

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

May 2019

This month we are continuing the teaching on the 21 things every Christian should know about the Holy Spirit. I'll be covering points 11 thru 21 (points 1-10 was April 2019), again summarizing the things the Bible says about the Holy Spirit generally and what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit particularly.

## **11. The Holy Spirit is our guide**

*"He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). Unless you are led to see truth by the Spirit, you will never see it. "A man without the Spirit will not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, because it is foolishness to him and he does not understand them because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Without the Spirit we are likely to think it is our great brain that keeps us from seeing what is there. Only by the Holy Spirit guiding us can we understand the Bible and then experience the joy of the Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit guides us into truth – shown what is there – but what cannot be seen without Him opening our eyes. It is humbling for prideful people to admit to the need of the Holy Spirit. The cost? Our pride being shattered. But once we are broken and able to see our stubbornness, the Spirit will show us amazing things – in scripture.

Sometimes we as experienced Christians – who know sound theology- need to humble ourselves and admit our need for further illumination by the Spirit. I need the Holy Spirit more than ever. I have been reading the Bible for a long time now. I've read it thru about forty times. But sometimes I feel I've barely begun to know God and His word. We never outgrow our need for the heavenly guide to lead us to truth we had never seen before – but has always been there.

## **12. The Holy Spirit speaks only what the Father gives Him to say.**

*"He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears" (John 16:13). The KJV sadly translates this "He shall not speak of himself" which is one of the more unfortunate translations in Biblical translation history. It has led good people to infer that they should barely (if at all) mention the Holy Spirit less they say what the Holy Spirit Himself would never allow. This is a mistake. After all, the Holy Spirit wrote the New Testament! The correct translation is not that He would not speak of Himself but that He will not speak His own message or on His own authority (ESV, Passion Translation). This means He passes on what the Father tells Him to say. That is what the verse means. Never be afraid to talk about the Holy Spirit. It is exactly what the Father and Son want you to do.*

The Holy Spirit, in fact, continued the same pattern Jesus followed. Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can only do what He sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does" (John 5:19)*. This means Jesus took His cue from the Father – what to say, where to go, when to heal, when to reply. He did nothing without receiving the green light from the Father. Everything Jesus did had been orchestrated in heaven by the Father. Everything. The Son did nothing on His own. Ever.

That is exactly what the Holy Spirit is saying about Himself. The Spirit does nothing without the green light from the throne of grace – what to say, where to go, the disciples were once forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go into Asia – or Bithynia (Acts 16:7). The Spirit was doing what the Father ordered; it was the will of the Father that they not go. God the Father orchestrated from heaven all that the Holy Spirit would say or do here on planet Earth. That is the meaning of these words. Jesus never said that the Holy Spirit would not speak of Himself. In fact, He does speak of Himself.

### 13. The Holy Spirit will predict the future

*“He will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13).* This is the basis for prophecy. We saw earlier some references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. All prophecies in the Old Testament from Moses to Elijah, from Samuel to Malachi – were borne by the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 53 is written in such a manner that one is amazed that Jews today could read that chapter and not see how Jesus and His death were perfectly predicted and fulfilled. *“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please” (Isaiah 46:10).*

This is how Agabus knew a famine would be coming (Acts 11:28). This is how Paul knew the ship he was on would be shipwrecked (Acts 27:23-26).

Never forget: God knows the end from the beginning. He knows the future as perfectly as He knows the past.

### 14. The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus Christ

*“He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you” (John 16:14).* One of the most interesting characteristics of the Trinity is that the persons of the Godhead heap praise on one another. There is no jealousy or rivalry in the Godhead. The Father does not mind if you pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit. The Father honors the Spirit and the Son. The Son honors the Father and the Spirit. The Spirit glorifies Christ and speaks only what He hears from the Father.

Glorifying Christ is honoring Him for: 1) Who He is, 2) What He said, 3) What He did for us, 4) What He continues to do for us, and 5) What He will do.

It is giving Him the honor now that He will receive openly on the last day – *when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).* You cannot praise Jesus too much. It is impossible to heap too much praise on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit leads us to praise the Lord Jesus as He deserves, although we all wish we could do better. This is why Charles Wesley wrote: “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise.....”.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would take “what is mine”. What is His, and what is made known to us? ANSWER: 1) His work as Redeemer and 2) the glory and praise Jesus Christ deserves – what belongs to Him. Jesus is the focus. He is the one who was to be glorified – and who was glorified. Jesus prayed, *“Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son that Your Son may glorify You.... Glorify me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.” (John 17:1-5).* The glory of Christ is the focus. He is our Redeemer. He is the God-man. It is not the Spirit who is to be focused on when it comes to glory. You may ask: Is not the Holy Spirit God? Yes. But it was not the Holy Spirit who died. It is not the Holy Spirit to whom every knee shall bow one day. So when Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would take what is “mine”, He was stating that the focus would be on the Redeemer and Savior of the world who would be glorified and made known to us.

### 15. The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed.

*“Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” (Matthew 12:31).* This is arguably the scariest passage in the New Testament. It is called the unpardonable sin because there is no forgiveness if one blasphemes the Holy Spirit. We’ve all heard the ones who fear they have committed the sin. What is it? First, it is not any sin against the moral laws (Ten Commandments). It is not committing murder or adultery or sexual sin. King David did all of that and he was forgiven. The unpardonable sin is when one’s final verdict regarding the gospel is to show contempt for the Spirit’s testimony - which is to glorify Christ - revealing His deity. One blasphemes the Holy Spirit by finally denying that Jesus is God in the flesh - or saying that Jesus has an evil spirit (Mark 3:29-30). How can you know that you have not committed the unpardonable sin? If you can testify from your heart that Jesus is God, worry no more.

## 16. The Holy Spirit is our reminder

He will “*remind you of everything I have said to you.*” (John 14:26). He will “*bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you*”, (ESV). If you fear you have forgotten what you heard, don’t worry! The Holy Spirit will remind you of what you were taught.

Picture this. The disciples have just heard the Sermon on the Mount. They may have said among themselves, “If only I could remember this!” Or when they heard Jesus’s parables or his confrontation with the Sadducees and Pharisees. In John 14:26 Jesus is virtually saying, “*Don’t worry if you can’t remember what I said. The Holy Spirit will remind you of what I taught.*”

This is so relevant today. People ask: “Why should I read my Bible? I don’t understand it. Why should I memorize Scripture? Why should I go listen to teaching – it is boring.

I reply: Even if you don’t understand it and think you won’t remember it, you are taking in more than you consciously realize at the time. In an appropriate moment – possibly at a time you least expect – the Spirit will remind you of what you heard. You may say, “I need the Holy Ghost to knock me down on the floor. I reply: If you are empty headed when you fall down, you’ll be empty headed when you get up! It’s not about falling down. It’s about, since God did that – like You said – you’ll be different when you get up. The Holy Spirit promises to remind you of what is there. If there is nothing there to be reminded of, whatever do you expect the Holy Spirit to do?

## 17. The Holy Spirit gives power

*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.*” (Acts 1:8). I don’t think this promise about the Spirit interested the disciples as much as it should have. They had something else on their minds. They really wanted to know if Jesus would at long last be restoring the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6). Jesus evaded the question and promise them power that would come when the Spirit came on them. This promise was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.

The power of the Holy Spirit was experienced basically in three areas. First, there came a demonstration of supernatural power – that defied a natural explanation. Mind you, not a high level of faith was needed for what they heard, saw and felt. It was heard by their ears, seen with their eyes and felt with their bodies. Although Jesus said the Kingdom of God would not be visible (meaning an earthly government) ironically the initial evidences of the Holy Spirit were physical! The first sensation was hearing. Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like “*a mighty rushing wind.*” The hundred and twenty disciples sitting (not standing, not kneeling) inside the house were given power to hear and see and feel what was unprecedented in Israel’s history. They looked at one another and saw “*tongues of fire*” resting upon each one’s head! It was a visible display of holy fire. This came with being “*filled with the Holy Spirit.*” They began to speak “*in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance*” (Acts 2:1-4). Although Mark 16:17 indicated that Jesus’s followers would speak “*in new tongues*”, I don’t believe they were prepared for this. They were enabled to do this: as the Spirit gave them “utterance”. They didn’t work this up. The tongues on the Day of Pentecost were recognizable languages. The multitude that had gathered heard each one speaking “*in his own language*” (Acts 2:6).

Second, they were given inner power to grasp what had previously been dark or mysterious. It was not until the Holy Spirit came on them that the disciples came to see the real purpose of Jesus is coming to the earth. They now understood that: 1) The falling of the Spirit was the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32. 2) Jesus’s death on the cross was no accident but was purposed for our salvation; 3) His resurrection demonstrated who Jesus was – that He was the Son of God; 4) Jesus was now at the right hand of God; 5) the ascension took place to make way for the Holy Spirit; 6) People needed to be forgiven for their sins; 7) all those who heard Peter’s sermon could be forgiven and could receive the Holy Spirit if they repented and were baptized (Acts 2:14-39). It all fell in place for Peter.

Third, this power meant power to witness. Acts 1:8 connects two things making them virtually inseparable – power and witnessing. The power was not merely for their enjoyment – although it must have been thrilling for them all. It has been for me! How about you? It is what enabled Peter to confront thousands of Jews with utter fearlessness. The same Peter who cowardly denied knowing Jesus to a Galilean servant girl only seven weeks before was now telling

the powerful Jews of the day what they needed to do. In fact, Peter's preaching was so effective that the hearers were "cut to the heart" – something that only the Holy Spirit can do – and asked him, "*What shall we do?*" (Acts 2:37). They were scoffing at first, dismissing the hundred and twenty who were filled with the Spirit as having "too much wine". I personally doubt that they were poking fun at them over the tongues – hearing what was said but understood in their own language would have sobered them. When we get to heaven and see a DVD of the entire episode, I predict we will see that many of these Spirit – filled disciples were laughing their heads off with extreme joy. But after hearing Peter, the scoffers were begging to know what to do next! The explanation: power, a supernatural energy that defies a natural explanation.

Paul said that the kingdom of God consists not in talk but in "power" (1 Corinthians 4:20). I have no doubt that the power of the Holy Spirit is relevant and available not only for insight and witnessing but also for holy living and other demonstrations of the supernatural.

### **18. The Holy Spirit manifests through various spiritual gifts.**

*"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good", these include: wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment of spirits, different kinds of tongues and interpretation of, tongues (1 Corinthians 12:7-10).* An issue among some Christians – including Pentecostals and charismatics – is whether the baptism of the Holy Spirit is always and necessarily speaking in tongues. Is the gift of tongues or praying in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:2, 14) the same phenomena as the hundred and 20 received at the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4)? Possibly not. It may have been something different. The best Pentecostal and charismatic scholars differ on this and I see no need to make an issue of this.

### **19. The Holy Spirit directs people to Jesus and makes Him real.**

*"He will testify about me" (John 15:26).* What makes people want to turn to Jesus? The Holy Spirit. What makes Jesus real? The Holy Spirit. What makes what He did for us – dying on the cross and being raised from the dead – real? The Holy Spirit.

This is why Jesus said, "*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.*" (John 6:44). We were all born "dead" – "*dead in your transgression and sins*" (Ephesians 2:1). Can a dead man speak? Can a dead man hear? Can a dead man move? Can a dead man make a choice? Jesus's statement in the verse above came in the midst of what Bible teachers call the hard teachings of Jesus. At the beginning of this, Jesus had a following of 5000 (John 6:10). At the end, many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed him (verse 66). Jesus elaborated on His various hard sayings: "*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.... This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them*". (Versus 63, 65).

What is the aim of the Holy Spirit's witness? Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit directs people to Jesus. "*He will testify about me.*" It is the Spirit who makes people see why Jesus died and rose again. Remember that the 11 (now that Judas is out of the picture) did not know why Jesus died or rose from the dead even after they saw His resurrected body. It was not until the Holy Spirit fell on them on the Day of Pentecost, that it all came together for them.

### **20. The Holy Spirit manifests through various fruit.**

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control: (Galatians 5:22-23).* I think it is possible for one to have the gifts of the Spirit without the fruit of the Spirit. I think too one can have the fruit of the Spirit without the gifts. Charismatics and Pentecostals tend to emphasize the gifts. Conservative Evangelicals and Reformed Christians tend to stress the fruit.

I don't mean to be unfair, but I have long suspected that, were it not for the gift of tongues, many evangelicals (many of whom are not cessationists) would have no objection to the gifts of the Spirit. The stigma (offense) is not with regard to wisdom; who doesn't want – and need wisdom? It is not with regard to having words of knowledge, the gift of faith, prophecy, discerning of spirits, the miraculous or healing. The offense is invariably speaking in tongues. Why? Tongues is the only gift of the spirit that challenges our pride. There is no stigma attached to any other gift. Only tongues.

That said, when it comes to gifts and fruits of the Spirit, having them that is, I ask: Why not both?

## **21. The Holy Spirit gives renewed power.**

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And after they all were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” (Acts 4:31).* This event was sometime after Pentecost, possibly weeks later. It shows that the same people who were filled on the Day of Pentecost were filled again – and were thus enabled to speak with renewed power.

What happened was this. A forty-year old man who had never walked was suddenly and miraculously healed by Peter and John. Everybody in Jerusalem knew who this crippled man was. After thousands saw him “walking and praising God”, Peter again took advantage of this opportunity to preach the gospel. At least 2000 were converted as a result (Acts 3:1-4:4). Instead of the elders and teachers of the law being thrilled, they were indignant. They warned Peter and the other disciples *“to speak no longer of anyone in this name” (Acts 4:17)*. Peter and John reported this to the disciples who began to pray. It is an amazing prayer. (Acts 4:24-30). This is when the place was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

My point is this. What happened once can happen twice, or three times. Many times. This is why Paul wrote, *“Be filled with the spirit” (Ephesians 5:18)*; which literally is written keep on being filled. It shows continuous action into the future. We need to be filled again and again!

I pray these help you in your walk.

Allow Him to lead and guide you.

Keep on being filled. Pursue His presence.

I’m praying you all are filled!

## **Chief**

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***Christ’s***

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***Felon***