

# FAMILY



BY  
Choice

## Family by Choice

### Part 3

January 21, 2024

The Gospel of Saint John 16:7-15, <sup>7</sup>“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,

for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, In Jesus Name! Amen!

As a Church Family, we are and will continue to be known as a Church that Embraces the Spirit-Filled Life! We will be known as a Church made up of people who place an emphasis on the Holy Ghost being present and active in our daily lives, expressive of His Gifts in our gatherings and living a life that abounds unto godliness!

Furthermore, we believe that living the life God calls us to can only be accomplished through His Spirit. It is clear that the marks of a True Church are focused on its Community, its Faith, and the Demonstration of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals for the benefit of the individual as well as the whole.

Our mission isn't to grow a large gathering of people, but rather to grow a sense of community and it is the building of a Spirit Filled Community that will build a Powerful Church! Thus, Point #1

# 1. As Family by Choice, We lean on The Holy Spirit to Comfort Us in the Midst of Calamity!

- a. Acts 4:27-31 records “For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”
- b. In Acts chapter 4, the church is under significant persecution! They were encountering a crisis because the, notice the dichotomy here, Revival was being poured out and the Church was under extreme pressure from the political system, the culture around them and the religious leaders.
- c. And in spite of being arrested, threatened and barred from preaching in the Name of Jesus, the Predicament around them created a crescendo of the anointing!

- d. Catastrophe did not cripple the church! Calamity increased the Church! It drove them to pursue the presence of God all the more diligently! It drove them to pray for the power of God all the more boldly! It drove them to be filled with the Holy Ghost!
- e. Crisis has never crippled the Church; it deployed the Church! It increases the demand upon the anointing! Increases the demand upon prayer! Increases the demand of devotion! Increases the demand of the Word!
- f. Remember, As Family by Choice, We lean on The Holy Spirit to Comfort Us in the Midst of Crisis!

## 2. As Family by Choice, We Trust The Holy Spirit to Grant us Guidance in the Face of Difficulty!

- a. The Book of Acts 10:44-48, <sup>44</sup>“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.”

- b. This passage of text records the moment when the Holy Ghost fell on the Gentiles and it was made known that Jesus died for both the Jew and the Gentile! This created great adversity and difficulty within the first century church's leadership because for the first ten years of the early Church's existence there were no Gentiles in the Church. But the Holy Ghost is the factor that caused this revelation to be made known!
- c. The Holy Ghost falling upon the Gentiles created a serious problem because the church had been made up exclusively of Jewish People up to this point in the text but God had a bigger plan!
- d. It was such a significant difficulty that a few of the Apostles had to argue their case of the Gentiles being accepted in to the Faith before the Jerusalem Council; you can read more about that in Acts chapter 15.
- e. The point is that the Holy Spirit wasn't given to the Church just for it to have a resource to navigate difficulties of dealing with outside entities; but also to address and correct issues that are present within the Church itself.
- f. Again, As Family by Choice, We Trust The Holy Spirit to Grant us Guidance in the Face of Difficulty!

### 3. As Family by Choice, We are Empowered by The Holy Spirit to

#### Manifest of the Power of the Kingdom of God in the Earth!

- a. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 4:23 records, “And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.”
- b. Notice in this verse, Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and demonstrated the Power of the Kingdom! And if we are His Disciples then His method of ministry should be our own! We should Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and Demonstrate the Power of that Kingdom!
- c. And if we are going to walk in the footsteps of Jesus then our function as the Church should be dual fold: Preach the Kingdom and Demonstrate the Power of said Kingdom! Hence the words of Paul found in 1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV declares, “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
- d. Notice the verbiage used here; the manifestation of the Spirit in the life of the believer is for the common good of all and not the one.
- e. Remember, As Family by Choice, We are Empowered by The Holy Spirit to Manifest of the Power of the Kingdom of God in the Earth!