



Lecture 4

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

SOME REFLECTIONS FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. God has adopted us as His son or daughter and has given us His Spirit, or His “DNA,” that is, His life and His nature.
2. God the Holy Spirit is infinitely more powerful than our flesh. We are all, as believers, new creations and have become overcomers through Christ, provided we acknowledge this truth and seek the influence, fullness or control by the Holy Spirit
3. God loves us and has given us His Holy Spirit in order to live the abundant life HE has promised. We ought to be powerful lights touching and impacting the dark world.
4. God has given us His Word for us to renew our minds. The Word is Jesus and the Holy Spirit in us gives us supernatural understanding and revelation, this causes us to renew our minds and then apply God’s Word in our lives.
5. The natural man (the five senses) is to submit to the spiritual realm: the spiritual man submitted to the Holy Spirit will experience the love, power and spiritual gifts for service and victory.
6. Our salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit. However, salvation is only the beginning. God has a plan for every believer and the Word in us and the Holy Spirit’s leading will cause us to experience His will and plan in its fullness. If we don’t cooperate with the Holy Spirit, we might experience “detours,” becoming side-tracked by our own selves and the enemy, however God knows how to get us back on the right track, though it will take much longer and with unnecessary trials.
7. The Holy Spirit indwells us permanently for the task of sanctification. He is changing us day by day more into the image of Jesus. Again, the more we cooperate and renew our minds, the more we are changed into His image. We need to understand that our “new creation” part is already in God’s image, but our soul and body need to be submitted to the Holy Spirit.
8. The Holy Spirit is eager to help us produce the fruits of the Spirit and also to enable us to use the provision of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for service.

Our soul (our emotions, mind and will) will start changing the moment we acknowledge and embrace our real identity. Now, the exciting “partnership” can start to bear fruit.

Once you have understood and received this powerful truth, you are ready for a new beginning in your life; a new life without the heavy weight of the old life. Now, by the Holy Spirit we can already live this supernatural life right here, right now.

We need to always remember, the spiritual (the invisible) is eternal; the physical and what we can perceive with our five senses is temporary. It is both an attitude of expectancy as the Christian looks forward to the inheritance awaiting them in heaven, and a hopefulness of present blessings from God in this life in view of the eternal blessedness of the believer in the next life.

A child of God has no right to look on the dark side of things, and to look for the worst to happen to him. Knowing how much God loves us, and our destiny in Christ, we should be rejoicing in the Lord always as God exhorts us to.

Proverbs 4:18-19 (NASB)

“But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

One of the main reasons for powerless Christians is to not understand both the indwelling and the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

This is due to the believer not being in the Word, and also due to wrong doctrine on the part of some churches who teach and make statements according to “denominational doctrine” that have no foundation in Scripture.

Denominational doctrines emphasise certain parts of the Bible while neglecting other parts.

Some wrong statements and assumptions about the Holy Spirit that you may have heard:

- 1) Asking the Holy Spirit to “fall afresh” on the believer
- 2) We must empty our lives of sin before receiving the Holy Spirit
- 3) The Christian’s spirit is a vessel and the Holy Spirit fills that vessel
- 4) The Holy Spirit is “somewhere” around us or “on us” like in the Old Testament

These statements rob Christians of the truth that sets free. They stop the believer from seeking the leading, teaching, counselling, comforting and empowering relationship with the Holy Spirit. The promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit is “the” blessing: **God in us, so we can be like Jesus on earth.**

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Wuest translation)

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the partnership of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

It is indeed a partnership with the Holy Spirit. An “unequal” partnership. The Holy Spirit has everything and we have nothing. It is remarkable how so many Christians rely on themselves, having nothing, and ignore or are unaware of Jesus - who provides everything - living in them by the Holy Spirit.

John 6:63 (Wuest translation)

“The Spirit is He who makes alive. The flesh is not of any use at all. The words which I have spoken to you, spirit are they and life.”

Faith is simply trusting what the Word says happened in your spirit (the indwelling of the Holy Spirit), more than what you see and feel in your natural body and soul.

Feelings change, but the truth doesn’t! If you genuinely committed your life to Jesus, the truth is, He will always honour His commitment to you. He’ll never deny, leave, nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5 (Wuest translation)

“...For He himself has said, and the statement is on record, I will not, I will not cease to sustain and uphold you. I will not, I will not, I will not let you down.”

2 Timothy 2:13 (Wuest translation)

“If we are unfaithful, that One remains faithful, for to deny himself He is not able.”