

REVIVE CHURCH- WORD AND SPIRIT

THE DOVE

Prophetic Word from Smith Wigglesworth in 1947

“When the new church phase is on the wane, there will be evidenced in the churches something that has not been seen before: a coming together of those with an emphasis on the Word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit.

When the Word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest movement of the Holy Spirit that the nation, and indeed the world, has ever seen. It will mark the beginning of a revival that will eclipse anything that has been witnessed within these shores, even the Wesleyan and the Welsh revivals of former years. The outpouring of God’s Spirit will flow over from the UK to the mainland of Europe, and from there will begin a missionary move to the ends of the earth.”

Word emphasis

- All Scripture is God breathed, it’s living, powerful and essential for growth and maturity.
- It originated from God and not man and is our source of all truth.
- doctrine of the Apostles and must remain every true believer’s full and complete doctrine.
- Heaven and earth will pass away but God’s word will remain forever. We are to be transformed by this living word and purposed to believe it all.
- The Word of God is unbreakable, unshakeable, completely reliable, fully inspired, the final authority!

What is wrong with that emphasis? Nothing at all.

Spirit emphasis-

- we must get back to the experience of the apostles as demonstrated in the book of Acts: there were signs, wonders and miracles
- the gifts of the Spirit were in operation; when they had a prayer meeting the place was shaken; if you got into Peter’s shadow you were healed
- until we rediscover and experience that level of power, the Church will continue to have minimal, if any, influence in the world.
- People can’t just be taught truth, they need encounter from the Holy Spirit, they need to see a demonstration.

What’s wrong with this emphasis? Nothing at all.

We must pursue word and Spirit, doctrine and power. *When we look at the full restoration of the church today, we must look at how the early church walked this out.*

In reference to the Holy Spirit coming/falling in Acts 2, everyone would agree to the words of Jesus “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” Acts 1:8 Peter replies to the Jerusalem council in referencing the baptism or outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 15:8-9 -So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith.**

When the Spirit fell in power manifesting gifts (charismata), boldness to preach the Gospel, He also purified their hearts by faith. Any idea of empowerment by the Holy Spirit that does not include the purification of the heart is lacking truth and integrity.

We are to pursue both the power and the purity, both the Word of God and the Spirit of God. There was never meant to be a separation. Jesus was the Word and He had the Spirit without measure. The early church experienced the sanctifying power of the word and Spirit. We cannot rightly define the word of God or the third person of the Trinity without using the words Holy and powerful, both sanctify and empower.

How do I walk in fellowship and unity with Holy Spirit?

In the law of first mention we can often times gain a ton of fresh revelation and insight into the heart of God, purpose plan etc. The Holy Spirit is compared to a dove.

- **Genesis 8:9** -But the dove found no **resting** place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and drew her into the ark to himself.

The dove is looking for a place to land and rest)

Gen 8:11 the dove came back with an olive branch in it's beak. **Olives were the sacred fruit used by priests to make olive oil which is used for anointing.**

Holy Spirit carries the anointing. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is released within the believer through fellowship with

- **John 1:32**- John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He **remained** upon Him.

Jesus was the perfect resting place for the dove to remain. Perfect in love, holiness, power, purity.

- **Acts 2:3**Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one **sat** upon each of them.

Holy Spirit is looking to rest and remain on the fully yielded. We are called to be a people marked by the abiding Presence of Holy Spirit. To reject any part of the word of God is to reject the Holy Spirit by whom the word was given. If someone says they believe in Jesus but don't believe and treasure His word they are not the resting place of the dove. The Holy Spirit is in full alignment with the Word!

The dove has many attributes that remind us of the Holy Spirit and provides a great illustration for the balanced church. It has nine main feathers on the left and right wings of the dove. There are also nine manifestations of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7-10) and nine fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) that are grown in us overtime as we mature in the word and in the Holy Spirit. The gifts represent the power and the gifts represent the character. It's not one or the other. There are also five main tail feathers on a dove, which can represent the fivefold ministry gifts of apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists and teachers (Eph. 4:11). The tail feathers of a dove are like the rudder of a ship—they assist in balance and direction in flight, just as the fivefold ministry gifts in the church bring balance to the body of Christ. The Spirit releases the wisdom and revelation the church is in desperate need of.

The dove has characteristics that are similar to the Holy Spirit. **Doves are white which is representative of purity and righteousness.**

1. A dove expresses its affection by stroking its young and cooing in a soft tone. **Holy Spirit is the Comforter**
2. The dove is a gentle creature and never retaliates against its enemies. **Holy Spirit Manifests His love through us**
3. Doves can easily be spooked by strange noises. It is said that a dove will return to the same spot a couple of times when hearing a strange noise but will not return a third time to the same location. **The Holy Spirit doesn't adjust for us, we adjust for Him.** Sometime the activity in worship makes a lot of noise assuming it's the Holy Spirit and He is nowhere to be found.

We need to operate in such a way that we are doing everything with the dove in mind. His Spirit, the dove is looking for a landing spot, a pure heart that longs for Jesus above all things. God wants us to have perfect fellowship with Him so that we can be full of His Presence and expose His glory by living like Jesus.

We should find out what grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit and not do that.

3 do not's concerning Holy Spirit.

1. **Ephesians 4:30-** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit is a person and He can be grieved.

Do not grieve - (GR. Lupeo) can mean get your feelings hurt. **Be sensitive to Holy Spirit, do everything with the Spirit in mind.** **What can hurt the Holy Spirit's feelings?** The next thing Paul says after do not grieve the Holy Spirit is –

Ephesians 4:31-32 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

We grieve the Holy Spirit when we are not operating out of love for one another. Bitterness towards people, anger, losing your temper, being impatient and speaking bad about someone, holding a grudge, pointing a finger grieve God. We should be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit than anyone or anything else. **What is important to God, needs to be our priority because we long for perfect fellowship.** He loves when we love Him and long to serve Him and He will empower us to fulfill His desire. *The more sensitive you become to the Spirit you will recognize more quickly when you do something that grieves Him. Do everything with the dove in mind.* Grieving does not mean you have lost your salvation but you will lose fellowship and the anointing that rests on you. *As we allow Holy Spirit to do His deep work within us through repentance, fellowship is renewed and we can walk abiding and hearing His voice, bearing much fruit.* **The dove remained on Jesus, He never grieved the Spirit in any way.**

1. **The Holy Spirit can be quenched.** **1 Thessalonians 5:19-20**¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

In Scripture the Spirit is revealed as dove, fire, oil, water and wind. Each showing different aspects of the Spirit. Quenching the Spirit refers to fire. You could only put out a fire that exists, therefore quenching the Spirit implies the Spirit is at work but man can put out what He is doing. We Quench the Spirit, when we are set in our preconceived ideas about the ways the Spirit can reveal Himself, or by not respecting His presence. It is often fear, control, unbelief that quenches the fire of the Spirit. We want to be more responsive to how the Spirit is manifesting then responding from fear of man. Fear of God helps us desire His fire and long for His Presence. God is not afraid to offend your mind to get to your heart.

Cessationism is the doctrine that spiritual gifts ceased with the apostolic age. This way of thinking quenches the Spirit of God. The dogmatic belief that the Holy Spirit stopped manifesting His gifts which include revelatory, power, and utterance gifts through the body of Christ which breeds unbelief, criticism and control. *Cessationism believes all fire is strange fire!* Commit to never put out the Spirit's fire and truly become a student of Holy Spirit. *This does not mean everything goes and it's always the Holy Spirit. There is such a thing as strange fire (flesh) We keep growing in intimacy, wisdom, knowledge and discernment in His ways.* What looks fake could be real and what appears real could be counterfeit.

1. *Matthew 12:31-32* –“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Holy Spirit can be blasphemed

Do not blaspheme the Holy Spirit. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. The unpardonable sin happens when one's final verdict is rejection concerning Jesus Christ as God in the flesh (unbelief).

In context the religious leaders were accusing Jesus of being Satan and calling the work He was doing by the power of the Holy Spirit the work of the devil. They were blaspheming Holy Spirit! **Rejecting Christ means rejecting the Father and the Holy Spirit.** We need to carry a fear of God within our heart that stays sensitive and moldable. Christians who are afraid “I pray I have not blasphemed the Holy Spirit” haven't! **If you can say in your heart that Jesus-is Lord you can have full assurance that you have not blasphemed the Holy Spirit because it is only by the Holy Spirit that you can say “Jesus is Lord” 1Cor. 12:3**

Do everything with the dove in mind. His Spirit, the dove is looking for a landing spot, a pure heart that is able to see God, to represent Him well.

Constant adjustment and awareness of His voice. Adjusting lifestyle, choices to His word, His voice. He doesn't adjust to us we adjust to Him.

Everything comes from the place of Presence. **Whenever anything in our life is out of balance we can ask some basic questions.** Am I maintaining a lifestyle that cultivates His presence in me and upon me. Am I in His word seeking His truth, letting it wash over me, am I in His voice, listening to Him through prayer, am I

part of His community, am I investing what has been entrusted in my life? Commit to being a full gospel Christian who abides in the truth of God's word and the power of His Spirit!

Home group questions

- Does the prophetic word from Smith Wigglesworth resonate with you?
- Discuss the beauties of the Word of God and the Spirit of God and why we must walk in both.
- Discuss the parallels between the dove and the Holy Spirit
- How do we live a life the Holy Spirit can rest/remain on?
- Discuss the 3 do not's of the Holy Spirit and add a list of things we should do to remain in fellowship.