

04 | The Holy Spirit Reveals

FULFILLING YOUR CALLING Series

Welcome to the fourth teaching of this series, entitled, "The Holy Spirit Reveals." I love talking about the Holy Spirit. Now, in a reference back to Ephesians 2:10, I want to read it to you again. Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Now, at the end of our lives, we're going to be held accountable on whether or not we fulfilled the works that God prepared beforehand to do ... so, since we will be held accountable for it, wouldn't it be important to find out what those works are? Did God make a way for us to know what He prepared beforehand for us? Well, of course, He did. He has given us everything that we need in order to be able to fulfill the plan that He has for our lives.

So, I want you to turn to 1 Corinthians 2. I encourage you to read the whole chapter, beginning at verse one. But I'm going to pick it up beginning at verse nine. It is a verse that is actually often read, but often we start with just verse nine. I want to look at the verses ahead, because that is where God shows us how to know the things that have been prepared for us. So again, 1 Corinthians 2, beginning at verse nine: "But as it is written:

'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" Now, if we stop right there, this is what it's saying: your natural eyes have not seen, your natural ears have not heard, your heart (just your natural thinking), it hasn't entered into your natural thinking what God has prepared for those who love Him. So, He's saying You will not catch the things that God has prepared for you through your natural being, through your natural senses, through the mind, through the eyes, through the ears. You know, it's amazing how much value we put into people's opinions of what they think we should do. But the Bible teaches us we're not going to catch what we're called to do by just what we hear with these ears. Now, of course, God will use people to speak prophetic words that give insight or wisdom. But oftentimes what I'm talking about is that we rely on people to tell us what to do, when God is telling us through His Word, you're not going to catch what I have for you with just natural thinking, natural seeing, and natural hearing. So, if we were only limited to our natural being, then we would be in trouble. We would be guessing what God has prepared for us.

But verse 10 comes into play, and it starts with but God: "But God has revealed them to us..." What has God revealed? He has revealed to us those things that He has prepared for us. So, this is Paul saying God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. Paul is saying the things that God prepared for us we could not come up with in our natural being. God had

to, by the Holy Spirit, reveal those things to us. In other words, there were things that already existed--the plan of God already existed--but the Holy Spirit comes and removes the cover from those things that have already existed. He removes the veil that keeps us from being able to see what God has planned for us. That is the role of the Holy Spirit. So again, I want to read verse 10: "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." Think about that ... the Holy Spirit searches all things. The Holy Spirit searches everything in God. And, yes, even the deep things of God, which is interesting. You know, you don't think of God having levels of depth because He's just depth. He's all knowing, all wisdom. But the Holy Spirit goes in and searches out even the deep things of God. And those are the things that the Holy Spirit has been entrusted or assigned to reveal to us.

Let's look at verse 11: "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world..." (which, by the way, Paul addressed at the beginning of 1 Corinthians 2) "...we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God..." Why? "...that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God." Isn't that awesome? So the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is not the spirit of the world, which Paul says is going to come to nothing, but is the Spirit that has searched

the deep things of God. And He now comes to us and shows us the things that the Father has prepared for us who love Him, including those works from Ephesians 2:10 that have been prepared for us. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the works that God has for us. We will not be able to do pros and cons. We will not be able to just look and think, "Okay, this happened, that happened--so maybe this..."? No, no. There is this sense of full dependency on the Holy Spirit to show us what to do.

You know, Jerry and I had no intention of coming to Anaheim in the year 1999 and opening a church in 2000. We didn't sit around and go, "Hey, we should pastor, and we should open up a church. Let's not take over one, let's open up one..." all those things. We did not sit and think about it. Hear about it. Watch. No, no, no. It came because the Holy Spirit uncovered part of the works, and He said, "You're going to start a church in Orange County." I wish He would have said Anaheim. He didn't, He just said Orange County. So, we went through our own search of trying to sense, "Lord, where exactly are You saying?" But let me tell you, we knew that we knew when God said it was this place, here in Anaheim, we knew it had not been in our former thought. It had not been a plan. You couldn't have found it in our five-year plan. We didn't have a five-year plan! We thought we were working for Foursquare with the National Youth Ministry. We loved what we were doing, and we knew that some day we would pastor, but nothing came until the Holy Spirit

revealed. And He said, "Now in this year, this is what I've called you to do."

The Holy Spirit knows the works that God has prepared beforehand. He searches out the depths of God, and His assignment is to come and to reveal those things to us. But we've got to become spiritually minded. We've got to understand that we really need to rely on the Holy Spirit and not so much just our natural thinking. As a matter of fact, as you continue reading through 1 Corinthians 2, it says that the natural mind cannot receive the things of God. The natural man does not have the ability to receive the things of God. It can only come by the Holy Spirit. So, the only way you're going to know what God has prepared for you, the works that God has prepared for you, is by you asking the Holy Spirit to reveal those things to you. That's why, before you make decisions, you pray, and you invite the Holy Spirit to show you what to do. I've heard even believers say, "I made the decision and then I asked God to bless it." Well, you're taking a chance. As a matter of fact, you're taking a bad chance because the natural man can't receive the plan of God. So, you're just going on assumption, which means you're wasting your time. Don't make decisions, then pray, "Oh, God, please bless it." No, no, go back and say, "Holy Spirit, You search the deep things of God and have been assigned to reveal to me what I'm supposed to do. I'm looking to You to reveal what God has prepared for me." And you don't do it in a casual form. Like we just, you know, did our checklist ... "Lord, speak to me." Check. No, we must recognize that

unless we hear from Him, we don't know what to do.

You know, the Lord just recently instructed us to sell our home, and we had a sense this was coming, and for a few years there, we prayed. But it wasn't until the appointed time, and both Jerry and I, in separate prayer times, knew the Lord said, "This is part of what I've prepared for you. I need you to downsize. I need you to let go of this house. And then He showed us where to live. I mean, literally. I almost didn't go to this appointment to meet the person about the house, and yet I already made a commitment, so I felt like you don't back down on your commitment. Somebody is already going on their way, so show up. But when I showed up and I started walking this townhome, I had this sense of this is where the Lord wants us. And yet I had no idea that God would instruct us to begin to open up a house church for our community quite the way He has, and that's now our assignment and part of the works that He's prepared for us, are the people in our neighborhood. He didn't tell us all that when we sold our house, and we came in to this new place. He just led us one step at a time. But as we continued to ask Him for direction, then He begins to show more and more. And we recognize, Lord, part of the works You've called us to is to see people reconciled to God right here in this neighborhood! How awesome is that? We would have never come up with it. We would have never just guessed at it. But the Spirit of God began to lead us one step at a time and multi-purpose, right? There are some things for our family that He needed

us to sell and to adjust and to downsize. So, there's personal things involved, but it's also part of His calling. And God works in multiple layers. And so as you follow Him, and the works that He's prepared for you, it affects all kinds of things, not just the works.

Remember, you're in relationship with Him. You're walking in this fellowship with Him, and as He's directing you, He sees the whole of you, not just what you do for Him. He sees the whole of you and all of this, all that the Holy Spirit shows you, is taking into consideration the whole of you. And so it's fun to follow the Holy Spirit because you end up doing things you would have never imagined; you end up being in places that you never worked to be. You find yourself in places of favor that you think, "How did I even get here?" And you realized it was the Holy Spirit just revealing one step at a time. So, God has prepared good works for you that He's saying you should walk in them. And at the end of your life, when we come before the Lord, we will be held accountable for the things that He prepared for us. But He's also given us now the Holy Spirit, so that He can lead us into those things that He has prepared for us. We're not alone trying to guess what He has for us. The Holy Spirit, who knows everything about everything, will begin to lead us as we ask Him. And the more we depend on Him, the more He speaks; the less we ask of Him, the less He speaks. So, I've learned, ask the Holy Spirit, who has been sent. Ask Him about everything. Ask Him about the complicated things. Ask Him

about the simple things. Ask Him what's on His heart. Ask Him what He wants to show you. Ask him what He wants to show you about you. Ask Him about the gifts that God has given to you. Ask the Holy Spirit questions because He has answers, and He just needs our attention to be focused on Him and our dependency to be on Him so that He can speak. And there's nothing like knowing you have heard from God because it gives you the boldness and the confidence and the assurance that whatever it is you step out to do, the blessing of God is in it and you cannot fail because He has prepared good works, fruitful works for you.

As we close, I want us to turn to one last passage in **JOHN 16**. I want to read to you verses five through seven, and then I want to read verse 13. This is Jesus speaking to His disciples. And in verse five He says, "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart." So, you can imagine the disciples that have walked away from everything to follow Jesus, now He tells them, "Hey, I'm leaving. I'm leaving, and you're not asking where I'm going." But they were filled with sorrow and I'm sure confusion. "We left everything to follow you. Things are going pretty well. And now you're telling us you're leaving?" So, sorrow filled their hearts. But verse seven, and if it wasn't written in the Bible, I wouldn't believe it. But Jesus said this, He said to His disciples, "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 depart, I will send Him to you." So Jesus is saying "I'm leaving, and I know that sorrow is filled your heart. But let me tell you something. I tell you the truth." It's not, "Hey, sometimes I lie, but this time is the truth." Now, he's saying what I'm about to tell you, you're not going to believe. But I'm telling you the truth; it is actually better for you if I go away. Because if I go away, then the Helper will come to you. If I say the Helper can't come, but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And of course, we know the Helper he was talking about, the Holy Spirit. Jesus was saying to His disciples, "It has been so good as you've walked with Me and I've taught you some things, but now I'm going to go back to the Father. And then the same Spirit that filled me, the same Spirit of God in Me is going to fill you, and He will lead you just like He led Me." Let's finish again, verse seven. "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 depart, I will send Him to you ... I still have many things to say, but you cannot bear them now." Jesus said, "There's still so many instructions and things to say, but you don't have the ability to hear all this right now. But don't worry, when the Holy Spirit comes, He'll show you and He'll speak to you." Verse 13: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

So, the Holy Spirit is not just coming up with his own stuff. No, He's saying, "Whatever I hear, I will speak to you." Remember, the Father is the One who prepared these works beforehand that you should walk in, right? And then we read that it's the Holy Spirit that reveals the things that God has prepared for you. So, Jesus is saying the Holy Spirit is not going to just come up with stuff; He who searches the deep things of God is going to come and reveal to you the things that God needs you to know at that moment and at that time. And not just for then, but He'll actually even show you things to come. Jesus was saying to His disciples, "It is better for the Holy Spirit to be in you than for Me to remain with you." And like I said, if Jesus hadn't said it, I wouldn't believe it. But listen, we have the advantage. We have the advantage because the Holy Spirit has been sent to show us the things that God has prepared for us and to begin to lead us into the steps, even the practical steps, on how to fulfill the call of God, how to walk in these ordained days. The Holy Spirit, that is part of His assignment in your life, and so, take advantage of the Holy Spirit to lead you and to guide you so that He can show you and reveal to you the marvelous works that God has prepared for you that you should walk in.