

5-4-22

**KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT**

**Eph 5:18-21**

A “framework” for the DOCTRINE of the HOLY SPIRIT. This would be called the Study of “Pneumatology.”

For most of us, our **Spiritual experience** is ahead of our **notional knowledge**.

We have experienced far more than we comprehend...And yet, God fully expects us to FOLLOW and LEARN and GROW as we go.

**Becoming MATURE in Christ depends directly on learning to THINK in terms of Biblical truths and values and un-learning all the alternative ways of thought that the world offers.**

**Matt. 11:28-30 (NKJV)**- “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Here Christ reveals that “REST” can be “experienced” before we fully understand the one who GIVES REST.

**You PASTOR your HEART with your MIND**

Too often we lean on our “experience” of God instead of our KNOWLEDGE of God.

While “experience” has been afforded us through Faith in Christ even before knowledge and understanding...EXPERIENCE will not fully transform your life.

For the EXPERIENCE to find its fullest EXPRESSION...we must add KNOWLEDGE and REVELATION to our “experience.”

**When you fail to RENEW YOUR MIND, you leave your HEART to be Pastored by your FLESH.**

**Our STUDY of God’s Word is what brings the Spirit into FOCUS.**

Until we get the proper LENS everything is blurry and without resolution.

As the Spirit becomes the LENS through which we look into the “perfect law of liberty”, we begin to see with focus and clarity the things we have already experienced, and our experience finds its fullest expression.

### **Getting God in FOCUS means**

- 1. Thinking correctly about God’s Character, His Sovereignty, His Salvation, His Love, His Son, His Spirit, and all the realities of His work and ways.**
  - a. It does matter how we habitually think about Christ...**our Spiritual health does depend in some measure on whether or not our vision of Him is adequate.**
  - b. Perfect Faith can only exist where the WILL OF GOD is KNOWN.
  - c. If we have an imperfect VISION of God...it will result in an imperfect FAITH.
- 2. Thinking rightly about our own relationship with Him as creatures under sin or under Grace, either living the responsive life of FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE, or living “un-responsively” in barrenness and gloom of heart.**

**First, we must understand the Holy Spirit’s foremost ROLE.**

For most of us, our definition of the Spirit’s work is **CHRISTIAN** centered and not **CHRIST** centered. (Man centered and not God centered)

And while ALL of these are things that the Spirit does...these do not identify His MAIN ROLE

**The distinctive, constant, basic ministry of the Holy Spirit under the new covenant is to MEDIATE Christ’s PRESENCE to believers.**

His PURPOSE is to make Christ KNOWN, loved, trusted, honored, and praised!

**The Spirit’s primary ministry is to make you more AWARE of God.**

### **Knowing God's presence is a two-fold awareness**

1. It is awareness that God is **THERE**.
2. It is an awareness that God is **HERE**.

**It is the Spirit that makes us aware of all that Jesus is so that we will trust Him to be all of that to us.**

### **As we become more AWARE of God through the ministry of the Spirit THREE things should be happening continually**

#### **1. Personal fellowship with Christ**

- a. The Spirit presents the living Lord Jesus to us a Maker and friend so that we may choose the path of sacrificial response to His LOVE and His CALL.
- b. He makes us AWARE of Christ's presence so that we might have continual fellowship with Him.

#### **2. Personal transformation of CHARACTER into Christ's likeness.**

- a. When we continually look to Jesus as our MODEL for strength, we begin to worship and adore Him and learn to lay out and lay down our lives for Him and others.
- b. **Gal. 5:16**- "This I say then, 'Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.'"
  - i. The word "walk" here is not ("peripatio") signifying the walkers moving of limbs and metaphorically the activity of living.
  - ii. The word walk here is ("stoicheo") which carry's the thought of walking in line, holding to a rule, and this proceeding under another's direction and control

#### **3. The Spirit given certainty of being loved, redeemed, and adopted.**

- a. The Spirit CONFIRMS that we are children of God and joint heirs with Christ!
- b. **Rom. 8:14-17 (NKJV)**- "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**, and if children, then **heirs**—heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

**The Holy Spirit does whatever is necessary for the creating, sustaining, deepening, and expressing of the awareness of God in our lives.**

**The Spirit is more than an “influence,” He is a PERSON**

The Bible says that the Spirit can hear, speak, witness, convince, glorify Christ, lead, guide, teach, command, forbid, desire, give speech, give help, and intercede for believers with inarticulate groans, Himself crying out to God in our prayers...and he can do ALL OF THAT because He is a PERSON!

**John 14:6-** Jesus said “And I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another COMFORTER, that He may abide with you forever.”

**Comforter—(“Parakletos”)—means Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Supporter, Advisor, Advocate, Ally, Friend.**

**This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> PERSON of the triune Godhead!**

**This awareness does three things:**

- 1. Declares that Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of the Scriptures, once crucified, now glorified, is HERE personally approaching, and addressing me.**
- 2. Now that He is here: He is ACTIVE, powerfully enlightening, animating, and transforming me along with others as He stirs our sluggishness, sharpens our insight, soothes our guilty conscience, sweetens our tempers, supports us under pressure, and strengthens us for righteousness.**
- 3. In Himself as in His work He is GLORIOUS, meriting all the worship, adoration, love, and loyalty of which we are capable.**