

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

December 2020

As we close out 2020 – What a year! – I think that it’s been one of the craziest, wildest years I can remember. The Bible says that in the last days, perilous times will come. The spirits of division and deceit are alive and well. There is chaos and turmoil. You’ve probably experienced it right where you’re at. And I hear the voice of the spirit saying, “Separate to Me”.

The Holy Spirit is separating a select group to Himself. He means to give them a special grace and power to accomplish mighty things at this edge of history. They will be uniquely equipped to face the sophisticated evil of our time. But it all begins by making peace with the Holy Spirit and restoring Him to His rightful place.

Take a close look at the book of Acts and you will see the disarming, down to earth way that they related to the Holy Spirit. While they revered Him deeply, they had a sense of His nearness and His involvement in their day to day operations. They behaved as if He was close by and they could almost see Him. Most of all, they anticipated His instructions.

*“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, now separate to Me, Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus” (Acts 13:2-4).*

What did that look like? All we get from Luke is that they knew the Holy Spirit had spoken. We get no indication of any method they used to confirm divine instructions. It’s a good thing too. Our carnal nature always looks for shortcuts. What we do know is that they fasted, worshiped, and prayed.

Not only did they know when to go, they also knew when to stop.

*“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithgna, but the Spirit did not permit them ( Acts 16:6-7).*

We cannot calculate the devastating cost of doing ministry by our own wits. I’ve seen class after class, teacher after teacher fall by the wayside because they were promoting their own agenda, busy bragging about what they had “done”. We seem to gauge our service to God by activity. But if we only went out at the bidding of the Holy Spirit, we would see outstanding results.

Their secret was this: they obeyed the original instructions Jesus left them about how to surrender to the Holy Spirit. If we have any hope of having the power we need in this hour, we must revisit the movement Jesus began to introduce the disciples to this wondrous person. We need a fresh look at what Jesus said about why the Spirit would come, how much power He would have, and what His mandate was.

In a way, this is a fearful reckoning. The ground you are about to cover is so sacred that each step will expose the deepest intent of your heart. Hidden motives will surface. The person seeking personal glory or an edge to success should proceed no further.

Remember the sorcerer who tried to buy the imparting of the Holy Spirit? Peter told him, *“Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God” (Acts 8:20-21).*

The paradox of the Holy Spirit is this: while He urgently seeks vessels to use, He is equally willing to walk away and find someone else if we play games with Him.

When Jesus explained the coming of the Holy Spirit, He began with news that shocked the disciples: *“I am going away”* (John 8:21).

Try to fathom the impact that had on them. One of my friends said to me the other day. “I’m going to miss you when you’re gone” and I was humbly reminded of this story and I told him the fruit of the Spirit of His Presence that he saw in me would remain long after I am gone. That’s what happens when we separate ourselves from the noise and nonsense. The Spirit’s impact through us is eternal as the Spirit is eternal. That’s what that old adage means that says: Only what’s done for Christ will last, for He and the Spirit are one.

The disciples, when hearing that Jesus was going away were worried because tide of public opinion had turned against them. It was an explosive volatile situation. Much like today’s society due to the split of our country. They were still so untrained for the task before them. They must’ve felt a crushing sense of abandonment.

This is where the church stumbles. We take away a totally inadequate understanding. The Spirit of God is not a consolation prize. He was not sent to merely fill the vacuum Jesus left behind. They were not breaking even. Jesus said it was to their advantage that He leave. And what an advantage!

*Now Jesus already knew what he was about to do, but he said this to stretch Phillip’s faith v7 Phillip answered, “Well, I suppose if we were to give everyone only a snack, it would cost thousands of dollars to buy enough food!” v8 But just then, Andrew, Peter’s brother, spoke up and said, v9 “Look! Here’s a young person with five barley loaves and two small fish... but how far would that go with this huge crowd?” v10 “Have everyone sit down,” Jesus said to his disciples. So on the vast grassy slope, more than 5000 hungry people sat down. v11 Jesus then took the barley loaves and the fish and gave thanks to God. He then gave it to the disciples to distribute to the people. Miraculously, the food multiplied, with everyone eating as much as they wanted! v12 When everyone was satisfied, Jesus told his disciples, “Now go back and gather up the pieces left over so that nothing will be wasted.” v13 The disciples filled up twelve baskets of fragments, a basket of leftovers for each disciple. v14 All the people were astounded as they saw with their own eyes the incredible miracle Jesus had performed! They begin to say amongst themselves, “He really is the One – the true prophet we’ve been expecting!” v15 So Jesus, knowing that they were about to take Him and make Him their king by force, quickly left and went up to the mountainside alone. (John 6:6-15 TPT).*

Let’s look at the advantages: Jesus had come in bodily form – He operated from one physical location at a time. Now He had finished that phase of His mission. The power would increase exponentially. The Holy Spirit is not limited to one location; He is omnipresent. He would fall on all flesh.

In one moment, on the Day of Pentecost. The church stopped being a ragtag prayer huddle in the middle of an obscure prayer room. Suddenly, from heaven, they became a global force supervised by an invisible person who was encompassing the world with conviction and serving as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Body of Christ. And doing it with all the power God the Father had given to Jesus.

All the power, as Paul said, *“to tear down strongholds”*. All the wisdom ever needed to decode cultures, avoid traps, speak with a mouth that Jesus promised *“your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist”* (Luke 21:15). I could go on and on.

The Holy Spirit was never meant as a supplement we add to our ideas and talents. He is not the mysterious force we reluctantly go to in emergencies. He is not the final option; He is the only option!

Our most noble ideas – no matter how pure and worthy they seem – if they are not born of the Holy Spirit, they actually aid the enemy.

All of our families, in all the battles – all the ground the enemy has taken – all the morals we have lost in America can be traced back to our activity outside the Holy Spirit.

John 16:15 must be stated, *“All things that the Father has our Mine, therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”* Here is an outstanding fact: The Spirit wants to declare to us everything that Jesus has. This purpose of the Holy

Spirit is reinforced by Paul the Apostle: “*Now we have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God*” (1 Corinthians 2:12).

All the glittering fool’s gold and false success of Christian empires can only be exposed if God reveals to us what we might have had if we had obeyed the Holy Spirit. But it is not too late. God is warring yet again, right now as you read this to marshal a great force of change in America.

God is separating to Himself a core who can have the precise relationship with the Holy Spirit that they had in the Book of Acts. Look at these words again. “Separate to Me”. This was not just a call to be set apart but also to come nearer to the Holy Spirit.

Relearning dependency of the Holy Spirit and leaving mindless activity is not easy. And even the best of us have been fooled. The late David Wilkerson, prophetic voice and pastor of Times Square Church in New York said this: “I knew the blessing was not in a building, not in some well-planned scheme to reach the lost. Not in bigness and not in activity. I discovered the hard way that the glory of God, the peace and joy of the Spirit, was in being stripped down, emptied and made totally weak. God had to expose all my values. He turned His flaming eyes on my soul and showed me I had better reject my old ways of doing things or be lost in a maze of self-imposed activity.”

Look around you. You see the great falling away. You see that even many who remained in church are mired in systems that are lifeless and compromised. On the other hand, you see others saying, “There has to be more”. This flashy, showy, feel good version can’t be right.” They are praying. They are hungering. They are being separated from a contaminated crowd.

Do you have a consciousness of the very presence of God? Are you pressing in so as to not be found naked, but found blameless, immovable, purified by the Word of God? Do you feel God working in you, changing your very nature, preparing you for the greater thing and causing you to be ready to leave this earth?!

Today is the day of purifying, the day of a call to holiness. Today is the day of separation; this is the day to be awakened!

There are two classes of believers in the world today. There are believers who are disobedient – or I ought to say there are children who are saved by the power of God, but who are disobedient children – and there are children who are also saved by the power of God who are longing to be more obedient all the time.

The Holy Spirit is stirring souls across the nation. They are being pulled from fleshly things even as a spirit of prayer is overtaking them. They are surrendering to a special work of the Holy Spirit.

Paul described this dividing apart and pulling away. He even gave the formula for satisfying this deep hunger for more:

*In a palace you find many kinds of containers and tableware for many different uses. Some are beautifully inlaid with gold or silver, but some are made of wood or earthenware; some of them are used for banquets and special occasions, and some for everyday use. <sup>v21</sup> But you, Timothy, must not see your life and ministry this way. Your life and ministry must not be disgraced, for you are to be a pure container of Christ and dedicated to the honorable purposes of your Master, prepared for every good work that He gives you to do. (2 Timothy 2:20-21 TPT).*

How do we surrender to the Holy Spirit? How do we honor his invitation to be separated onto Him?

Amazingly, the best answer may be found in a verse almost everyone has memorized, but many struggle to live by it. Let’s look at it with fresh eyes: “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path.*” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

How can these simple words help in such a deep situation that we find ourselves in?

It’s wrapped up in 4 words: TRUST, LEAN NOT, and ACKNOWLEDGE.

All ambition to succeed can only be abandoned with trust. You must believe that if your heart will concern itself with the Kingdom of God, the Holy Spirit will concern Himself with the matters of your heart.

You can finally let go and trust when you believe God sees the desires of your heart. Dying to our dreams and goals to follow the Spirit’s leading, places those dreams and goals in the safest possible hands. Psalms 37:4 says, “*Delight yourself*

*in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” but no one said it better than Jesus; “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33).*

Don't get me wrong. God does not want us to be passive. He wants us aggressive in action. Remember that even when the Holy Spirit stopped Paul twice in Acts 16, it meant that Paul was trying to go somewhere. It is simply that the Spirit of God wants our actions to be directed. Even waiting on God is active. It must expect wisdom and be conscious of the rewards of obedience. James 1:5 says, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”* Hebrews 11:6 tells us, *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

Nothing is so important as acknowledgment of Him in all your ways. It is not that we become robots that can't think for ourselves. It is a question of honor.

Say you are visiting a friend. You are in the kitchen and you want a glass of milk. You know that they will say yes if you ask, but you would feel odd just walking over to the refrigerator and helping yourself. This is a case of honoring them – acknowledging it is their house.

It is ridiculous to think we are to go through a day waiting for guidance for every move we make. We can, however, walk effortlessly through our day honoring the Holy Spirit's influence in our choices. Honor Him and He will honor you. The authority belongs to the Holy Spirit. We wonder why we lack power and miracles. We wonder why we have lost so much in so short a time in America. Beloved, are you being separated to Him? Then surrender in complete joy at the honor of being selected to walk with the Holy Spirit in end-time power and wisdom.

God is warring to save America. You must find your assignment in that war. But how can we know our assignment? Think about it. I leave you with these verses from Romans, chapter 12, verses 1 and 2. *“Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be His sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights in His heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship. <sup>v2</sup> Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total transformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in His eyes (Romans 12:1-2 TPT).* This is what every Christian believer is supposed to do anyway, so it signifies something critical. It means the will of God is utterly knowable. You want to know it and God wants to show it. Follow this and you're moving in the right direction.

Let not your heart be troubled.... If it were not so I would have told you

## **Chief**

PS: Enclosed is your Bible through the year chart. Check it out. Be faithful.

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com)*

*Christ's*

*Heart*

*In*

*Every*

*Felon*