

5-18-22

KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

John 14:12-18, 25-26

In (John Chapters 13-16), John reports at length on the conversation that Jesus had with eleven of His Disciples the night before His death, outlining for them what their Discipleship would entail after His departure.

A. These Words create EXPECTATION in our hearts that we might RECEIVE what has been promised.

2 Cor. 1:20 “For all the promises of God in Him are “yea”; and in Him “amen” unto the glory of God by us.”

It is the Promise that makes us aware of WHAT to EXPECT.

It is the ACTION of FAITH that causes EXPECTATION to become EXPERIENCE.

It is what our Faith causes us to DO that demands a response from God.

1) The Promise is PERSONAL.

What we experience on the PERSONAL LEVEL should only be CONFIRMED and STRENGTHENED by our corporate experience.

2) The Promise is PURPOSEFUL.

God’s LOVE for us requires that He be both CONCERNED and INVESTED in our being healthy and whole.

God’s foremost goal is that the Son be glorified through the ministry of the Spirit!

3) The Promise is POWERFUL.

It is the promise and power for radical CHANGE and TRANSFORMATION from the INSIDE-OUT.

The Spirit is a preparing agent for

- 1) RELATIONSHIP with Christ
- 2) The creation of the habit of OBEDIENCE to His Word resulting in Holiness
- 3) Partnership in God’s plan of Redemption

John reveals that

- 1) **The Paraclete would be sent by the Father at the Son’s personal request.**
 - a. **John 14:16)**–“I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another comforter...”
- 2) **He would be sent in the Name of Jesus.**

- a. **John 14:26**-“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name...”
- b. **John 16:13**- “**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.**”
- c. **The Spirit is the “matchmaker,” the celestial marriage broker, whose role it is to bring us together with Christ and ensure that we stay together.**
- d. **The Spirit acts as humanities prosecutor, working in heart after heart the VERDICT “I was wrong; I am GUILTY; I need forgiveness.” (Rom 2:4)**
- e. **CONVICTION should never be considered to be God’s JUDGEMENT...conviction is God’s GRACE in action!**
- f. **The Spirit’s WITNESS is a matter of His opening the inward ear and applying to the individual conscience the truths that the Word of God sets before the mind.**

3) He would stay with the Disciples FOREVER.

- a. **John 14:16b**-“...that He may ABIDE with you FOREVER...”
- b. The idea that John is trying to REVEAL is that **the Ministry of the Spirit would be both CONSTANT and CONSISTANT.**

The Spirit was sent to aide us in our COMMUNICATION with the Father.

The ministry of the Spirit provides both COMMUNICATION from the Father TO us...and THROUGH us back to the Father.

Prayer in the Spirit is prayer from the heart, springing from an awareness of God, of self, of others, of needs and of Christ.

This creates a DIRECT line of COMMUNICATION between us and God, and its first function is to strengthen the bonds of RELATIONSHIP.

When we use this form of communication, we are talking with God ALONE in His preferred language.

Jude 1:17-21- “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, **having not the Spirit.** But you, beloved, **building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God,** waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”

Praying in the Spirit results in “building.”

What is being BUILT is FAITH.

This is where the Spirit's work BEGINS...by BUILDING our Faith, through revealing the nature, character, and purpose of Christ.

The Spirit will never do great things THROUGH us until He has done a great work WITHIN us.

Praying in the Spirit results in “keeping.”

Jude admonishes us to “keep yourselves in the love of God.”

Keep (Greek—“Tereo”)—means “to attend to carefully, to guard, to hold fast.

Jude 1:24- “Now unto him that is able to **keep** you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy...”

Keep—(Greek—“Phulasso”)—means “to preserve a remnant.”

The Spirit's “consistent” ministry in our lives is meant to build “consistency!”

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

- 1) **Is a matter of seeking, claiming, and making use of ACCESS to God through Christ.**
 - a. **Eph. 2:18-** “For THROUGH Him we both have ACCESS by one Spirit unto the Father.”
- 2) **Is asking for the Spirit's help to see and do what brings Glory to Christ, knowing that both the Spirit and Christ Himself intercede for us as we struggle to pray for rightness in our own lives.**
 - a. **Rom. 8:26-27-** “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. **For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought**, but the Spirit Himself makes **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”
 - b. The Spirit enables the believer to intercede for things beyond his **understanding** or outside the realm of his **knowledge**.
- 3) **Is speaking forth mysteries.**
 - a. **1 Cor. 14:2-** “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaks not to men, but to God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”
 - b. **Mysteries**—(Greek—“Musterion”)—means “hidden thing, secret, or hidden purpose.”
 - c. We have the power to speak forth MYSTERIES as we pray in the Holy Ghost!
 - d. In this way the Spirit declares the desires of Christ “through” us!
 - e. We begin to pray and intercede WITH Christ...we pray the prayers of Christ for our lives and the world.