

Staying Open to the Holy Spirit

6.1.2025

Introduction

The Holy Spirit wants us to open ourselves to His help and aid!

Jesus never expected you to live only with your own skill and ability.

We need a power or ability that is way beyond our own today!

The challenges are mounting up. It really looks as though Jesus' return could be sooner than we think.

The pressure on the mind and on the physical and mental life are at high tide!

John 14:15-18 (ESV)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Acts 1:4-8 (ESV)

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Luke 24:44-49 (ESV)

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am

sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Get ready for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit worldwide!

There is coming, and we are now entering a great moving of the Holy Spirit. It will be unprecedented in our time.

Kenneth Hagin at John Osteen’s Church 1.18.1979

God often speaks in metaphors and in symbolism.

There are two works of the Holy Spirit in your life:

1. The Indwelling - The Metaphor for this experience is a Well.

John 4:13-14 (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

2. The Baptism With The Holy Spirit - The Metaphor for this experience is a River.

If you are a farmer, you know that there is no harvest without water.

John 7:37-39 (NKJV)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Two Jewish feasts are aligned with harvest in Jewish culture:

The Feast of Pentecost was associated with the spring grain or wheat harvest. It needed what they called the latter rains for a plentiful harvest.

The Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering was associated with the harvest of oil and wine in the autumn of the year. Early rains preceded this harvest.

On this same day, the Holy Spirit fell in OT Temple dedication during King Solomon's reign:

1 Kings 8:2 (NLT)

So all the men of Israel assembled before King Solomon at the annual Festival of Shelters, which is held in early autumn in the month of Ethanim.

1 Kings 8:10-11 (NLT)

When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. 11 The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of the LORD.

Fast forward now to Jesus at this same feast.

John 7:37-39 (NKJV)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

On this last day of the feast, there was a ceremony called the Outpouring of Waters.

Water was taken from the pool of Siloam and poured on the altar while Isaiah 12:3 was quoted:

Isaiah 12:3 (NKJV)

Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Siloam means SENT. The water from Siloam came from Gihon Spring, outside the city of Jerusalem. Gihon means bursting forth!

Jesus made this statement while the water was being poured on the altar.

He was saying - I am Siloam - I am sent by the Father. I will be crucified outside the city. I am the spring of Gihon - from my side will burst forth blood and water, and from that flow you will live!

This is referring today to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit that came to the church on the Day of Pentecost - 50 days after the Passover feast.

There is NOW beginning a fresh moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers to prepare us to receive the harvest of people coming into the family of God!

These rains in the New Testament are associated with a move of the Holy Spirit at the beginning and the end of the church age...

James 5:7-8 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. 8 You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Much rain is needed so that a tremendous crop is harvested.

Amos 9:13 (NLT)

The time will come," says the LORD, when the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested. Then the terraced vineyards on the hills of Israel will drip with sweet wine!

Amos 9:13 (NKJV)

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it."

Water and rain are a type of the Holy Spirit in the Bible...

And the prophets speak of an outpouring of the water of the Spirit before Jesus returns...

Isaiah 44:3 (TPT)

I will pour refreshing water on the thirsty and streams on the dry ground. I will pour out my Spirit on your children, my blessing upon your descendants.

Isaiah 55:1-2 (MEV)

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Joel 2:23 (NKJV)

Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Haggai 2:7 (NKJV)

'And I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:9 (NKJV)

'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts.

Ask God to include you in the fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

Zechariah 10:1 (NKJV)

Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone.

Ezekiel saw into the future and saw the temple of God in the future.

Ezekiel 47:1-9 (NLT)

In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. 2 The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway. 3 Measuring as he went, he took me along the stream for 1,750 feet and then led me across. The water was up to my ankles. 4 He measured off another 1,750 feet and led me across again. This time the water was up to my knees. After another 1,750 feet, it was up to my waist. 5 Then he measured another 1,750 feet, and the river was too deep to walk across. It was deep enough to swim in, but too deep to walk through. 6 He asked me, "Have you been watching, son of man?" Then he led me back along the riverbank. 7 When I returned, I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. 8 Then he said to me, "This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. 9 There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows.

Ezekiel 47:9 (NKJV)

And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

This river flowing out of us will minister life to those we touch...

Joel 2:28-32 (NLT)

Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. 29 In those days I will pour out My Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. 30 And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth— blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives. 32 But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved...

Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to be poured out on you?

Have you received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Jesus told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit just as the church age began:

Acts 1:4-11 (NLT)

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

7 He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10 As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

As we go into this era of time before Jesus returns, He wants us to walk in this anointing of Holy Spirit power!

He is beckoning us today to let go of our dry life and step into His river!

Action Points:

1. Do you want that River of water to flow through you?
2. Have you received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?
3. Are you walking in the light of this experience?
4. Are you living in the power of this experience?

If not, you can today!

I posted this I think in 2024!

A Prophetic Word From 2009
Informational and Revelational Churches

I talked about this prophetic word this past Sunday. A church member sent it to me from one of my blogposts in 2009. We have fulfilled the first part over the last 14 or so years. We are now moving into the time period to fulfill the last part of it.

God is asking pastors all over the world to repent and to embrace the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. He wants us to allow a fresh move of the Holy Spirit in our churches. I pray that we listen to and heed His pleading voice. Those that refuse to yield will be left "high and dry," not experiencing the freshness of the Holy Spirit that is upon us!

During our service yesterday at Victory Church, I mentioned that I attended a meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee in August of 2009, and that the speaker mentioned a rise in seeker sensitive, informational type churches for the next several years. He said this movement would come to the forefront and predominate for a while. We have seen this happen since that time. After this happened, this minister also saw a rising again of churches that would flow with the Holy Spirit and that would preach the Word in an uncompromising way.

Again, this was in 2009. This minister was one hundred percent correct in what he saw as this is exactly what we have experienced over the last 14 years or so!

After our 2nd service on Sunday, a church member came to me and showed me a blog that I posted from 2009! I have posted that blog from 2009 here below!

We are right in the beginning stages of a fresh move of the Holy Spirit on God's people worldwide. It will deeply affect American churches too:

Posted on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 9:01 AM by Pastor Mitch

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future (John 16:13).

As you know, I'm in Gatlinburg attending a "Word and Spirit" meeting with Randall Grier. Randall begin addressing concerns the Lord has given Him concerning trends in the church and what he says he sensed coming in the next few years.

He began last night saying that in 2007 in prayer the Lord showed him a division or split taking place in the church world. From this split two types of churches will emerge: informational, seeker friendly churches, and revelational, God seeking churches that will contend for the power of the Holy Ghost and the power of the Word. He feels that the Lord has empowered him to get the message out about what is happening now and to warn pastors and ministers to contend for the fullness of God's power in our day.

He mentioned that the seeker-friendly informational churches would grow greatly in popularity in the next year and a half, and that eventually this movement would dwindle and many of these churches would begin to have problems due to the works of the flesh and the spirit of the world entering in.

Then he gave us 13 points that identify the informational churches. I'll give them briefly here with the scripture he mentions:

Characteristics of informational, seeker-sensitive churches:

- 1. The churches started right but began to yield to seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1-2).*
- 2. They are based on man's plans and not God's Word (Matthew 16:23; Romans 16:17; Ephesians 4:14).*
- 3. The spirit of the world invades these churches (1 John 4:15-17).*
- 4. The pastors of these churches begin to neglect time with God in prayer and in the Word; more time spent "playing" than "praying." (Acts 6:1-5).*
- 5. Messages are based more on natural things and men's opinions than they are on the Word. (1 Timothy 1:4).*
- 6. The church leadership will place an emphasis on outward appearance (1 John 2:15).*
- 7. The church services are designed to please people more than God (2 Timothy 4:2-4).*
- 8. People are left unchanged and leave the same way they come because the Holy Spirit is not present to change them (2 Corinthians 3:18).*
- 9. The messages are not designed to demand a response from the people for fear of offending them (Hebrews 13:6).*
- 10. The works of the flesh manifest through the leadership and people of these churches (Jude 18-19; Galatians 5:19-21).*
- 11. Jesus is standing at the door and knocking in these churches wanting to come in and minister to them. He eventually rejects them (Revelation 3:16,20).*
- 12. Satan has deceived these churches into believing a lie (Revelation 12:9).*

13. These churches eventually fail due to sin and false doctrine (Revelation 2:5).

This is a strong Word and in my view needed for our day. Randall mentioned that he told the Lord that he didn't want to minister this because it seemed so negative, but the Lord urged him to obey and bring a word of warning and admonition.

I'll keep you updated as the meeting progress today. My heart is to preach the Word with boldness, and for the Lord to confirm His Word with signs following! Let's stand for the truth of the Word and for the power of the Holy Ghost. Let's join together and pray for an AWAKENING in our nation and around the world!

The following day, August 13, 2009, I posted the following blog from my notes I took during the meeting I attended in Gatlinburg. It is uncannily accurate as to the last 14 years. We are now as the church in America gravitating back to allowing the fresh move of the Holy Spirit among us. Churches that refuse to allow the Holy Spirit to move will gradually die on the vine so to speak!

Here is my 2nd post from August of 2009:

Word and Spirit

Posted on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 8:46 AM by Pastor Mitch.

As you know, I'm in Gatlinburg, Tennessee attending a Word and Spirit seminar with Randall Grier. Randall says the Lord spoke to him in 2007 and told him that a split or division is coming in the body of Christ.

He said there are churches he calls informational that have come to the forefront in the body of Christ and that will assert even greater influence in the next year and a half. These churches have abandoned the teaching of the Word and the moving of the Spirit and are following a plan devised by men and not God. I suppose we could call them seeker sensitive churches, catering to the likes and dislikes of the audience. People come and go unchanged.

Then Randall says that the Lord told him that there are what he calls revelational churches, or churches that teach the Word strongly and are open to the moving of the Holy Spirit in their meetings. These churches cater to the presence of God and seek to make the atmosphere conducive to God's power manifesting. People are changed by the power of God in these meetings.

Yesterday, he listed 16 characteristics of Revelational churches:

- 1. These churches are committed to the Word, to Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit (1 Timothy 4:13-16).*
- 2. These churches teach the Word and refuse to compromise doctrine (Romans 16:7).*
- 3. They refuse worldly influences through any person or source (1 John 2:15).*
- 4. These churches treasure and seek the Word of God and manifestations of the Spirit (Acts 4: 29-31).*
- 5. Pastors and church leaders spend lots of time studying the Word and praying (Acts 6: 3-4).*
- 6. The messages preached in these churches are born in prayer and Study of the and not by group consensus (Galatians 1:12).*
- 7. Pastors minister with an anointing and flow in spiritual gifts as the Spirit wills (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10).*
- 8. Pastors and church leaders walk closely with the Lord in thought, word, and deed (Ephesians 4:1; 1 Timothy 4:12).*
- 9. These churches pray and seek God for everyone to be born again and Spirit filled (Acts 2:42; Acts 8:15).*
- 10. Church services are prayed out in advance, and ministers implicitly follow the direction of the Holy Spirit for the meeting (Mark 16:20; John 5:19).*

11. People are ministered to and refreshed by the Holy Spirit in these churches Romans 15:13; 1 John 5:4).

12. The messages preached require a response and the people are urged to grow spiritually (Acts 20:32).

13. The fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit operate along with ministry gifts (Galatians 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

14. The Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ are always welcome in these churches (Acts 4:29-31).

15. The Spirit of truth and the wisdom of God flow freely in these churches 1 Corinthians 2:12).

16. These churches are blessed by God and will eventually grow and flourish because they teach the Word and follow the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit carefully (Matthew 16:18-19).

Randall declared that we need a new reformation in the church today, and he urged pastors to minister in an uncompromising way.

I'll end here with a declaration he had everyone recite:

I will not compromise the Word of God or the Holy Ghost, and through the Lord Jesus Christ I exercise authority over the devil and over the influence of the world.

Again, this was a long post, but I wanted you to see what the past 14 years or so has produced, and where we are going in the future as we prepare for the return of Jesus. I believe that Randy Grier was spot on in what he says there in 2009. We have witnessed it first hand. Both darkness and light are coming to the forefront today. Let's walk in the Light! Let's pursue our God with passion, and let's together create an environment where Jesus can set people free!

