



## Lecture 2

### The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

*Before the cross, resurrection and ascension of our Lord, Jesus anticipated the great miracle:*

John 14:11-29 (Wuest translation)

“Be believing me, that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me. But if not, because of the works themselves be believing. Most assuredly, I am saying to you, he who believes in me, the works which I am constantly doing, also that one shall do. And greater than these shall he do because I am proceeding to the Father. And whatever you may ask in my Name, this I will do, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my Name, I will do it. If you are loving me with a divine and self-sacrificial love, the commandments which are mine you will keep. And as for myself, I will ask the Father, and another Counsellor of the same kind as I am He will give to you in order that He might be with you forever, the Spirit of the truth, whom the world is not able to receive because it does not see Him with discernment and does not know Him experientially. But, as for you, you know Him experientially, because by your side He dwells, and in you He shall be. I will not leave you behind, helpless. I come to you.

Yet a little while, and the world no longer sees me, but as for you, you see me. Because I live, also you shall live. In that day you shall know experientially that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. He who has my commandments (faith, God’s love) and habitually keeps them, that one is he who is loving me with a divine and self-sacrificial love. And he who is loving me thus, shall be loved with this same kind of love by my Father, and I shall love him with a divine and self-sacrificial love, and I shall disclose myself to him. Judas says to Him, not Iscariot, Lord, and what has come to pass that to us you are about to be disclosing yourself and not to the world? Answered Jesus and said to him, if anyone as a habit of life loves me with a divine and self-sacrificial love, my word he will keep, and my Father will love him, and to him we shall come, and an abiding place with him we shall make for ourselves. He who is not habitually loving me with a divine and self-sacrificial love, my words he is not keeping. And the word which you are hearing is not mine but belongs to Him who sent me, the Father. These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. And the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my Name, that One will teach you all things and recall to your mind all things which I spoke to you. Peace I am leaving behind for you. Peace which is mine I am giving to you. Not such as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart continue to be agitated, neither let it continue to be fearful. You heard that I said to you, I am departing and I am coming to you. If you were loving me, you would in that case already have rejoiced that I am proceeding to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes to pass in order that whenever it does come to pass you may believe”.

This portion of Scripture shows us God’s promise of the Holy Spirit and His absolute assurance of the Holy Spirit’s ministry in our lives. In light of this, God exhorts us to not be troubled and fearful. It is up to us believers to be care free and fully trusting in Jesus. The tragedy is most Christians do not take Jesus’s message to heart and instead, live as victims of the ruler of this world, who attacks Christians with fear, worries, doubt, unbelief, guilt, condemnation, shame, depression, hopelessness, insecurity, confusion and the likes. The enemy cannot attack our born again spirit, but he can attack our body and soul.

**Responding in the flesh to his attacks always leads to defeat.**

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## THE FLESH (the battle field) opposing the Holy Spirit

While our new creation being (the Holy Spirit in us) cannot sin, the flesh (the sinful nature) does. What does the sinful nature produce? SIN. **We decide to live either as new creations depending on the Holy Spirit or as carnal Christians depending on the flesh.** We are now spiritual beings called to live only by the Holy Spirit and not by the flesh.

## HOW TO KNOW IF YOU ARE ACTING IN THE FLESH - Just a few hints:

- When you feel insecure within yourself or in general;
- When you are fearful, worried or anxious;
- When you make decisions on your own, without the Holy Spirit and/or God's Word;
- When you have lost hope;
- When you don't have active faith;
- When you allow unbelief, doubt;
- When you have lost your joy, your peace, your passion to obey Jesus;
- When you have no desire to fellowship at church and no desire to read the Word;
- When you are involved in ungodly ways;
- When you allow sin to remain in your soul;

## **God describes Himself with these seven names which reflect seven attributes of His nature:**

**Jehovah-Shammah (*The Lord is there*), Jehovah Shalom (*The Lord our peace*), Jehovah Raah (*The Lord is my Shepherd*) Jehovah-Jireh (*The Lord will provide*) Jehova Nissi (*The Lord is our banner, victor, captain*) Jehovah-Tsidkenu (*The Lord our righteousness*) Jehovah Rapha (*The Lord your physician*)**

The Holy Spirit also describes Himself with **seven attributes**. These attributes are in every believer.

The seven spirits of God in the book of Revelation are a reference to the Holy Spirit in the perfection of His manifold ministry. The seven spirits are also mentioned in the book of Isaiah 11 in a prophecy which anticipated the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus's earthly ministry.

Revelation 1:4 (Wuest)

**"John [writing] to the seven assemblies, the ones in Asia. [Sanctifying] grace to you and [tranquilizing] peace, from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven spirits which are before His throne."**

Understanding the seven spirits, and therefore, the manifold ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Isaiah 11:2 (Wuest)

**"The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him (*Jesus*), the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."**

The Holy Spirit is also mentioned as teacher, comforter, intercessor and helper.

The 'fear of the Lord' is respect, honour and dependence. This is how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relate to each other. Submission to the Holy Spirit and the Word will produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-24 (Wuest translation)

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such things as these there is no law. And they who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the evil nature with its dispositions and cravings once for all."**