

The Person of The Holy Spirit

I would like to bare my heart to you and talk about a person. About one on whom I am completely dependant... and that person is the Holy Spirit. I know so well what David meant when he cried out from the deepest recesses of his being, "Take not thy Holy Spirit from me." You may take away everything that I have, leaving me with but the clothing on my body and the shoes on my feet, but take not the Holy Spirit from me. So important to me is the mighty Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

You may strip me of everything that I possess and of a truth, I vow before the visible and the invisible, before every angel in glory, before the Father and the great High Priest at the Father's right hand, and before the Holy Spirit Himself, if ever I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the anointing of the Holy Spirit has been lifted off my life; no longer dwelling within me, I will never again stand behind another pulpit. I will never again preach a sermon. Why? Because I know wherein lies the secret of the call on my life. I am absolutely and completely dependant on the mighty Third Person of the Trinity. He is the One whose power convicts of sin; who heals the sick; and whose leading has become very familiar to me.

As a result of what I have experienced, I believe I should share with you what I have learned regarding the Holy Spirit. We are living in the eleventh hour of this age, we are standing on the threshold of the Catching Up. God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. But because of lack of proper teaching, there are some who have gotten off the track. How can I express it? There are some who have become too familiar in their regard for the Holy Spirit, lacking reverence, speaking His name and using it lightly. Remember, this Third Person of the Trinity is holy, and when I speak His name, I feel like speaking it very softly, very conscious that He is a member of the Trinity. I can never tell you my relationship with the Holy Spirit. I can never tell you what I feel regarding this One whom Jesus sent to us. I can never begin to tell you how sacred He is to me. I caution you to remember His great importance and beg you not to treat Him lightly.

Knowing the price that must be paid, Jesus offered Himself. But first of all, before He consented to come to earth in the form of human flesh, He asked the Holy Spirit to be His strengthener and His power. Jesus knew He could not pay the price - limited by human flesh - without the power and the person of the Holy Spirit within Him.

Therefore I repeat; please never lose sight of the holiness and power of this mighty Third Person of the Trinity. And remember something else; the sin for which there is no forgiveness in this world, nor in the world to come, is not against Jesus Christ the Son, or even against the Father... but against the Holy Ghost! So be careful what you say regarding the Holy Spirit. If you do not understand the manifestations of the power of God, if you do not understand the miracles, if you do not understand the moving of this mighty Third Person of the Trinity, the best advice I can give you is to admit you do not understand. But stop right there. Be careful. Do not criticize Him.

In this glorious hour in which we are living, I would give anything in the world if every person who reads these words would catch a new vision of what God has in store for His church. This is the church's greatest hour, believe me. It is not only a time of revival, but I think we can more accurately term it a day of restoration; when God is restoring the fruits and the gifts of the Spirit to His church. He is literally pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. There is a movement of the Holy Spirit that is marvelous, not only here in the U.S., but in every part of the world. But we need some good biblical teaching along this line, lest we go off into fornication; lest we go off the deep end and bring reproach upon this Person, the one who is the mighty power of the Trinity - The Holy Spirit.

Let me pause to say something that is vitally important. No one has ever stood who believes more in the doctrine of the Holy Spirit than I do. I believe in it with every fiber of my being. Some label it the Baptism of the Holy Spirit;

others call it being filled with the Holy Spirit. Whatever you term the experience, I believe in it. It is absolutely scriptural and biblical. I have been asked if I believe in ALL the gifts of the Spirit. My answer is yes. I believe in the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit with all of my heart. I believe that the word of wisdom is a gift given by the Holy Spirit. I believe He gives to some the gift of knowledge; to other the gift of faith; and to yet others He gives the gifts of healings and miracles, etc... I believe in speaking in an unknown tongue, and I must believe in this gift of the spirit also, because it is scriptural. I believe in all the gifts, but only if the Holy Spirit Himself gives the gifts. Yes, I believe in speaking in an unknown tongue, but only as the Holy Spirit does the speaking. I have learned that wherever you find the genuine, you will also find the counterfeit.

Therefore we need to "try the spirits" (I John 4:1). When the Holy Spirit does the speaking it is beautiful and wonderful. We are awed by the beauty of it all, for remember the Holy Spirit is absolute perfection in everything that He does. I would give anything in the world for the words to express to you how wonderful this member of the Trinity is. He can be likened unto a dove in gentleness and tenderness. When He speaks through lips of clay, it is beautiful and moving and tender. There is love and forgiveness in His words and His presence.

If only I could share with you in some way and help you to grasp the working of the Holy Spirit upon whom I am so dependant. I would feel a deep sense of accomplishment. Yes, I am sold on the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, but this infilling of the Spirit is something MORE than speaking in an unknown tongue. It is something more than just the ecstasy of the utterance of a few words. One cannot "teach" another how to speak in an unknown tongue. When the Holy Spirit speaks, it is by His power alone that lips of clay speak His words. There is more to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit than a few minutes of ecstasy and joy, more than a few minutes of emotionalism.

Before Jesus went away, the last thing He taught His followers was the genuine and true scriptural evidence of having been filled with the Holy Ghost: "and ye shall receive POWER after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). After one has been filled with the Holy Ghost, there is power from on high. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience that enables one to say as Paul did, "If I wouldest need glory, I will glory in mine infirmities." (II Corinthians 12:5, 6) This is the kind of experience I am talking about: a death to self!

Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Do you want the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Remember, the Holy Spirit fills only what we yield unto Him. Science has proven that there is no vacuum in nature. If I hold a cup of water in my hand and poured the water out of the cup, it would not be empty. Air would immediately rush in to displace the water. The cup would be emptied of water, but filled with air. There is no vacuum in nature.

This wonderful experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit comes about when one empties one's self and looks up to Jesus and says, none of self; but all of you, wonderful Jesus. It is not a seeking of manifestations. It is not a seeking of an experience. Many sought an experience and have received what they sought, manifestation without power.

If you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, begin to magnify and glorify Jesus. Wherever you find the Holy Spirit you will always find Him magnifying and glorifying Jesus, for Jesus said (John 16:13, 14), "He shall not speak of himself... he shall glorify me." When this occurs, it won't be long before you will be saying, less of myself, Lord, and more of You. Then before long, you will be saying, none of myself, but all of you, Jesus! What I am talking about is an experience that means death to the self - life. I am not talking about an experience of ecstasy which lasts for only a few moments; something that is emotional. I am talking about a scriptural Baptism of the Holy Ghost, when you shall receive power.

With the genuine infilling of the Holy Spirit, there will follow a death to self. You, like Paul, will not glory in the things that you do, but glory in your infirmities that bring about death to the self-life. We talk so much about the

death of Jesus, but remember that was His cross. That was not my cross, nor was it your cross. Jesus said, "if only man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24). HIS CROSS! There can never be a true Baptism of the Holy Spirit until first of all there is a death to self.

In this great hour, you may label what is happening what you will. Thousands are calling it the "great charismatic movement," and I'm not sure if that is a right choice of words or not. I must confess that after my few experiences with the Holy Spirit, I still feel like a little child, standing on the seashore, looking out over a vast ocean. I feel as one who would pick up a pebble here and a pebble there, then stop long enough to look out over the vast reaches of water. There is so much more; more than my finite mind can conceive. Yes, I have seen manifestations of the Holy Spirit until I have felt like taking the shoes off my feet. Believe me, I know it is His power and not mine. I have so experienced the anointing of His power; I have sensed the anointing of the Holy Spirit until every part of my being was electrified with a power that was indescribable. Yet I know, that I know so little and am just ~~beginning~~ ^{beginning} to learn about Him. I feel like that little child, picking up a pebble here and a pebble there... but I know something about that death.

Turn to I Samuel 2, and read for yourself Hannah's prayer. In the sixth verse it says, "The Lord killeth, and maketh alive. He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up." This statement seems like a paradox, but in reality, it isn't. Death isn't easy and you say, I want power in my life. I want God to use me. I want to be filled with the Holy Ghost. I want that wonderful experience. I want everything God has for me.

I will not deceive you or mislead you by saying it is easy. It is NOT easy. There is a price to be paid, but I promise you, it is worth the price! Hannah said, "The Lord killeth." In words of everyday living, there goes arrogance, there goes spiritual pride. Among the greatest of all Christian graces is spiritual humility. I regret to say that the spiritual pride and arrogance present in some who profess the Baptism of the Holy Spirit causes me to question the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

"The Lord killeth..." Death is never easy and it all depends on how much we want God's spirit. How much do you want to be filled with the Holy Ghost? How much do you want to be led by Him? Are you willing to pay the price? I'll admit that there are mountain top experiences. I, too, have soared to "my Peshgah's" lofty peaks. It was glorious and I felt so close, so near, and I was so tempted to say, take me across now; take my hand and lift me over; Jesus take me now. Yes, there are those spiritual experiences that you and I would never share with any living soul. They are too sacred. When these wonderful spiritual experiences come into our lives, they are too precious to defile with words; too sacred to tell even those who are closest to our hearts. They are a priceless treasure. There is no joy to compare to the spirit's joy.

"He will keep the feet of His saints" and the wicked shall be silent in darkness, for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces out of heaven shall he thunder upon them, the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth and He shall give strength unto His king and exalt the hour of His anointed." (I Samuel 2:9, 10)

Have you experienced the wonderful thrill of being led of the Lord, when the Holy Spirit touched you, when you encountered the fire of His presence.

"He will keep the feet of His saints," the Word of God declares, and I want Him to not only take my tongue and my voice as long as there is breath in my body and as long as my heart beats and use them for His glory; but more than that, I pray He will take my feet and lead me, for when He does the leading, I follow in His perfect will.

Do you know what it means to follow the Holy Spirit? Do you know what it means to want to go forward? Do you know what it means when you desire God's perfect will more than anything else in the whole world?

Yes, I know how you feel, but let me remind you that you can never know God's perfect will until your will and God's become one. Jesus had to surrender His

will to the Father's will before He went to the cross, and I believe it was not easy for He was as much man as He was God.

"And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." It is upon that cross that the two wills become as one, and it is then that we know God's perfect will in our life. As you are led of the Spirit, He will keep your feet, and you will walk in the pathway of His perfect will. But, you will only know His perfect will when you get to the place where you have no will of your own. Easy? I would lie if I told you it is easy. I am talking about a spiritual experience that thousands are claiming but they have never known. I am talking about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who is the Third Person of the Trinity, the One who will literally indwell the vessel of clay, that out of our innermost being there shall flow rivers of living water. This is not an experience that is emotional and lasts but a few minutes. I'm talking about a life! "And ye shall receive POWER after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you."

To Jesus I surrender not my tongue or hands or feet alone, but my will as well. I am led of the Spirit. When I do not know how to pray, I seek the perfect will of God, the One who knows the Father's perfect will, and He makes intercession at the Throne of God on my behalf. Under these circumstances, I am never led into God's second best. I receive heaven's best!

Do you know this wonderful fellowship of the Holy Spirit? Do you really know this Person of the Trinity? Is there perfect communion with Him? There are thousands who are talking much about the Holy Spirit in this hour when the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon the entire world; thousands are experiencing this great movement which the world is calling, "the charismatic movement," but there is something that thousands are not experiencing: the glorious fellowship and communion with the Holy Ghost.

In the loneliness of the night when not a single star lights the sky, there can be a constant communion in the Holy Spirit. When the waters are deep and they are ready to overflow, you need not be afraid. There is a communion there. When the gates of hell are allied against you, there is a quietness and a communion and a fellowship that words can never express. It is more than an experience of a few minutes or a single experience. It is a constant and ever abiding presence of the Holy Ghost. When the enemy comes in like a flood, then the spirit of the Lord lifts up a standard against him (Isaiah 59:19). He will defend you and me! So, I stand secure, sure of the price that was paid for me. It is something more than an outward expression or manifestation. It is a deep and abiding presence. It is the greatest life in the world.

Is there trouble and need on every side? Have faith in God. Allow Him to take the self-life down to the grave that you might come forth alive in Him, and that you may grow in His glorious resources. You are never defeated! But it is not by your own strength that you gain the victory, for in your strength there are barriers and limitations. You're weak, but as you draw on His resources and power, all that is His becomes yours. You find it possible to do that which you could not do in the natural. You "tap" His resources of love, and you are able to love the unlovely and unloved ones.

"Lay not this sin to their charge," (Acts 7:60) Stephen cried, and he couldn't have uttered those words in his own strength. From the lips of Jesus as He hung on the cross, He breathed His forgiveness, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) Jesus, as much man as He was God, could not have spoken those words in His own strength as a human being.

Let me tell you what I see happening in this hour, and then you may understand better why I believe this is the church's greatest hour. I have been trying to make real, or acquaint you with the Holy Ghost, the mighty power of the Trinity. He has never worked separate or apart from the Father or the Son. All three members of the Trinity work in perfect harmony and in conjunction, one with the other. We are living in a marvelous hour when God is pouring out His spirit as never before, just prior to the moment when the Holy Spirit will leave the earth.

The glorious outpouring began when Jesus came up out of the waters of Baptism and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and the Father Himself spoke, "this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." In that moment, the Holy Spirit came upon

Jesus, anointing Him, and filling Him and equipping Him with power for the glorious miracles that happened in His ministry here on earth. Jesus did do those miracles as a member of the Godhead and in the strength of the Son of God. It was by the ~~power~~^{power} of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was well aware of that fact, for He allowed himself to be limited by human flesh. Therefore, before He returned to the Father, He gave the promise to send to the church the greatest gift possible for Him to give: the power of the Holy Spirit! "And ye shall receive power..." the same power that was manifested through His life as He lived in the flesh.

Please hear me. I beg of you do not be afraid of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus could trust the Holy Spirit - and Jesus had everything to lose - surely you and I can trust Him now. If Jesus could stake everything He had on this mighty Third Person of the Trinity, then surely you and I can accept Him.

I challenge you, do not look at the cost. Dare to be obedient to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and look up and say, "I want God's best."

The Holy Spirit is about to leave this earth and He will take the church, this glorious body of believers with Him. The bride of Christ will soon go to meet the Bridegroom. The only restraining force against unrighteousness in the world today is the Holy Spirit, and I would not want to be in the world for even five minutes after the Holy Spirit leaves. Yes, the Holy Spirit is getting Jesus' bride ready to meet Him, and this living body of believers is being perfected.

As we see the Holy Spirit poured out in a beautiful and unusual way, we are witnessing a glorious scene: God is restoring all the gifts of the Spirit, and that is not the reason for greater and greater miracles. No human power can bring healing to a sick body.

This is an hour of unprecedented mercy and great love; a time when the tenderness of the Holy Spirit is melting hearts, healing bodies, coming upon believers and unbelievers alike. What is taking place is without explanation. All I can say is this is the work of the blessed, mighty Holy Spirit.

My prayer for you is simply that this glorious communion of the Holy Spirit shall come upon you in a special way as your will and your life become one with God's perfect will, and your life becomes one with God. I know that each of us only begins to live when we know Him in the power of the Spirit, and I challenge you as I challenge myself to begin this life now; a life of yieldedness and surrender to Jesus Christ our Lord.