



# Lecture 5

## The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

### A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

Some Christians refer to the Holy Spirit as “it”. By using the pronoun “it” they deny and deprive the Holy Spirit of His personality. Treating the Holy Spirit as an “it” (a thing) is not only disrespectful but dishonouring. Granted these believers do it in ignorance, but this highlights how important it is for us to have a correct doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Not understanding the person of the Holy Spirit and His ministry will cause a Christian to believe in “some power” or “some spirit” and embrace some kind of “mysticism”. The believer thinks they possess some mysterious power at their disposal. This is wrong. It is not we who use the power of God to accomplish our whims, but the power of God that empowers us to serve His purposes.

The Christian who fails to treat the Holy Spirit as a person (the Third person of the Godhead) robs themselves of a wonderful relationship - a partnership - and with it, every blessing of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, including His guidance, wisdom, power, comfort and counsel. So long as a believer ignores the indwelling person of the Holy Spirit they will not make the proper adjustment to the Holy Spirit, to a position of dependence upon and submission to Him. Failing to acknowledge and submit to the Holy Spirit as who He is consequently inhibits His sanctifying work in making the believer more like Jesus every day. The Holy Spirit wants to take control of the believer to help them fulfil God’s plan. The fact that the physical body of the believer is the inner sanctuary of the Holy Spirit is most important to be acknowledged.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (Wuest translation)

**Or do you not know that your body is an inner sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were purchased at a price. Now therefore, glorify God in your body.**

The Apostle Paul laid a foundation in view of the believer being free to receive and experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit both for salvation, sanctification and for service.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Wuest translation)

**“So that, assuming that anyone is in Christ, he is a creation new in quality. The antiquated, out-of-date things [which do not belong to the new life in Christ Jesus] have passed away. Behold, all things have become new in quality.”**

We can read and hear this portion of Scripture as many times as we want, but unless we accept and adopt this new life, we will still carry the old life in us.

1 Peter 1:2 (Wuest translation)

**“this choice having been determined by the foreordination of God the Father, those chosen out to be recipients of the setting-apart work of the Spirit resulting in obedience [of faith] and [this resulting] in the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. [Sanctifying] grace to you, and [tranquilizing] peace be multiplied.”**

We have here the divine order, God the Father elects the sinner to salvation, God the Holy Spirit brings him to the act of faith in Jesus and indwells him, and God the Son saves and cleanses him from sin.

## OUR NEW IDENTITY:

1 John 4:17 (Wuest translation)

**"In this has been brought to completion the aforementioned love which is in us [produced by the Holy Spirit], which love exists in its completed state, resulting in our having unreservedness of speech at the day of the judgement, because just as that One is, also, as for us, we are in this world."**

### These are the facts of 1 John 4:17:

God's Word teaches us that as believers we have already been born-again by the Spirit of God. We become a new creation the moment we believe in Jesus. Being a new creation means we have a new identity. We need to understand and embrace this reality. We have been transformed into the image of God. God has reversed what Adam did, now we are again created in the image of God through the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. **We can make the big mistake of continuing with the same ways of thinking, living and behaving even though we are now a new being - with a completely new identity - in Christ.**

Many people, due to lack of sound teaching, do not understand the radical change that takes place in their spirit the moment they commit their lives to Christ. The day after their commitment, they wake up in the morning and think nothing has changed; they become discouraged because they consider only their soul and not their spirit, which is now indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Your body and soul (mind, will, and emotions) did not automatically change at salvation the way your spirit did. If you had short legs before being born again, you'll still have short legs afterward. If you were bad at maths before you got saved, you will stay bad at maths until you increase in learning. Your mind isn't instantly changed; it's your spirit that's been made new! Then your mind is to be renewed. **Our spirit is invisible; God's Word is the only way you can know what has happened within your spirit.**

Romans 12:2 (Wuest translation)

**"And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it."**

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (Wuest translation)

**"for to us God the Father revealed them (*the things*) through the intermediate agency of His Spirit. For the Spirit is constantly exploring all things, even the deep things of God.<sup>11</sup> For who is there of men who knows the things of the individual person except the [human] spirit of that aforementioned individual person which is in him? In the same manner also the things of God no one has known except the Spirit of God. But as for us, not the spirit of the world system did we receive but the Spirit who is of God in order that we might come to know the things which by God have been in grace bestowed upon us,<sup>13</sup> which things also we put into words, not in words taught by human philosophy but in words taught by the Spirit, fitly joining together Spirit-revealed truths with Spirit-taught words.<sup>14</sup> But the unregenerate man of the highest intellectual attainments does not grant access to the things of the Spirit of God, for to him they are folly, and he is not able to come to know them because they are investigated in a spiritual realm.<sup>15</sup> But the spiritual man investigates indeed all things, but he himself is not being probed by anyone.<sup>16</sup> For who has come to know experientially the Lord's mind, he who will instruct Him? But as for us, Christ's mind we have."**