

The Holy Spirit and You – Spiritual Empowerment Part-2

Selwyn Hughes, “The Mantle of Power,” April 20th, “*Above all, be strong and very courageous.*” **Joshua 1:7**

“The Holy Spirit clothes His people with supernatural power. It is one thing to be unified on the inside; it is another to be fortified to meet whatever happens on the outside. The Holy Spirit – if we let Him – can do both. Jesus, when speaking of the Holy Spirit in John’s Gospel (14:17)

Used two different prepositions to describe His work. He said, “*He remains with you and will be **in** you.*” In Acts 1:8 he uses a different preposition, “*the Holy Spirit has come **upon** you.*” The word “*upon*” gives us a picture of the Holy Spirit wrapping a mantle of divine omnipotence around the shoulders of His disciples, which would enable them to do great exploits in His Name.

“The story of Elijah and Elisha in the Old Testament illustrates this particular aspect. Elijah, you remember, wore a mantle that was invested with supernatural power. Elijah promised him that if he saw him when he returned to heaven, the mantle (the double share of his spirit) would be his. On the day of Elijah’s departure to heaven, Elisha fulfilled the condition and received the desired mantle. He then went out and performed twice as many miracles as his master.

“The mantle of power Jesus used when He was here on earth, He has now given to us. Now Hold your breath, for this is what Jesus said to those who have faith in Him: “*He will do even greater works than these* (John 14:12).” **Prayer:** “O Father, what a challenge this puts before me and everyone else in the church today. We are hardly performing a tenth of what You did, let alone twice as much. Something is wrong. Show me how to put it right in my life. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

Spirit-led Spiritual Warfare: Eph. 6:10-12 TPT *“Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force (or “weapons”) of His explosive power flowing in & through you. 11. Put on God’s complete set of armor (see Isa. 59:16-17 TPT) provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser. 12. Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of **demon-gods*** and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage.”* **TPT note (m):** “The classical Greek word used here is often used to refer to conjuring up pagan deities – supreme powers of darkness mentioned in occult rituals.”

Dr. Paul Walker, SFLB “Holy Spirit Gifts and Power”

“The Bible reveals that the Person of the Holy Spirit has been the primary agent in the ministry of the Word throughout the centuries. The Scripture states that the triune Godhead operates coequally, coeternally, coexistently, as one unit. But we might view also this unity of activity in terms of the special function of each member of the Trinity: the executive is the Father, the architect is the Son, and the contractor is the Holy Spirit.”

“What really happens when the gifts (of the Holy Spirit) go to church?”

We see “THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK”

Last week we began with the Scriptures showing the Holy Spirit unique-ly and distinctly at work in the role of: 1) Author of the O.T. & the N.T.

New for Session #2

“The Scriptures (use **NKJV**) show the Holy Spirit uniquely and distinctly at work in the role as: 2) *The Old Testament Anointer*. The Scriptures name no less than 16 Old Testament leaders in Israel who received this anointing: Joseph (**Gen. 41:38**); Moses (**Num. 11:17**); Joshua (**Num. 27:18**); Othniel (**Judg. 3:10**); Gideon (**Judg. 6:34**); Jephthah (**Judg. 11:29**); Samson (**Judg. 14:6, 19; 15:14, 15**); Saul (**1 Sam. 10:10; 11:6**), David (**1 Sam. 16:13**); Elijah (**1 Kin. 8:12; 2 Kin. 2:16**); Elisha (**2 Kin. 2:15**); Azariah (**2 Chr. 15:1**); Zechariah (**2 Chr. 24:20**); Ezekiel (**Ezek. 2:2**); Daniel (**Dan. 4:9; 5:11; 6:3**) Micah (**Mic. 3:8**).

“Thus, the Holy Spirit, the contractor, anointed the Old Testament prophets Isaiah and Joel to write – to prophesy of the day when He would be outpoured and when His gifts would be exercised in the church, throughout the church age (**Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21**). In **Isaiah 28:11, 12** God used Isaiah to tell Judah that He would teach them in a manner they did not like & that He would give them knowledge through the language of foreigners as a sign of their unbelief. Centuries later the apostle Paul expands the intent of this passage, referring it to the gift of spiritual language [*tongues*] in the church as a manifestation or sign to unbelievers (**1 Cor. 14:20-22 TPT**: “*Beloved ones, don’t remain as immature children in your reasoning. As it relates to evil, be like newborns, but in your thinking be mature adults. 21. For it stands written in the law: I will bring My message to this people with **strange tongues** and foreign lips, yet even then they still will not listen to Me, says the Lord. 22. So then, **tongues** are not a sign for believers, but a miracle for unbelievers. Prophecy, on the other hand, is not for unbelievers, but a miracle sign for believers.*”

“This sign could be in languages either known or unknown to human beings (**Acts 2:1-11; 10:45, 46 NKJV**).

Dr. Paul Walker: “In all these respects, we see the Holy Spirit as One who operates in the church as a definite personality – a Person given as a gift to the church **to assure that the continued ministry**

of the resurrected Christ is expressed and verified. The Holy Spirit, then, has all the characteristics of a person (use **TPT**):

1. He possesses the attributes of mind (**Rom. 8:27**), will (**1 Cor. 12:11**), and feeling (“*grieve*,” **Eph. 4:30**).
2. He engages in such activities as revealing (**2 Pet. 1:21**), teaching (**John 14:26**), witnessing (**Heb. 10:15**), interceding (**Rom. 8:26**), speaking (**Rev. 2:7**), commanding (**Acts 16:6, 7**), and testifying (**John 15:26**).
3. He has a relationship with human beings: He can be grieved (**Eph. 4:30**), lied to (**Acts 5:3**), & blasphemed (**Matt. 12:31, 32**).
4. The Holy Spirit possesses the divine attributes of the Godhead: He is eternal (**Heb. 9:14**), omnipresent (**Ps. 139:7-10**), omnipotent (**Luke 1:35**), and omniscient (**1 Cor. 2:10, 11**).
5. He is referred to by such names as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit of promise, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of life, the Spirit of adoption, and the Spirit of holiness.
6. He is illustrated with such symbols as fire (**Acts 2:1, 2**), wind (**Acts 2:1, 2 NKJV**), water (**John 7:37-39**), a seal (**Eph. 1:13**), oil (“*anointed*,” **Acts 10:38**), and a dove (**John 1:32**).

“All this unfolds something of the vast realm of [Holy] Spirit’s operation in the Old and New Testaments and in the contemporary church.”

“What really happens when the gifts (of the Holy Spirit) go to church?”

ACCOUNTS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS ARE BEING REDISCOVERED AND APPLIED

“The Book of Acts provides five accounts of people receiving the full-ness of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:4; 8:14-25; 9:17-20; 10:44-48; 19:1-7 NKJV**). These accounts include five factors:

1. All who were present experienced an overwhelming inbreaking of God’s presence.
2. The disciples who were filled, experienced and demonstrated an evident transformation in their lives and witness.
3. Their experiences became the impetus for the growth of the church, as “*daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ*” (**Acts 5:42**).
4. The immediate evidence in three of the five accounts was the gift of spiritual language. “*For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God*” (**Acts 10:46 NKJV**).
5. The ultimate purpose of this experience was empowered wit-nessing (**Acts 1:8**) and a deeper dimension of Christian commit-ment for the achievement of happiness (**Eph. 5:18-19**), and fruitfulness (**Gal. 5:22, 23**).

Dr. Walker: “Together, these facts demonstrate what some present-day believers experience through the Holy Spirit at work in the church. Often, the elements of this renewal are misunderstood or misapplied for lack of a biblical understanding of the gift of spiritual language and the function of the other gifts of the Spirit. While theologians and others involved in the renewal community may

differ on some points, a common bond of unity in the Spirit-filled renewal is the practice of spiritual language in prayer and worship, together with an acceptance and welcoming of the operation of the Holy Spirit's gifts in their midst. To fully understand this, it is necessary to see the Pentecostal/Charismatic view as they have learned to implement the Book of Acts' manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power-workings, applying the disciplines taught in 1 Cor. 12-14."