

5-11-22

KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

And though His work within us, for us, and through is multiple...it is important that we fully understand His FOREMOST ROLE.

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

(Mediate)—Webster defines “mediate” as “to intervene between people in a dispute in order to bring about an agreement or reconciliation.”

Sin brought a “dispute” between God and man that could only be settled by the Son through the ministry of the Spirit.

The Spirit illuminates the PERSON and PRESENCE of Christ...educating and instructing so that we may FOLLOW closely and IMITATE genuinely His life and love for the world.

A. 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.**
- 2) Personal transformation of CHARACTER into Christ's likeness.**
- 3) The Spirit given certainty of being loved, redeemed, and adopted.** (He ASSURES us that we are sons and daughters.)

B. The Spirit's intent is to draw us into a PERSONAL expression of “dependence” on and discipleship under Christ.

DEPENDENCE and DISCIPLESHIP then become the barometer for growth and maturity.

In the Spirit “dependence” is a necessary ingredient for a believer to MATURE into all that God intends.

I Cor. 12:3- “...no man can say that Jesus is **Lord**, but by the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 17:28- Paul said: “For in Him we live, and move, and have our being...”

C. Because we have failed to stress the necessity of faithful discipleship to Jesus, the DEMANDS of discipleship are not stressed, and so the COST of following Jesus is not COUNTED.

We have adequately taught the BENEFITS, but we have left out the BURDENS of the Christian life.

You can't teach a RESURRECTION THEOLOGY without teaching the DEATH that preceded it!

And you can't teach the death that preceded it without "revealing" that **we must walk that path also!**

When we major on the BENEFITS but fail to reveal the BURDENS...when PAIN and PROBLEMS arise there is no ROOT SYSTEM to hold them grounded.

Matt. 11:29- "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."

The Spirit is given as a SEAL or mark of ownership indicating that the believer BELONGS to God.

Eph. 1:13-14- "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the **earnest** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

2 Cor. 1:22 (KJV)- "Who has **SEALED** us and given the **EARNEST** of the Spirit in our hearts."

2 Cor. 1:22 (NIV) "set his seal of ownership on us and put his Spirit in our hearts as a **deposit**, guaranteeing what is to come."

2 Cor. 1:22 (NLT) "and he has **identified us as his own** by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the **first installment** that guarantees everything, He has promised us."

2 Cor. 1:22 (Amplified) "it is He who has also put His seal on us [that is, He has appropriated us and certified us as His] and has given us the [Holy] Spirit in our hearts as a **pledge** [like a security deposit to guarantee the fulfillment of His promise of eternal life]."

There are TWO words that Paul uses here that are of interest:

- 1) **"Seal"**—this is the sign of ownership and authority.
- 2) **"Earnest"**—Earnest money is put down before closing on a house to show you're serious about purchasing. It's also known as a good faith deposit.

The Spirit indwells our lives.

Rom. 8:11- “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

He acts like a CHANGE AGENT transforming us into Jesus’ moral likeness from one degree of glory to another.

2 Cor. 3:18- “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

This act of “changing” never stops as the believer walks with Christ in discipleship.

CHANGE is not possible in and of ourselves...and any “righteousness” that we would display on our own is “filthy rags.”

Sanctification is the word for this process of CHANGE.

Gal. 5:16- “This I say then, ‘Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.’”

That means saying “no” to the desires of the flesh and mind. (1 Thess. 4:1-8)

1 Thess 4:8 (NLT)- “Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

And allowing the Spirit to bring forth in us the “FRUIT”, which is defined for us as a nine-point profile of Christlikeness.

Gal. 5:22-24- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

This leads us to “imitate” Jesus in humility, love, avoidance of sin, and the practice of righteousness.

John 13:12-15- “So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**”

1 Pet. 2:21-23- “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

Heb. 12:1-3- “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**”

FOUR ASPECTS OF SPIRIT LIVING

- 1. Experiential**
- 2. Convictional**
- 3. Volitional (Relating to the use of ones will)**
- 4. Vocational (Relating to your CALL)**
- 5. Disciplinary**