

SPEAKING BY THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:26-27; Acts 9:31; Luke 12:11-12

Continuing the theme of the Holy Spirit as our helper. We now see how he helps us in one of the most important areas of our life. Our speech.

James 3:2-5 (NLT) ² Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. ³ We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴ And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

I. SPEAKING TO GOD – THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US WITH PRAYER. (ROMANS 8:26-27)

- i. *1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV) ² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*
- ii. *Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*
- iii. “If in prayer I come before a throne of grace, the faults of my prayer will be overlooked.” Charles Spurgeon

II. SPEAKING TO CHRISTIANS – THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US WITH FELLOWSHIP. (EPHESIANS 4:29-32)

1. Churches should be known for speech that builds up, and not for speech that tears down (i.e. Lying/hypocrisy, boasting, judgemental, slander, gossip, etc.)

- i. *“Whoever gossips to you, will gossip about you.” - Spanish Proverb*
- ii. *“Loose tongues are worse than wicked hands.” - Jewish Proverb*
- iii. *Colossians 4:6 (NKJV)⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

2. The preaching ministry should be empowered by the Holy Spirit

- i. *1 Corinthians 2:12–13 (NKJV)¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*
- ii. *1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NKJV)⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

- iii. 1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NKJV)⁵ *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance...*

3. The speaking gifts of the Holy Spirit help with fellowship. (i.e. Exhortation, teaching, prophecy)

- i. 1 Corinthians 14:2–4 (NKJV)² *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*³ *But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.*⁴ *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*

III. SPEAKING TO UNBELIEVERS – THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US WITH EVANGELISM. (LUKE 12:11-12)

1. When you are in a conversation that you initiated

- i. Mark 16:15 (NLT)¹⁵ *And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.*
- ii. You don’t have to know a lot. The Holy Spirit will use what you have (girl at Bible college)
- iii. 2 Timothy 2:23–25 (NKJV)²³ *But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.*²⁴ *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,*²⁵ *in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth*

2. When you are in a situation where you are interrogated

- i. “245 million Christians are persecuted for their faith in the top 50 countries where it’s most dangerous to follow Jesus.” Open Doors Ministry
- ii. Mark 13:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. ¹¹ But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.*
- iii. Example: Stephen Acts 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.*

3. Preparation is important. The Spirit draws on the resources that you have accumulated.

- i. 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*