



Lecture 3

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit = Victory In Life

THE NECESSITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY

I would like to share some excerpts from Kenneth S. Wuest's article "Light From The Greek On The Ministry of the Holy Spirit" taken from his book, *Untranslatable Riches from the Greek New Testament*:

"The ministry of the Holy Spirit is an all-important factor in the life of the Christian. It makes all the difference in the world as to whether a Christian has an intelligent understanding of what the Holy Spirit is ready to do for him in his life and in his service, and what his adjustment to the Holy Spirit should be in order that He may fulfill His ministry in and through the saint in the most efficient way. The secret of a successful, God-glorifying, powerful, sweet, courageous, victorious Christian life is in this correct adjustment to the Holy Spirit on the part of the Christian." (Kenneth S. Wuest, *Untranslatable Riches from the Greek New Testament*: 'Light From The Greek On The Ministry of the Holy Spirit,' p.74)

Galatians 4:19 (Wuest)

"my born ones, concerning whom I am again striving with intense effort and anguish until Christ be outwardly expressed in you".

"He has given that ministry [*the formation of Christ in us*] over to the Holy Spirit. He is the agent who takes of the things of Christ and manifests them to us and through us. Our Lord speaks of this same passive state in which He dwells within the Christian's heart, and the fact that the Holy Spirit manifests Him in His beauty through the life of the saint." (Wuest, *Untranslatable Riches from the Greek New Testament*, p.75). In John 16 we read,

John 16:13-15 (Wuest)

"However, whenever that One comes, the Spirit of the truth, He will lead you into all the truth, for He will not speak from himself as a source, but as many things as He hears He will speak, and the things that are coming He will make known to you. That One shall glorify me, because He shall take out from that which pertains to me and make it known to you. All things, as many as the Father has, are mine. On this account I said that He takes out from that which pertains to me and shall make it known to you".

Wuest continues, "The Lord Jesus will not glorify Himself by His own self-expression through the Christian, and if the Holy Spirit cannot, because prevented by the believer, then the life of the Christian has little in it of the sweet graces of the Son of God... Dr Max Reich put this beautifully when he said, "If we make room for the Holy Spirit, He will make room for the Lord Jesus." (Wuest, *Untranslatable Riches from the Greek New Testament*, p.75).

Galatians 1:6-7 (Wuest)

"I am marvelling that in such a manner suddenly you are becoming of another mind and deserting from Him who called you in the sphere of Christ's grace to a message of good news diametrically opposed to the gospel, which message is not an alternative gospel. Only, there are certain ones who are troubling your minds and are desiring to pervert the gospel of Christ."

“The position of the Galatian Christians is the position of those children of God who are not conversant with the teaching regarding the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. They are like those converts of John the Baptist who when confronted with Paul’s question, “Did you receive the Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2), answered, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost”.

This is the explanation for the fact that there is so little of the beauty of the Lord Jesus in the lives of so many earnest Christians. These [believers] are doing their best to live a good Christian life, but their own strength is not equal to the task. **The Holy Spirit does all He can for them under the circumstances.** Their lives are certainly different from what they were before they were saved... There is a certain amount of victory over sin. They enjoy the things of God but as for their lives radiating the Lord Jesus, there is very little of that. The Lord Jesus dwelling in their hearts will not give outward expression of Himself in their lives. He has given that ministry over to the Holy Spirit. And if the Holy Spirit is not recognized and depended upon for this work, He simply cannot perform it. Just as Jesus never saves a person until that person recognizes Him as Savior and by an act of his own free will puts his trust in Him, so the Holy Spirit is waiting for the Christian to recognise His ministry, and by an act of his own free will, trust Him to perform it. The Galatian Christians fell from that state of dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Most Christians have never been in that state, and therefore have not fallen from it, but because of their ignorance of this teaching, are not the recipients of His work. It would have been well if the one who introduced them to the Savior had then introduced them as well to the Holy Spirit. But alas too often the soul winner himself is not in possession of the teaching of and experience in the ministry of the Spirit to the saint.” (Wuest, *Untranslatable Riches from the Greek New Testament*, pp.77-78)

We worship a triune God, the ONE true God. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, in the unity of the Godhead (divine nature or essence). He is a wonderful being, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, who always was and always is and always will be. GOD IS ONE. The doctrine of the trinity means that within the being and activity of the one God there are three distinct persons.

Matthew 28:19 (Wuest translation)

“Having gone on your way therefore, teach all the nations, making them your pupils, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The reality is that too many Christians do not understand (because of ignorance and therefore unbelief) what it means to live by the Holy Spirit and to experience the life of Christ in us.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE THE LIFE OF CHRIST?

Living the “life of Christ” is simply depending on the Holy Spirit and God’s Word. It means we CEASE to live our lives by the flesh, e.g. WE are in charge; WE decide what we want, when we want, WE live independently from God and His Word, WE ignore the person of the Holy Spirit indwelling us. All such attitudes are actually us thinking we know better than God and sadly, with this proud attitude, we refuse to experience a relationship with Jesus.

Christians speak of Jesus as if He is a distant God who is to be met on Sunday at church. **This is religion.** God wants **relationship** with His children. This is the reason He has given us His Holy Spirit: to communicate with us and for us to communicate with Him.

God initiated a relationship with us by writing a love letter to us: THE BIBLE. He gave us the capacity to not only maintain this relationship, but to enjoy and experience the power, wisdom, love, peace, infinite blessings and joy our heavenly Father has given us.

God has demonstrated His love towards us. A good way to reciprocate God’s love is to earnestly desire to communicate with Him and to depend on Him in every way. WE SHOULD MAKE THIS OUR GOAL.