say. We find when Jesus spoke to His disciples that He told them they do not have to wonder what to say, for the Spirit will lead them in such conversation. This is called wielding the Spirit of the Lord, for you are speaking Word as directed by the Spirit of the Lord.

To understand how to wield this flaming spiritual sword, one has to understand that we are talking about Logos and Rhema, which in Greek means an utterance. Rhema is therefore the utterances of God in Spirit (the breath of God). This utterance comes greatly in the form of any speech that glorifies God, be it revelations, preaching, evangelism and prophecies. Everything we say must be to lift up the Body of Christ (the Church) to the glory of God. By lifting the Church we lift the banner of Christ and therefore we drive back the spiritual darkness.

Rhema is the sword, but we need to wield it. We need to learn how to effectively minister with this weapon. It means uttering as the Lord leads, and to utter in the Lord's authority and by His will. Taking hold off the sword and wielding it calls for activation of dunamis, which occurs when we speak the utterances of the Spirit. The sword moves when we speak the utterances of the Lord, therefore we have to remain fully in the Spirit. Remember, the Spirit of the Lord moved in Genesis 1 when the Lord spoke. Just so, we must speak according to the will of the Lord and by the direction and guidance of the Spirit for the sword to be wielded.

To be blunt, everything that we say throughout the day should be Spirit-filled, led and inspired, not in times of ministry, or in times of persecution, but all the time! Yes, our words must indeed be salted for it says in Mark 9: 50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Jesus Christ is the Word who became flesh. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. When we speak Rhema, we reflect the image of Christ, just like one would sign a flashlight into darkness. Darkness has to yield to light, for Christ is above all darkness, therefore darkness yields to Rhema.

We read the following: The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine line, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations (Revelations 19). Indeed, the sword is the Word of God for what is written is the Truth and the Word (Jesus) upholds all.

This prophecy of Revelations 19 also reminds of the ministry of Jesus as prophesied in Isaiah 11: 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 might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD - 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The sword comes from the mouth of Christ, for He is the Word and this Word is Rhema and Logos (the written word) which becomes active by the power of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus returns, He returns in judgment for He is the Word of Truth and He is the Word as spoken by the Spirit. We have to remember while on earth Jesus was baptized in the Spirit, so even the Lord Himself was empowered and equipped for ministry by the Spirit!

Indeed, by the Word of God (Sword), we speak blessings and we speak deliverance, healing, correction and judgment. There is power in the Word of God, for the Word of God when spoken by the Lord sets free. The Word of God is the Truth of the Kingdom and for those who oppose the Word opposes God and therefore walk in rebellion. So we are called to speak the Truth, thus the Word, and so we wield the Sword. Thus when we evangelise, preach, teach, exhort, encourage, edify, correct, rebuke, reproof, train, and equip we are wielding the Sword of the Spirit.

So when we read of the Sword that comes out of the mouth of Jesus, it is a picture of the Trinity with Jesus flowing with the Spirit but also uttering the Truth of Heaven. Jesus is the Truth, Way and Life. 1 John 1: The Incarnation of the Word of Life: 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus stood firm against Satan by saying “it is written”. He was therefore standing upon the Logos – the written Word of God that never changes and by which the Truth has been cast into the Rock of Jesus. Rhema will never contradict Logos, for both is the utterance, the inspiration and the truth of the Lord. To understand it even better, Rhema will simply expound, reveal, explain and unearth the complete Truth of Logos. Yet without the Spirit there is no Rhema, for then we shall try to perceive and understand by our own intellect, logic and understanding the meaning of Logos.

Jesus wrestled with Satan by proclaiming the Word, which is the Truth. For it says in Psalm 33:4 For the word of the LORD is right and true. After all, Jesus is the Word and He is the Truth. Jesus, being the Word, thus proclaimed Himself as being the Truth, for it is Jesus who sets us free from the power of darkness. And the truth of Jesus is revealed by the Spirit. So as Jesus spoke the Word, John 8 ... He spoke the Truth, and so He wielded the sword of the Spirit. Can we then see why it is so dangerous to suppress the Spirit of God, thus quench the fire of the Spirit? We then suppress the revelation knowledge [Rhema] and the understanding of the written word [Logos], thus we might fail to ultimately follow the Truth who became Word [Jesus]. For it is written: 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit.

Again, let it be noted of great importance, the Spirit of the Lord will lead us to understand and to live by the Logos, yet we shall bring Logos (the written word) to life by the utterances of the Spirit as Rhema. Psalm 119:105 says “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path”. The Logos of God shall indeed guide us in all truth, in the ways of God and in the ways of righteousness, for this is the word that David spoke of in this Psalm. Yet, as we move in the reality and power of the Spirit, the Logos becomes alive as Rhema and by the utterances of the Lord we move in the reality of the manifestation of the eternal Kingdom.

When we move in the Spirit, we also wield the sword in ministry by desiring to move in the gifts of the Spirit. Remember there are nine gifts of the Spirit, three of them (word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discernment of spirits) is designed to reveal; the next three (gift of faith, working of miracles and gifts of healing) is designed to display the authoritative power of Christ; the last three (gifts of tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy) is designed to inspire by encouraging, uplifting and comforting the Body of Christ.

If we then argue over the cessation of the work of the Spirit, thus that the Holy Spirit no longer operates as in the days of Acts, then we are going to run into real trouble! Then the Sword of the Spirit will become dull and without effect. All nine functions of the gift are Rhema, and therefore are the sword of the Spirit. As we move in the functions of the gifts, we ultimately wield the sword of the Spirit.

As we speak Rhema (the utterances of the Spirit) in the function of the first three gifts, we reveal or uncover truths and insights in the spiritual and the physical realms that have been hidden from our own wisdom and knowledge. Therefore, the revelation offered (when the Rhema is spoken to a subject/person), will enable that person to be set free from personal strongholds. Therefore the gifts enable spiritual deliverance, salvation and healing to be set in motion. Satan’s strongholds in people are set up because of sin, lies, deceit and manipulation. Revelation in the Spirit frees one by means of the truth.

Freedom in Christ is a victory over the darkness! We have therefore waged war by the sword. After all, the truth shall set us free (John 8).

The next three gifts of power enable the power of God to be released through the Spirit. We have to embrace the Rhema of the Spirit when we move in these gifts. In the gifts of faith, miracles and healing, we still have to address a subject, who or what will then receive the flow of power. We address by embracing the Rhema, which we then speak to the subject. God's power is so awesome, that under these gifts the dead is raised, the sick is healed and miracles are performed. The impossible for us becomes possible through Rhema, because for God all is possible. Again, the gifts of power flow because of the work of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are a direct war cry that states God is all-powerful and that Satan can't bind up an individual, or nature or any subject. Freedom and power lies in God, and in these gifts is the power to display God's authority in the face of Satan's subordinates.

According to Colossians, Christ is above all power, rule, authority or dominion, in this age and all the ages to come!

The last three gifts of inspiration break the shackles of darkness by encouraging and edifying God's people to move in righteousness, to stand strong, to maintain hope, to cast our eyes towards heaven, to embrace God's love and to boldly preach the good news. In individuals, it strengthens our hope in our ministry and it strengthens our faith and restores our love. Through inspiration we wage war because we know where the victory lies, we know who is by our side, and that God's word is final and will not return in void (Isaiah 55).

We do not wield the sword only when we wield the gifts of the Spirit. The sword of the Spirit is Rhema, which are the truth and the power of God's Word. Speaking the Rhema sets people free, uncovers Satan's schemes and tears down strongholds. We can utter the Rhema not just in prophecy and revelations, but also by preaching the Good News of Christ.

The Bible is the logos of God, for the Bible is written by what has been spoken. It becomes alive when the Logos is turned into Rhema, therefore when the Spirit reveals the Word to our hearts and minds. Once the Bible has been turned into Rhema in our spirit, we have yet another means to wield the sword.

Remember that we serve a living God, so the Word of God and the Spirit of God has to be breathed into us and set alive. When we preach the Rhema (the living Word) as deposited in our spirit by the Holy Spirit, we deliver the very ammunition to the subject that destroys the kingdom of darkness. For those who are preaching the good news and who are moving in the gifts of the Spirit, they are thus wielding the sword of the Spirit.

Love is the greatest virtue, and I Corinthians 13 states that all gifts, revelations and prophecies (therefore Rhema) comes to naught when not done out of love. Rhema is after all aimed to uplift, and not to destroy each other, only the darkness.

One of the greatest ways to wield the sword is by speaking in the prayer tongue as given on the day of our Baptism into the Holy Spirit. Prayer tongues are pure Rhema, spoken to God the Father and which can't be understood by Satan. When we pray we wield a mighty sword, and we tear down Satan's kingdom.

Let us move in the Spirit daily so that when God speaks, we speak the Rhema, so that God's army will be heard in the spiritual and the physical! By moving in the Spirit, we shine the light of Christ on a broken world and through the love of God, ensure revival in the land.

In these days of trials and tribulations, it is also wise for us to hold onto God's Word (Logos) and His prophecies spoken through the Spirit. Again, we cannot do so if we suppress the Spirit in any way. Declaring God's Word, therefore speaking the Truth, is not about self-gratification or manipulating the Lord. We all need to declare God's Word and stand on His Word, be it personal or corporate for the Body.

It is time we raise the banner of Christ and declare God's love, God's power and God's freedom by grace. Let us begin, as Jesus did, to state from morning to evening over all things that "it is written".

Rhema is powerful. Rhema is God's voice. Rhema is the doubled edge sword. That is a powerful sword in battle. So let us move in the Holy Spirit to declare what is written, to stand upon what has been spoken and may we speak the Word of God as made alive by the Lord to His Glory and for the glory of His Kingdom on earth.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Conformer of our Moral Fabric

Module 2

Chapter 7



Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

The work of the Holy Spirit is to change and conform our character so that we 'become' in character and nature and behaviour more like our Lord Jesus Christ. And this can only happen when we allow the Spirit to change us, to renew our minds and hearts, so that we can truly bring honour and glory to our Lord God.

Ultimately, the Spirit leads us to the reality of Colossians 3 (New King James Version): Not Carnality but Christ: 1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Indeed, all that read about in Colossians 3 is only possible in the strength, wisdom, might and counsel of the Holy Spirit. After all, when we talk about the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5, it speaks of the fruit of THE Spirit, thus the Holy Spirit, indicating in our own effort and strength we cannot bear any fruit which is truly holy and pure. Only when we yield and submit to the Spirit do we find the Spirit works in us to change and renew us to become more like our Lord.

Galatians 5 makes us realize the importance of a disciple being led by the Spirit, for it speaks of the moral fabric of a disciple: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. It is therefore important for the disciple to be baptised in the Spirit, but also to disciple others by showing them how to lead a life under the guidance of the Spirit. For when we are led by the Spirit of the Lord, we walk in the ways, nature and in the glory of the Lord, reflected in our behaviour and character.

Take note of what Paul writes ... For when we are led by the Spirit of the Lord, we walk in the ways, nature and in the glory of the Lord, reflected in our behaviour and character. Indeed, the glory of the Lord cannot be reflected in our behaviour or character without the glorious when we are not led by the Spirit of the Lord. Again, this is the work of the Spirit, to lead us to become more like our Lord Jesus in behaviour and character.

In Romans 7, Paul argues that when the Law was introduced, he became more aware of sin, but the more he became aware of sin through his conscientious approach, then the more he became aware of sin in his life and the working of sin that brings about a spiritual death. For he understood that the Law in itself is spiritual for it highlights the unspiritual nature of sin, and it forces one to realise that if one is still subjected to sin and its working then one in the end remains unspiritual. Colossians 3, the opening Scripture of this chapter, highlights the difference between following Christ and those who are still subjected to the work of sin in one's moral fabric.

Based on his argument, Paul wrote the following in the same chapter in Romans: 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. 21 So I find this law at work:

Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

Paul understood that while sin was working in him, and while he was becoming aware of sin through the Law, he had become almost wretched in his outlook regarding himself and life for he found the work of sin was so powerful that it kept corrupting him, despite his good intentions of leading a life without sin. This is the power of sin in all our lives – it has a profound effect on our moral character, for it determines how we behave, how we speak, how we act and how we approach life and those we come into contact with.

Paul takes the work of sin in his soul to such extreme by likening it to death, for it puts to death our good intentions of living according to God's laws and teachings. And yet, Paul then comes to the conclusion when he says: 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. Paul concludes that as long as we allow our sinful nature to rule our lives, we will remain a slave to our sinful nature and therefore morally we will fail to walk in the fullness of God and our character will fall short of God's intent. As long as we remain bound to the sinful nature highlighted in Colossians 3, the work of sin will remain active in our minds and we will remain feeling wretched and despondent.

There is, however, good news. In Romans 8, Paul makes it known that his argument is not yet done but now he tackles the issue of sin in the inner man by focussing on the work of the Holy Spirit. And this is the glorious message that is presented in this chapter - only when we live in subjection and submission to the Holy Spirit and follow the lead of the Spirit, then will we be no longer subjected to a life which is a slave to sin but we live as children who are under the Spirit. And such children live according the inner power and liberating glory of the Spirit and are not subjected to one's sinful nature.

Therefore, Paul therefore emphasises that in our own effort, we will remain subjected to the inner working of sin and our character and our morality will testify to it. It is only when we allow the Spirit of God to work in us, can we lead a life that strives towards holiness and character-pleasing unto the Lord.

As the Law convicted Paul of his sin, just so the Spirit convicts us of the inner working of sin in our lives and where our character needs to be refined. But the difference is that the Law in itself is void of power to strengthen us to counter such sinful work, but the Spirit of God is alive and powerful, always working in us so that we are changed in the image of God.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he refers to three types of people: the Natural Man, the Spiritual Man, and the Carnal Man. Our spiritual journey is about spiritual maturity, thus growing up from being natural to being spiritual. It is about growing mature in our character, so that we become morally mature and more like our Lord.

First of all, what is the Natural Man? The natural man is the person who does not know Christ. They have never been born-again by the Holy Spirit and therefore the Spirit does not live within them. Because the Spirit does not live within them, they neither desire spiritual things, nor can they understand them. Paul says that the things of God are foolishness to such men. To them, salvation and surrender to Christ are a waste of time. Rather than living for God, they would rather live for self.

The second type of man Paul refers to is the Spiritual Man. Perhaps the most important part of Paul's description of the spiritual man is that he or she 'has the mind of Christ.' To have the mind of Christ does not mean that we reach a level of perfection or infallibility equal to Jesus. Rather it means that Christ shares with us His spiritual wisdom that enables us to see life from a heavenly perspective and therefore make decisions that are wise for both now and eternity. How does someone become a spiritual man? The spiritual man is someone whose life is under the control of God's Spirit. I Corinthians 2: 9 However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" - the things God has prepared for those who love him - 10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. Through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, God reveals to us His deep spiritual truths. Such truths include God's plan of salvation as well as how to live the Christian life.

But there is a third type of man Paul describes and he is the 'Carnal Man.' The word 'carnal' means – 'fleshly.' When applied to a Christian, it means someone, who although they are born-again, they are still allowing their flesh to control much of the way they live and think. Paul called the believers at Corinth 'carnal' because they were still acting spiritually immature. Rather than bearing the Spirit's fruit of – love, joy and peace; these believers were yielding to old fleshly emotions such as envy, strife and division.

So we need to submit and yield to the Spirit so that we may grow from carnality to spiritually abiding in the Lord. When we consider our moral fabric and our character, we think of John 3: 1 which speaks of being reborn in the Spirit, for only then can we truly live victoriously in our character.

Nicodemus would most likely today fit our ideal opinion of what it means to be a Christian. Looking at his history he is principled, knowledgeable, morally upstanding, courteous, and humble. However, Nicodemus had two big problems despite all of that outward religious appeal. He was blind to the truth and spiritually dead. The man was lost. That is, he did not have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As a Pharisee, Nicodemus adhered to strict Jewish codes and laws, so he was certainly religious. But the problem of the lost person is not attitudes, conduct, or even character. We can change and control those through sheer determination, and so often we do. What people really need is a change of condition. We come into this world with a sinful nature that is bent away from God.

Jesus, however, explained to the observant rabbi that all his outward goodness couldn't erase, replace, or change his nature. Instead, every person who desires to serve God must be born again. The Lord promised that if Nicodemus received Him as Saviour, then he would enter into a brand-new life. His old sinful nature would be transformed so that he could have a real relationship with God. Instead of appearing to be a religious man, Nicodemus would be a true believer.

When we look back over history at all the great movements rooted in humanism and philosophy, we see that indeed man and society cannot be changed through external efforts to make us appear outwardly good.

Throughout history man has sought to lay down laws of external conduct that would hopefully bring about a just and pure society, for such laws was aimed at producing citizens' whose actions are moral and good.

But such external laws have failed for only the inner working of the Spirit can change man's fallen nature. God has made man and within man is the DNA of divinity – so man is driven, inherently, to act morally just. For this reason mankind has tried to establish just societies governed by just laws, but we can only remain true to our inherent needs if we are spiritually reborn.

Numerous external laws and man's noble ideas over thousands of years to turn mankind's old nature into something noble have simply failed. Revolutions, massacres and wars over the last 00 years speak of man not becoming enlightened but remaining inherently lost. The 20th C speaks of an age where mankind, void of God, remains but brutal. The two great wars, the massacres applied by Hitler and Stalin, ethnical fighting and the constant dangers of wide destruction caused by nuclear weapons speaks of failed external laws. Without God mankind is left to the reckless and dangerous actions of our old nature.

Man's behaviour and his conduct simply cannot be conformed or be determined by the application of external laws or by appearing good or even religious. Only the internal working of the Spirit that conforms our spirit and soul will lead to man becoming heavenly civilised. Such internal workings enforced by the Spirit are one of divine and eternal nature. Jesus said it is what is inside a man that makes him unclean. Once man is reborn spiritually into a new creation, only then will he live just, moral and ethically good.

No one after all gets into heaven on the strength of good works and kind behaviour. When we stand before God, only our spiritual condition determined by a true relationship with the Lord will matter.

And so we read in Ephesians 4: The New Man: 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, putting away lying, “ Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. 26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Romans 12 also expounds on what it means to behave like a Christian: 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “ If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let us then seek the Lord so we may be changed in our spirit, and in our soul, meaning our heart and our mind. The more we submit and yield to the Spirit of the Lord, indeed the more we become like the Lord and the more our minds and hearts become renewed.

As mentioned, we in our natural way cannot do this by our own effort, for this Paul discovered. Only when we yield and submit to the Spirit can we be inwardly changed, and not just outwardly appear to be good and just.

In the strength, wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit do we move closer to Ephesians 3: 14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to work in us so that we changed morally to be just and good. Let us allow the fruit of the Spirit to become manifested in us as we yield and submit to the Lord.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Led in the Truth of the Lord

Module 2 *Chapter 8*



Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

One of the fundamental works of the Holy Spirit is that the Spirit leads us in all truth. This is confirmed by John 16: 5 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

It is written that the truth shall set us free (John 8:32). Therefore, the work of the Spirit sets us free. And who is the Truth? Jesus, who is the way, truth and life. So the Spirit leads us to all of Jesus, therefore meaning His nature, character, His teachings, His way of thinking, His spiritual outlook, His behaviour, and His ministry. Jesus said that no one can go to the Father except coming through the Son who is the Truth. Therefore the Spirit comes to lead us in all truth so that we can draw closer to Jesus in order to come closer to the Father.

Now, what is this Truth? It is not merely the truth regarding our spiritual condition before we find the Lord. This is the truth of our thinking, our perceptions, our habits, our attitudes, our outlook, our nature, our character, our hopes, our fears and our spiritual awareness. It is the reality of our reality, the truth of our truth and the reality of God in our lives.

If the Truth sets us free and the Spirit leads us in all truth, then the work of the Spirit is the one who brings us out of the darkness of our 'deadness' in the soul and spirit into the life of Christ.

Many have studied the Word to qualify as preachers and teachers, but the Lord has always made it clear that the only one who can truly lead us in all the truth is the Holy Spirit. And that is the key – all the truth. Not partial truths, not partial pieces of the puzzle, not 80 per cent authenticity in all matters, but 100 per cent truth of all things divine.

We so often read John 16 but we fail to comprehend what Jesus was saying.

We have to understand that just as the 12 disciples learned directly from Jesus about all truth, so Jesus made it clear that when He is no longer on earth that the Spirit will take His place to lead us and teach us in all the truth.

For this reason it says in 1 John 2: 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

The Bible warns us over and over, in the Old and New Testament, regarding false theology, false teachings and false word. We are encouraged to test all things, and we are encouraged to remain true to no other truth than what was taught by Jesus, for He is after all the truth, way and the life.

It says in 2 John 1: 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

John sounds a clear warning. If we walk not in the doctrine of Jesus, which is the entire truth according to God, then we are deemed to be a deceiver. And indeed, when we abide in the true doctrine, then we have the Son and the Father. But we can only remain in the doctrine of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit who leads us in all truth!

Does this mean we must not be taught by man? Not at all. God after all gave us the Great Commission (Matthew 28) to disciple the world and to teach mankind all that we have learned from Him.

But we cannot be naïve – human we are and sometimes, just sometimes, not all the truth is presented. After all, how can man know all the truth? For this reason we were given the opportunity to walk with the Holy Spirit, for He is God and the Spirit knows what is right and wrong, what truth is and what lies are, what deception is and what divine inspiration is.

We must be vigilant in seeking and knowing the truth, be aware and mindful of the pitfalls that await us as we endure this information overload. And if we allow ‘doctrines’ and ‘dogma’ to settle into our spirit that is not approved by the Holy Spirit, it can lead us to down dangerous paths of a spiritual wilderness. Whatever we therefore learn, whatever we therefore read, whatever we are taught, we are admonished and encouraged to test it all – and so we are called to draw closer to the Spirit so that we may know all the truth and walk in the truth and abide by the truth.

It says in Galatians 1: 6 which says “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

The Apostle Paul therefore makes it clear that we must only preach the Good News of Jesus, and no other doctrine, or truth. After all, only the TRUTH of Jesus sets us free according to John 8. And if we preach any other so-called truth, then we become accursed, meaning we are a curse when we speak not the complete truth of God for then we are speaking lies.

Let us adhere to the warning of 2 John 1: 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

We also take note of the warnings of 2 Peter 2, 2 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy and 1 Timothy 4:1 regarding the false teachers who lead so many astray to believe in a different Gospel. After all, there is the constant pressure to transform to the ideals and values of the world, or to conform, or to become more secular, or to become more humanistic or even to act like gods, or to get 'with the times' or to agree with the agenda of the devil.

Yes, there is constantly pressure to bow the knee to the golden statues of this world in order to become more popular and more liked. But we shall not bow to such altars, but like Daniel, only bow before the Lord God. In our relationship with the Lord and as we bow before Him, then we walk in the power to set people free and to see God's Kingdom manifested under all circumstances and situations.

Again, let it be stressed, no false doctrine, no false teaching and no other Gospel except the Truth of our Lord Jesus must be preached or taught. We as disciples of the Lord are not here to tickle anyone's ears.

We are not here to be popular. We are not here to become famous, loved or to gain a grand reputation. We are here for one reason – to proclaim the Truth of our Lord Jesus, and only His Truth. If such Truth offends, then one is offended by God Himself. It is that simple. We are not here to entertain myths or to fuel man-made fictions. We are here to save people from the flames of hell, and to lead them on the glorious path of our Lord Jesus.

God is God for a holy priesthood of God-fearing believers who walk in His Glory as disciples of the Most High. This we shall proclaim, for it is time to be worshippers in spirit and truth. We are here for the Truth, to stand on the Truth, to adhere to the Truth, to defend the Truth, and to fight for the Truth. We will not play secular music, or entertain light-hearted celebrity news or gossip, but we will continue to stand for the Truth and preach the Truth of the Lord. The Holy Spirit came to lead us in all truth. Thus the Truth of the Kingdom, therefore the Truth of the King of kings. This is therefore one of the key works of the Holy Spirit – leading us in all truth. Why? Only the Truth of our Lord sets us free and liberates us from the clutches of darkness.

Only the Truth of the Lord shall guide us and lead us on the true spiritual journey of dwelling and abiding in the Presence of the Lord. For then we can also cry that “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105)” simply because we have allowed ourselves to be led by the Spirit, who leads us in all truth.

Let us therefore continue to proclaim the undiluted God-fearing, all-consuming, holy fire truth of the Lord who shakes empires and kingdoms and whom brings vast enemies and armies to its knees in one breath.

In the end, cry out along with Peter and the apostles, when under threat of imprisonment, when they said to their accusers: “We must obey God rather than men [we have no other choice].” (Acts 4: 29)

Indeed, we must remain true to the Truth of the Kingdom. We must never compromise with the Truth. We must uphold the truth and walk in the truth, and this can only be done under the guidance of the Spirit.

Ultimately, the work of the Spirit of the Lord is for us to walk in Truth, and to defend and uphold all Truth. Not the truth as determined by man, but the truth as determined by the Lord.

For then we shall be worshippers in spirit and truth. And so it says 1 Corinthians 2: 14 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. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

Indeed, we must have the mind of Christ to discern truth, to speak truth and to operate in truth. This comes by a life of walking in the Spirit, and submitting and yielding to the Spirit of the Lord.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Made Alive in Christ

Module 2

Chapter 9



Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

One of the great works of the Holy Spirit is the process of making us “alive”, for ultimately the Gospel is about being wakened up from our state of spiritual deadness and slumber into a new life where the Spirit leads and guides us all day. To God, it is very simple. Before we come to Him, we are dead in the spirit, and if we are dead in the spirit, then the spiritual world from which the natural is born becomes alienated and a strange concept.

It is written in “Romans 6: (New King James Version): 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord”. As our physical life comes from our parents, so life has to come from our spiritual Father – as we are birthed miraculously in the physical, so is our spiritual birth is a miracle and one that will forever astound and amaze. Indeed, Apostle Paul calls us to be alive to God, which means we need to bury our old man and our old ways to be resurrected in the fullness and glory of our Lord.

You can also call the Spirit’s work as a process of regeneration. Another word for regeneration is “rebirth,” from which we get the concept of being “born again.” The classic proof text for this can be found in John’s gospel: “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (John 3:3). We need to understand the Holy Spirit – who is God Himself as part of the Trinity - is the source of new life.

Moses told the Israelites prior to entering the Promised Land that “The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live” (Deuteronomy 0:6). This circumcision of the heart is the work of God’s Spirit and can be accomplished only by Him.

Right in the beginning, the world was dark and void of life. We read that the Holy Spirit hovered. Yes, He was first mentioned as part of the Trinity. Only when the Father spoke “let there be light” did the Holy Spirit move and bring about life. Yes, the Father spoke, and so the Spirit was activated to bring about life and so the earth was rebirthed.

If we are talking about the Holy Spirit being the conceiver of life, consider “Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

Yes, the Lord Jesus was conceived and brought to life by the Spirit of the living Lord! Indeed, Jesus said He is the Life and He gives Life in abundance, but remember the Lord is ONE, and so Jesus while one earth was operating and functioning in the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit! After all, Jesus was baptized by the Holy Spirit.

What about Ezekiel 37? And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.

The Holy Spirit is described also as Ruach Elohim, for Ruach means wind, breath or spirit. Indeed, He is the Spirit (Ruach – the Breath) of God. Ezekiel 37 is a demonstration of the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, which in this case brought Israel ‘back to life’.

At the time Israel as the 2 kingdoms had fallen into deep idolatry and apostasy and consequently suffered captivity at the hands of Assyria and Babylon. Yet we serve a God that restores and bring to life what seems dead and buried. The tribe of Judah must have felt dead and buried while in exile, but the Holy Spirit brings to life and restores what seems impossible! For this reason we read in the Book of Zachariah that it is not by power or by power, but by the Holy Spirit.

Yes, it is not by our influence, or our intellect or status that we bring about restoration or life, but only by the power of the Holy Spirit. It also says in “Job 33: 4 The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” The Spirit of the Lord activates the life-giving power so that we are reborn, rebirthed and rec-connected with divinity!

The word Ruach is also used for the Lord in Genesis 1: 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Indeed, the power of the Holy Spirit is also evident in Isaiah 40 that it is beyond the influence or manipulation of man: 13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Also consider Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. The word “breath” is the Hebrew word N@shamah, which also means spirit. So the Lord breathed His breath (His Spirit) into man in order for man to become alive. What is born out of the spirit is spirit and out of the flesh is flesh. Our flesh cannot be alive without a spirit. So God breathed “spirit” – His life – into us so that we may have a spirit and therefore live. It says we were made in spirit (Jeremiah 29) but we are born into flesh. Yet, as we are born into flesh, our spirit becomes dormant. It is when the Spirit of the Lord comes upon us when we wake up in the spirit and begin to walk according to the Spirit.

We can see the powerful work of the Holy Spirit as the activator of life also in “Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” John 6:63 says in the Amplified that “it is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh conveys no benefit [it is of no account]. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life [providing eternal life].” The King James says it as follows: It is the spirit that quickeneth ...

So we need to realise life is a spiritual issue. Life is not simply the biological event that begins with conception and ends with the last heartbeat. The ‘flesh’ represents the biological expression of life but is mortal, fragile and temporary. When Jesus says the flesh profits nothing, He is speaking of the inability of the flesh to produce true life in the spiritual sense. Eternal life, the life of God, cannot be generated by mortal flesh. Only the Spirit can give that kind of life.

Jesus declares that His words are Spirit, and therefore life. Jesus, the Word made flesh, therefore speaks words which are Spirit and life, because on earth He was also baptised in the Spirit. Now what happened on the day of the crucifixion? It says in John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

Remember, the Holy Spirit dwelled within Jesus, for this happened on the day of the baptism. Yes, the Lord was conceived by the Spirit but the Spirit only dwelled within Jesus at the start of His ministry. So Jesus “breathed” the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Glory to God! The Holy Spirit who is Ruach Elohim, thus the Breath of God, was now ready to stay on earth in order to be the One to regenerate and to make us alive again in the spirit so that we may be truly worshippers in spirit and truth!

Yet, as we must remember, God is ONE, and the Trinity is ONE, so God moves and acts as ONE even though the Lord is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet, we still need to realise how the Holy Spirit comes to regenerate, give life, and make us alive. This is the work of the Lord. We have all been made by God, and His life is inside of us. Yet when we depart from the Lord we depart from “life”. And just so God has called us to be awakened and to reconnect to the life divine, so that we truly live and not be spiritually disconnected, thus dead.

Now we might wonder why it is important to become alive in our inner spirit. There are several reasons.

First most, it is to reconnect with God who is Spirit. The fall of mankind into sin led all of us to be born into a sinful world, yet the Blood of the Lord is the bridge that reconnects us with our divine Creator.

Secondly, so that we become aware of the spiritual realm from which the natural world is created {therefore the spiritual realm is more real and everlasting}, while thirdly, those who become aware of the spiritual, they will begin to live in the spiritual and according to the spiritual, and not according to the world and its limitations.

For this reason it says in Colossians 3: (New International Version): 1Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things 3For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. As we are made alive in Christ, we begin to set our minds on the spiritual, on the eternal, and the everlasting Kingdom of our God.

We are reminded in the New Testament that we are baptized into Christ and therefore made alive in Him. This means our hope, our refuge, our future, our reality, our dreams, our desires and our present and everyday life rests in Him. But we cannot live in Christ without the Spirit waking up our dormant spirit. For as we are made alive, then Galatians 3: 26 becomes a reality: For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

For it says in John 15 that if we abide in Jesus then He abides in us – this implies a wakened state of being aware of God's influence in our life and we become aware of His truth and His reality. This is but part of the work of the Spirit – He makes us alive and quickens in us so that we may dwell in the fullness of the Lord.

Romans 5 speaks about death in Adam and Life in Christ, meaning there is death in the fallen ways and in sin but true life in the Lord: 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Indeed, as we are made alive, we are made alive to the Spirit and by His grace we become dead to sin in our mortal bodies. For it says "even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life". Jesus' death and resurrection means our lives are justified, which speaks of an eternal hope for we are here not merely by accident but for a purpose! In Jesus, "many will be made righteous." and because of grace "so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We are therefore wakened up to a life justified by faith and a life made righteous by the work of the Spirit.

If we therefore walk according to the Spirit (Romans 8) as a people who are justified and who have been made righteous - and this walk only can begin once we are woken up from our spiritual slumber - then only can we truly walk in the fullness of the Lord by the power of the Spirit. And this fullness comes by an awakened spiritual state as we draw closer to a spiritual life beholding the Spirit of God. Only then will we walk according to a life in the Spirit and not a life dictated by the bondages of indwelling sin. We need to therefore be woken from our spiritual slumber so that we may become aware of the Spirit, and once we do so, we can allow Him to fill us, lead us, guide us and change us so that in the Spirit we may lead life because of righteousness.

Paul writes that "anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (Romans 8:9)" Therefore, how can we truly be dead in Christ and be raised in Christ as a new creation without the power and working of the Spirit? And so we are reminded in Romans 8 of the following truth: But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Spiritually in the now and spiritually in the afterlife we will walk in the life of God because of the inner working of the Spirit who wakens our dormant spirit to the truth and life of an everlasting God and King!

Let us also read Ephesians 2: By Grace Through Faith: 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

If the Spirit truly dwells in us and wakes us up to the glorious truth of a spiritual life which frees us from the natural bondages of this world, then we in the spirit are raised to “sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”, which means our spiritual position is resurrected from being dormant and dead to being one of redemption and salvation.

And so, by the power of the Spirit, we can begin to walk in the authority and anointing of the Lord, which will not be possible as long as we remain dormant and dead in the spirit! How we need the Spirit to work in us so that we become “His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”.

The following Scripture also speaks of us becoming alive in Jesus, which becomes a reality by the inner working of the Spirit. And this “resurrection” from our old life means redemption and sanctification from our sins and trespasses.

Colossians 2: (New King James Version): 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

What does this all mean? If we remain spiritual dead, we live in the natural, and if we live in the natural, we live according to the truths and realities of the natural, and we live according to the world and according to the flesh.

As long as this happens, we remain conscious of sin, of the world and of our own self-image and desires and wants. Without becoming alive in God, and becoming aware of the Spirit and the spiritual realm, we will not be able to see past our sins and our failures and our fears, and we will remain bound to strive to fulfil our dreams and ambitions by our strength.

Yet in God and in the Spirit of the Lord we become God-conscious and Word-conscious, which means that we live according to His truth, His life, His way, His love and we are strengthened and empowered to lead a life in the fullness of the Lord. Only when we are made alive by the Spirit, do we lay down our will and allow God's perfect will to become a reality in our lives, and so we live then not according to our dreams, but we live according to the dreams that God has for us.

In the end, the way of the flesh and of the world causes us to fall into all kinds of sin and carnal desires, and our outlook on life, our patterns of thought, our emotions, our will and our desires and dreams are all shaped by the Self and by the world, and is not guided and ordained by the Lord.

It is only when the Spirit wakes us up from our slumber do we begin to walk in a manner that is glorious and wonderful, and we become aware of the guidance of the Spirit who leads us in all truth. Our truth and reality of things is shaped by our upbringing, culture, education, tradition and influences. These truths and realities are bound by the natural and so we are blinded to the truth of the Lord which is settled in heaven and always supersedes the natural. So it is when the Spirit wakes us up that we begin to realise that in the Spirit we are called to walk as children of the divine Lord, and in the Spirit and Truth we shall be free to pursue the fullness of life in Jesus and we shall manifest the fruits of the Spirit. As we therefore become aware and conscious of the spiritual realm and we become aware of the Lord's truth and we become aware of His Presence, then we follow His complete will for our lives. While we are sleeping and dormant in the spirit, we will fail to “see” according to John 3 God’s plan, will and purpose for our lives.

How we need to become truly alive in the Spirit - He who leads us in all truth. This is thus the work of the Holy Spirit – bringing us out a state of spiritual deadness and slumber to be awakened/regenerated to the reality and presence of a holy and pure God.

In that awakening, we know He is real, alive, true and wonderful. And we will finally begin to find our purpose, our direction, our guidance, and we begin to live for the eternal Kingdom. This is only possible when we become alive – thus revived, thus regenerated – coming out of our spiritual comatose and spiritual deadness just like Paul was awakened on the road to Damascus. May we truly come alive and know that God is alive, and that in Him we find live for He is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25) and such life is a life of abundance.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Our Divine Parakletos

Module 2 *Chapter 10*



Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

John 16: 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; 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.

When Jesus spoke this to His disciples, He was referring to the third Person of the Godhead that completes the Holy Trinity: God the Holy Spirit. The Greek word that is translated as "Comforter" or 'Advocate' or 'Helper' is Parakletos. The Greek prefix 'Para' refers to being 'alongside', just as what we get the word paramedic. Jesus was therefore saying that it is beneficial for Him to go so that the third Person of the Godhead – the Holy Spirit – can come alongside us and through the baptism infill us to such a measure that we have 24 hours all day access to the Lord Almighty!

In John 14 it says: 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

What a wonderful thought when we ponder the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will be in our life everything He as the Son of God was to the disciples while on this earth. However, it will be better for us because the Spirit will be in us and will be with us at all times. Not just His Presence with us, but actually abiding within. We do not lose out by Jesus physical departure; rather we gain with the presence of the Holy Spirit with and in us now. Jesus shows us that the Holy Spirit will be to us everything that He has been to His disciples on the earth. Just like they asked Him questions, fellowshiped with Him, looked to Him for advice and guidance, so too we can look to the Holy Spirit within.

The fact that Jesus uses the word 'another' means that He is sending One like Himself - a personality. This is further proof that the Holy Spirit is a Person and not just a force or 'thing'. We should relate to the Holy Spirit just as the disciples related to Jesus.

We can learn about our relationship with the Holy Spirit by examining Jesus relationship with His disciples.

It is up to us how much we take advantage of the indwelling Holy Spirit. If we learn to look to Him and lean upon Him more we will gain more from His Help. If we choose to go on with our lives without looking to Him then we will do without His help. He won't force Himself and His help upon us.

There are those who have learned to look to and lean upon the Holy Spirit within and they have greatly benefited from His ministry. There are, however, the multitudes of Christians who have simply neglected Him, sometimes through ignorance of Him while other times simply through not taking the time to learn how to draw from and respond to Him. On the earth, Jesus was restricted to a body. He could only be in one place at a time. The Holy Spirit can be in all believers at the same time. This is therefore better than what the disciples had! We have moment by moment access to the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

When we ponder the word 'helper' we realize that it has always been God's intention for us not to go through life alone. Sadly, many people think they don't need any help in life. They think they can do it all alone, or that they have all the tools they need to be a success in life, but in truth the evidence speaks for itself. A lot people are simply not making the success that they thought they would. We do need help, and God has made available to us the Greatest Helper there is.

Indeed, Jesus is also our Helper, as He proved to His disciples and this same word 'parakletos' is also used in reference to Jesus ministry toward us now: 1 John 2: 1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

It says in Romans 8: 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Speaking in reference to Jesus Himself, the word 'Parakletos' is used in the Greek and is translated as 'Advocate'. The Greek word for Advocate is Parakletos, which is found in John 14:16, 26; 15:26 and 16:7 in the words of Jesus with reference to the Holy Spirit and then also in 1 John 2:1 referring to Christ Himself. The short definition of Parakletos is an advocate, comforter, helper, therefore an intercessor, a consoler and a comforter. Right now, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20) where He is taking up the role of our 'Parakletos' before the Father. He is helping us in heaven, speaking up for us before the Throne of God, like a legal assistant or advocate speaks up in a person's defense.

It is vital to understand how important it is that the Holy Spirit is our legal assistant. Let us understand, we are involved in a war against the devil. We all know this. Every day the devil is roaming like a lion looking to devour. For this reason it says in 1 Peter 5 that we need to be alert and of sober mind. The King James puts it as "be sober, be vigilant."

When we deal with the devil, we need to be sober minded, we need to be vigilant, we need to be awake and alert because he is on the prowl and he is looking for means and ways to ensnare and to entrap. But let us remember the devil cannot devour just at whim as he pleases. He devours where he has the legal right to do so. This is why he is on a prowl. The devil walketh about, seeking which implies he is constantly searching for ways to bring a legal case against us.

Let us first make it clear that we need to have a key understanding of how the devil works and how the spiritual realm works. Sure, he uses his demons to oppress, harass, manipulate and even cause great harm, but let the devil is also a master at knowing how the spiritual realm works. Ultimately, our battle is a legal one. To put it simply, if we give the devil the right to attack, he will attack. If we do not give the devil no foothold (Ephesians 4:26), he cannot do much to hinder us or to entrap us. Certain translations say we must not give opportunity, or no place for the devil to come into our lives.

Let us understand by wisdom the spiritual battle is very much a legal one. Everything is about legal ground and the legal right in the spiritual realm.

If you are under the Covenant by your right of adoption as sons or daughters of the Lord, then God is Your Father and the Kingdom is give unto His disciple (Luke 12). Therefore we have the legal right to act on behalf of the Lord and the Kingdom. We cannot pretend to act on behalf of the Lord when we do not have that relationship with the Lord, therefore if we are not truly adopted. After all, the Lord knows who truly follow Him and those who truly follow this world.

We are talking about legalities, for the Kingdom of God is run as a heavenly government. There are laws. God is not a God of disorder or lawlessness. If we transgress, sin or walk in iniquity (when we do advocate sin, or the iniquity in our bloodline) then we find ourselves out of order in regards to God's Kingdom. Therefore, if we act illegally within the spiritual realm, the devil has a right to be our adversary, which means he has the right to accuse us and he has a right to take a stand against us. Yet when we are in right standing with the Lord, then the devil has no legal case against us. It is that simple.

The devil in contrary fashion is described as an accuser and the adversary. Let us go to Revelation 12:10: Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. So here we find the devil is described as the 'accuser'. This word in Greek is kategoros (also found in John 8:10; Acts 23:30, 35; Acts 24:8 ; Revelation 12:10). The word derives from kata and agora; which means 'against one in the assembly', therefore a complainant at law.

Consider also the following Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Remember, adversary as in "enemy" or "opponent" is related to the words adversarial, or hostile, or adverse, meaning against or contrary. The Greek word for adversary is antidikos, which is defined as an opponent (at law). It comes from the Strongs word 476 antídikos (from 473 /antí, "against, off-set" and 1349 /díkē, "justice, a judge"), meaning properly, a prosecuting attorney arguing a case-at-law; an "opponent at law". Strongs 476 antídikos describes this as someone who brings formal charges, such as they are binding to exact penalty.

Satan therefore acts as such an adversary, bringing the "(law)suit" of darkness against believers for their eternal damnation (1 Peter 5:8). Offsetting this is the perfect sacrifice of Christ (John 19:30). Antidikos can therefore be seen as a technical legal term used in antiquity of an adversary in a courtroom, therefore someone seeking official (formal, binding) damages.

So both the terms accuser and adversary deals with legality, as someone who brings a legal case in a court of law. This is how the devil works. He roams about, looking and seeking where he can bring a legal case against us. And he can do so where we entertain sin, iniquity, idolatry, rebellion, deception and immorality.

So where the devil is the accuser or the adversary within the spiritual 'court' we find the Lord Himself is our advocate! As mentioned, the Greek prefix 'Para' refers to being 'alongside', just as what we get the word paramedic. In John 16 Jesus was therefore saying that it is beneficial for Him to go so that the third Person of the Godhead – the Holy Spirit – can come alongside us and through the baptism infill us to such a measure that we have 24 hours all day access to the Lord Almighty! Why? So that we can walk in Truth, holiness, purity, and in the wisdom of the Lord so that the devil cannot have a case against us in order to devour us!

So whenever the devil does make a case against us in the spiritual realm as the accuser, then the Father as the Righteous Judge listens. If the devil has no legal right or no ground to pursue such a legal matter, then God dismisses the matter. Yet if we have given the devil a legal right to act, then the devil will be allowed to act based on the legality of his case. This was the case with Job, for the devil had no case against the man of God but God allowed the devil to tempt him. All things are allowed and upheld by God the Father, and He judges in fairness and according to legality. Therefore, if we give the devil no foothold, then the devil cannot anything. His accusations will fall on deaf ears, yet it is another matter when he has a right through legality to tempt and deceive us.

In John 14 it says: 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. What a wonderful thought when we ponder the work of the Holy Spirit. Just like the disciples asked Jesus questions, fellowshiped with Him, looked to Him for advice and guidance, so too we can look to the Holy Spirit within. Why? So that we can walk in the way of the Lord, so that we can be worshippers in spirit and truth and so that we can remain legally active in the Kingdom of God. We need the Advocate to help us not to stray lest we are devoured by the world in sheep's clothing!

What more could we hope for? God has gone the full distance for us and provided us with all the help we need to be a success and to prosper in spirit, soul and body. Just as Jesus promised, He has not left us alone in this Christian walk. We have right now the Holy Spirit and the Son of God aiding and helping us!

It is important to note that the Holy Spirit is our 'helper'. He provides us with help. In other words He does not do everything for us but rather He helps us to do things. The Holy Spirit comes alongside to help. He helps us in spiritual things, like prayer, our relationship with God, and ministry but He also helps us with natural everyday things. We can learn to lean on His help in our jobs and our families - with everything we do we can learn to lean upon His Help and have His input, giving us an advantage over circumstances and what we face, enabling us to come out on top of life. Once again it comes down to how much of His help we are willing to draw from, or whether we simply neglect and ignore the Helper within and try to get by on your own resources and wisdom.

You also have to love the concept that the Holy Spirit is also our Comforter, because it speaks of giving strength or support in times of pain or distress, to relieve from depression or trouble, to console or encourage. People need comfort when they are going through hard times, feeling lonely or afraid, or when they have had a great loss.

The good news is that even when there is no one else to comfort us, we have the Holy Spirit within and if we look to Him we will find that He brings words of comfort and encouragement to us. He is the best comforter there is and knows the right things to say at the right time.

2 Corinthians 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

We serve the God of all comfort! God is not One who stands in the distance, unmoved and unaffected by our pains and troubles. He is not a God who just leaves us to fend for ourselves, not understanding or even caring about the pains we go through in life. Instead He brings comfort, strength and encouragement to us through these times.

The Holy Spirit as our Parakletos is also the one who counsels us. A counsellor speaks of someone who gives advice or instruction, helping to direct a person in what to do or to make the correct choices. We all need counsel but a fool thinks he can get through life without any advice, counsel or input from other people. A wise person sees his need for counsel and benefits from it, making him a better person and enabling him to make the right choices in life. Sometimes there are things we are saying or doing that hinders our lives from flourishing, hindering our relationships and we cannot see the effect of what we are saying or doing. Someone else can see it and if we would listen to their advice it can help us begin to progress in areas that we have been hindered in.

Often pride, however, will keep a person from listening to counsel and advice. We as humans like to think we have it all together or that we know it all, but that kind of thinking will hinder you. There is always something we can learn from the input and advice of others. We also have access to more than just human counsel. We have the Holy Spirit, who is our great Counsellor, living within us. We just need to listen, take heed and follow His direction. Psalm 1: Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

We need to learn to listen to Him and take His advice and counsel at any time and in all circumstances. He always knows the right thing to do or say.

He knows the correct changes that are needed, and is willing to share with us if we will look to Him. If we are not getting His counsel it is because we are not looking to Him. He can show us the right choices to make in every situation that will make us a success and bring us out on top.

Remember what it says in Isaiah 11: 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Just like the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, He is also given to us today to live within us and give us access to these tremendous resources that He provides. God gave Him to us to benefit us because He wanted us to walk in His wisdom, knowledge, understanding and counsel available to our lives.

The Parakletos also speaks of a Strengthener and such a Strengthener adds strength or makes stronger. There are times each of us feels weak and needs a boost of strength. Often just getting physical strength is not enough, we need inner strength. People get worn down and worn out on the inside. Our spirits need strengthening and our emotions need strengthening. The Holy Spirit is our Strengthener - He is a tremendous source of strength in our lives. It says in Ephesians 3:16: that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.

This is the God we serve. We have not been left alone here on earth to suffer and toil. No, just as Jesus walked on earth so the Holy Spirit is there to guide us in all things. This is part of the mighty work of the Holy Spirit. He is our Advocate, Helper, Comforter and Strengthener. He is our Parakletos.

The Holy Spirit is within us every second, but we need to learn to submit, to listen, to obey, to follow and to trust in His guidance and wisdom. After all, we are but man, He is God! Praise the Lord for our divine Parakletos that no money can buy but only true hearts can worship. May we learn to give our entire lives in the hands of the Holy Spirit, for then we live a life not of toil or strain but a life flowing out of the strength and might and power of the Holy Spirit. After all, it is not by our might and power that we will succeed, but only in the Holy Spirit.

Work of the Holy Spirit

Discerning the Voice of God

Module 2

Chapter 11



FJ VAN DEN HEEVER
R ENGELBRECHT

Layout E Cloete

Imi.bibleschool@gmail.com

Psalm 29: Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. 2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. 6 He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire. 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.

It is all about hearing the voice of the Lord; if we do not know the voice of the Lord we cannot walk in truth and if we cannot walk in truth then we walk in rebellion and idolatry. The Word says to test all spirits (1 John 4:1), and in the day and age that we are living, we need to know when God is speaking or when the world or even the devil whispers in our ears. Do we still know how to hear the voice of the Lord? Do we know how to discern the voice? Are we aware of God speaking to us? Are we aware of how He speaks?

Consider 1 Kings 19 when Elijah was fleeing from Ahab, and God came and spoke to Elijah to give him the following instruction. 11 Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

Elijah had to know and to recognise God and how the Lord was choosing to speak to Elijah. This time, it was the small still voice. The Lord can speak to us in several of ways. God’s “voice” is sometimes the roar of thunder (Exodus 9:23, 29) or a “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12). Thunder demonstrated God’s tremendous power and evoked fear and submission. In covenantal contexts God stipulates that His “voice,” heard in both the roar of thunder and the prophetic message, is authoritative and when obeyed brings reward (Exodus 19:5; 1 Samuel 12:14-18).

The Lord can speak through a whisper, or through a loud audible voice, or through messengers, or He could be speaking to us through the elements of nature such as thunder, lightning, the wind, and the fire. In Exodus 3 the Lord spoke to Moses out of a burning bush. Can we hear the Lord? Do we know Him so intimately and so deeply that no matter how the Lord chooses to speak that we will know and recognise, discern and respond accordingly? Elijah could discern the Lord was speaking in a small voice – and so at times God will thunder, at times He will be silent, and at times He will whisper. Such is the way and nature of God. He is not a small God.

Consider 1 Samuel 3: 1 Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word

of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. 2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. 6 Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.) 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

Samuel could not recognise the voice of the Lord, even though he ministered to the Lord before Eli. Are we grasping this? Samuel was ministering to the Lord, but did not know the VOICE of God! He may have been a boy, but there is no age limit when comes to hearing the voice of God. Eli, fortunately, was able to discern it was the Lord calling and gave Samuel prompt instruction to answer. Samuel grew up to be a mighty prophet of God, but he first needed to learn how to hear and discern the VOICE of God.

How can we answer, like Samuel, "Speak, for Your servant hears" if we do not know or recognise or perceive or discern His Voice? We cannot grow into our calling or fulfil our mandate unless we begin to know the Voice of God so that we are guided by the Lord. It is amazing to hear how some today still say that surely God doesn't speak to man. But we serve an awesome God who wants to have a relationship with His children and He does speak to them – intimately on all levels. He speaks to us as God, as Father, as Friend, as Confidant, as the Commander of the Host of Heaven, and in many other capacities. It is communication, and doesn't involve elaborate religious ceremonies. It is God speaking unto His creation. Do we still hear His voice? I do believe one of the great reasons why we are not walking in God's complete Truth and in His Way and Will is because we no longer know how to hear from the Lord or we do not know when the Lord is speaking.

And this simply comes down to our relationship with the Holy Spirit ... the more we abide in the Spirit and have submitted to the Spirit, then the more our spirit is in tune with God who is Spirit. It comes down to walking in the Spirit, being touched by the Spirit, being changed by the Spirit and being transformed by the Spirit.

God speaks to us even when we are not saved, or when we are not Spirit filled, for God will

always call out to the lost and to the needy. But if we truly want to be led constantly by the VOICE of the Lord, allowing Him to guide and mould and shape us, we need to learn how to listen and discern on a deeper level which only comes through a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Take into consideration 1 Corinthians 2: 10 For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. We can therefore only know the heart and mind and ways of the Lord through the inner working of the Spirit within us. So often when you look at those who serve the Lord, you find astonishingly that many have not been touched by the Spirit, have not been baptised [sometimes not even in water!], have not submitted to the Spirit or are not being led by the Spirit. Take note, there is a difference between the Spirit coming upon you, being baptised in the Spirit and being completely led by the Spirit.

We do not just need the Presence of the Spirit in our lives, we need the Spirit within us, and we need the Spirit operating and functioning so that the Spirit can change us from the inside out so that we are more closely connected to God and His Kingdom. We can be baptised in the Spirit, but we still need to yield and submit to the Spirit daily as to be led by the Spirit. If we are not reborn in the Spirit (John 3), and led by the Spirit, how can we truly connect with God who is Spirit? And this is the reason why we are losing our way, for we have not connected with the Spirit on a deeper level. And this can be because of many reasons – such as our lack of commitment [wanting to serve God and the world], such as our lack of devotion or even a lack of spiritual knowledge and understanding how to walk with the Spirit in order to hear the VOICE of the Lord.

It says in Revelations 2:29: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. In the seven letters to the churches in the Book of Revelations, we find this same plea: To listen to what the Spirit is saying. It is the VOICE of God to lead and guide and shape and mould us. But we need to listen, we need to understand, we need to discern and be shaped by the VOICE – and we can only do so by the help and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit who was poured out to lead us in all Truth and in righteousness (John 16).

If we do not know the voice of the Lord, then we will never be able to walk in God's truth.

To have a voice means to have an opinion and if you have an opinion you have an influence,

so there has always been a struggle from the beginning of time regarding to what VOICE the world listens to. Depending on what VOICE the world listens to will determine the influence exerted upon the actions and thoughts and behaviour of the world.

Satan wants to influence people, negatively, and the Lord wants to influence people positively so that they may shine His line in a dark world. Satan wants us to walk the wide road, and God wants us to follow the true and narrow path. We are after all influenced by the VOICE that we are listening to. Depending on the voice we are listening to, it will determine our influences in life.

How often are we not shaped in our later life by the people who we listened to, such as parents, teachers, and friends? Those who get into trouble are those who have listened to the wrong voices and have been influenced negatively. If we therefore listen to the wrong voice we will be negatively influenced by such a VOICE, but if we listen to the right VOICE we will be positively influenced. Satan has always tried to get man to listen to his voice while God wants man to listen to His VOICE alone. Satan has been expressing his opinions and has therefore tried to influence people from the beginning when Adam and Eve roamed the planet. He does so to influence the world in order for him to rule and to destroy. Adam and Eve sadly listened to the voice of the serpent in the Garden and ever since a great spiritual battle has ensued regarding if the world will choose to listen to the VOICE of the Lord or the VOICE of the serpent.

In the Garden of Paradise, it was proven we can either eat from the tree of life or from the tree of good and knowledge. There is a choice, just as there is a choice to whom will we listen. Will we listen to the voices of the world that leads astray – promoting a different reality and truth – or shall we heed the voice of the Lord?

There has always been a choice - a choice between life and death, and a choice between doing good and doing evil. There has always been a choice to follow God or to follow Satan; there has always been the choice to walk the narrow path or to walk the wide path. There has always been a choice and there will always be consequences to what we choose. What we find is that over the last 6000 years a constant struggle has waged for man to be positively influenced (if they walk the right path) or to be negatively influenced [leading to death and destruction and darkness], as a decision to choose life and not death exists.

If we listen to the wrong voice and if we take notice of the wrong voice then this will determine the way we operate, the way we behave, and the way we act. We need to be careful of what voice we are listening to. We see especially since the death and resurrection of Jesus how for the last thousands of years Satan has been speaking to the world to whom he is lying and deceiving through trickery and manipulation.

We need to listen only to the voice of the Lord to walk in truth. When we follow strange and

bewildering voices, such as celebrities who capture the imagination of the masses, we end up not following the true and only God, but a false image of a god just like Israel was led astray by the image of the golden calf. Jesus says in John 10 that those who truly follow Him will know His voice and they will be obedient and they will be faithful unto His voice. His true followers will do as He commands.

If we cannot discern or understand or hear the voice of God and if we are not influenced and if we are not shaped by the VOICE of God then surely we will not know all the truth. In the end, if we do not know the truth how can we walk in the truth? John 18: 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” If we walk not in the truth then surely how can we be a disciple of the living God? Therefore, we have to come to this conclusion that Satan knows only full well that we will not walk in the truth of God and we will not be the disciples of the living God when we fail to hear and to recognise and to understand and comprehend the voice of God.

When Moses came to the living bush, God spoke and Moses knew the voice of God. And because Moses knew the voice of God he reacted to the voice and was able to put in motion God’s mandate, vision and purpose. Without recognising God’s Voice, our plans will fail, our mandates will fail, and because His will is perfect and when we follow His will we shall overcome and be victorious.

God gave Moses clear direction on what to do, so Moses went into Egypt and he called the people out of the land of slavery. Moses stood at the burning bush and feared the VOICE and obeyed the VOICE because he received a revelation of God and he knew this was God talking to. Exodus 4: Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’” 2 So the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” 3 And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 5 “that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

We cannot understand or recognise the voice of God unless we have received a revelation of God and who God is. The greater our submission to the Holy Spirit, the greater we learn about God, and the more intimately we know who the Great I AM is. We shall know His voice, His will, His heart and His Presence.

It is time again that we will listen to the voice of God. It is time again for us to receive a true

revelation of God. There is only one truth and that is the truth of God and there is no other truth. The world wants us to believe there are different truths and the world wants us to believe that there are no more absolutes and that we can believe whatever we want to believe. This is the voice of Satan and he will deceive, he will lie and he will manipulate.

It is time that we will listen to the voice of God and it is time that we thirst for a revelation of God. It is time that we return to God because truly then will we know the voice of God. The greatest revelation we can receive is not a revelation from God, but it is a revelation about God and who God is. We need to know Him! Then only will the VOICE of God change us, and then only will the voice of God begin to mould us and influence us so that we can become more like God. It is time that we return to God because we have been listening to the wrong voices far too long. If we listen to the wrong voice we will become confused and we will be deceived because Satan has come to deceive and to lie and to steal and to destroy.

It is very clear according to John 8 that if we do what the Lord says, and if we listen to His Voice than God is truly our true Father in heaven. If we choose not to obey and if we choose not to turn back then our father is the one of lies and our father is the one who has come to steal and to destroy and to kill. John 8: 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

It is time that we listen to the true voice of the Father. This is the work of the Holy Spirit – so that our spirit comes into alignment with God so that we may hear Him and understand and perceive as He speaks.

The Lord mandated John the Baptist to bring a word of repentance, for he was preparing the way of the Lord: Luke 3: 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" John is seen as the voice crying in the wilderness ... it was in fact the VOICE of God calling out through John to a people that have strayed and gone far away from Him. It was the voice of the Lord calling people back into His fold and into His loving arms. It was the voice of the Lord urging people to again follow the true Way.

Still today, the Lord is speaking through His messengers, but are we hearing His Voice

through such messengers? Indeed some messengers may be false and deceitful, but there are those who are speaking in God's Spirit. Still today, the Lord is calling people back unto a state of repentance and healing, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. How long shall we listen to the voices of the world that whisper to us? It is time that we are rise and we stand for God and listen to what He is saying.