

God

The Indwelling Power of The Spirit of God

Introduction

John chapters 13-17 are some of the most, if not the most, solemn passages in all the scriptures. Solemn because they are dealing with the last instructions of the Lord to the disciples before His death. They tell of two journeys. The journey of the Lord from God and to God, and of His own coming to God. The Lord does not deal with the final and ultimate coming to God, that will come later in John 14:3. That which is under consideration is the journey of Peter and the disciples learning the two aspects of cleansing. The first indicates from salvation, indicated by the initial washing of feet (Jn. 13:10), and the second washing of hands and feet indicates daily cleansing.

The high point is reached when the Lord says, "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God". The ideal and God's purpose is our full and present spirit appreciation of the riches of the blessing of being His own, that is being in fellowship with the Living God.

The first lesson the Lord teaches is the seriousness of defilement as this world is traversed. The Lord informs the disciples that:

- a) He knows who will sin, whether disciples like Peter or betrayed as Judas was.
- b) He knows in what way it will be committed by Judas and the time, the number and particular sins of Peter the disciple.
- c) Sin is seen when Peter, despite calling the Lord "Lord", objects to that which He is doing.
- d) Sin is seen when Judas takes the sop, the act of kindness, and reduces the Lord of Glory to a piece of merchandise to enrich himself.

There is in the message a series of impossibilities:

- a) They were to love one another as He had loved them (Jn. 13:34).
- b) They were not to let their hearts be troubled with the knowledge of sins revealed (Jn. 13:38) and His going away (Jn. 14:3). When the Lord takes something away from us He always gives better.
- c) We are to abide in Him (Jn. 15:4, 7, 10).
- d) We are to keep His commandments (Jn. 14:15; 15:10; 1 Jn. 5:2, 3).
 - i) These are things I cannot do.

The absence of teaching on the activity of the Spirit in the believer's life

In the mercy of God, I was saved on September 7th 1957, I was 13 years old and now I am 80. I was brought into the fellowship of Ballyhackamore Assembly in April 1959 which means I have been in assemblies for 65 years. To the best of my knowledge, I have never heard ministry on the types, or working of the Holy Spirit in life. I have been told He abides in us, but virtually nothing else. There have been possibly hundreds of messages on the Lord, considerably less on the Person of God and His glories, and even less on the Holy Spirit. He is almost the forgotten member of the Godhead. I have no doubt some will say the Lord told us, "He shall not speak of Himself" (Jn. 16:13), but the verse means He will not speak of His own volition outside that which is in fellowship with the Lord and the Father.

He Is a Real Person

The Spirit of God is not a mystical, whimsical, floating in air feeling like the wind on one's cheeks. He is a real person and just because we cannot see Him does not nullify His reality. I have never seen gravity, my brain, or my personality, but they are all manifested by the results in my life. The evidence of the Holy Spirit is that which can be seen. I have never seen patience nor anger, but I have seen the manifestations of them.

1. I see the outcome of the Holy Spirit's attributes:

- a) He speaks (Heb. 3:7-9)
- b) He can be tempted (Acts 5:9)
- c) He can be quenched (1 Thess. 5:19)

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- d) He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30)
- e) He can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4)

2. He is God.

- a) Isaiah heard the voice (Isa. 6:8-9) and it was the voice of the Lord (Acts 28:25-26).
- b) To lie to Him is to lie to God indicating His deity (Acts 5:3-4).

3. He has the attributes of God.

- a) Omnipotence (Psa. 104:30; Micah 2:7; 1 Pet. 3:18)
- b) Omnipresence (Psa. 139:7-10)
- c) Omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10-11)
- d) Holiness (Eph. 1:13 – the Holy Spirit)
- e) Grace (Gal. 5:22)
- f) Love (Heb. 10:29)
- g) Truth (Jn. 16:13)
- h) Faithfulness (Jn. 5:6)
- i) Eternal (Heb. 9:14)
- j) He can guide you into all truth (Jn. 16:13)
- k) He can bring to remembrance (Jn. 14:26)
- l) Shew things to come (Jn. 16:13)
- m) He can reprove (Jn. 16:8)
- n) He can hear (Jn. 16:13)
- o) He can glorify (Jn. 16:14)
- p) He empowers for service (Acts 1:8)
- q) He lifts charitable activities to a spiritual dimension (Rom. 12:8)
- r) He can take natural abilities and lift them to a higher level and enablement (Ex. 35:31)
- s) He can anoint to do a work for God (Isa. 61:1-2)
- t) He gives various abilities (1 Cor. 12:4-10)
 - i) Power to speak (Acts 2:4)
 - ii) Power to speak fearlessly (Acts 4:13)
 - iii) Power to discern the true from the false (Acts 5:3)
 - iv) Power to give needed help (Acts 5:16)
 - v) Power to obey God regardless of consequences (Acts 5:20-21, 29)
 - vi) Power to do first things first (Acts 6:4)
 - vii) Power to perform miracles (Acts 6:8)

- 1. One cannot grieve, lie or tempt a non-living or impersonal thing. I have a car, it is a dead, non-emotional piece of metal. It is impossible to lie to it for it has no sense of morality. I could never quench a fluffy white cloud for a cloud has no emotion. The Holy Spirit is a real person very much alive.

4. He is called:

- a) The Spirit of God (Matt. 3:16)
- b) The Spirit of your Father (Matt. 10:20)
- c) The Spirit of the Lord (Lk. 4:18)
- d) The Spirit of Truth (Jn. 14:17)
- e) The Spirit of Holiness (Rom. 1:4)
- f) The Spirit of Adoption (Rom. 8:15)
- g) The Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11)
- h) The Spirit of the Living God (2 Cor. 3:3)
- i) The Spirit of His Son (Gal. 4:6)
- j) The Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:29)
- k) The Spirit of Christ (1 Pet. 1:11)
- l) The Spirit of Promise (Eph. 1:13)
- m) The Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19)

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The mystery of the Spirit of God indwelling the believer

There is an incomprehensible mystery about the divine Persons, to understand that the Holy Spirit is a real Person, fully co-eternal and co-equal with the Father and Son, yet He dwells in every saint of God.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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