THE COMMUNION OF THE

HOLY SPIRIT

Moving from Promises to Experiences

Yomi Omotunde

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...moving from promises to experiences

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all those who are reaching for a deeper walk with the Spirit of God.

"So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the LORD of hosts."

- Zechariah 4:6

INTRODUCTION

After a person receives the gift of eternal life, the next most important gift they ought to receive is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When you study the early church in the book of Acts, you will see that it was important to them that every believer in Christ received the Holy Spirit. They didn't take this with levity.

In Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, Peter did not only preach Christ to the people who had gathered around them, he also told them about the Holy Spirit. He said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38-39).

Again in Acts 8, after Philip had preached the gospel in Samaria, turning the whole city to Christ, we see that immediately the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Apostles Peter and John to minister the infilling of the Spirit to the new believers (Acts 8:14-15).

Also, in Acts 9:17, Ananias laid hands on Saul of Tarsus to receive the Holy Spirit immediately after his dramatic conversion. He didn't wait for another week, month or year.

In Acts 19:1-2, Paul met some folks at Ephesus, and on hearing that they were disciples, he immediately asked if they had received the Holy Spirit since they had believed. They replied that they had not heard of any Holy Spirit. As soon as Paul heard their response, he asked, "Into what then were you baptized?"

Here, Paul, expected that if they had believed the gospel, they would have received the Holy Spirit. In other words, if they had heard of and believed in Christ, they would have also heard of and received the Holy Spirit. This was why when they said they hadn't heard of any Holy Spirit, Paul inquired on what they were baptized into. He went ahead to tell them of Jesus; they were baptized in water, and received the Holy Spirit afterwards.

Evidently, for the early church, receiving the Holy Spirit was something that should immediately come with receiving Christ. They took it very seriously and prioritized it because they recognized the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. A close study of the prayer of Apostle Paul in 2

Corinthians 13:14 will give us insight into why the apostles prioritized the receiving of the Holy Spirit for every believer in Christ.

This book focuses on that prayer and looks at the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer in Christ. I desire and pray that as you read this book, you will be brought into a richer and deeper communion with the Spirit of God. May you also walk in the fullness of what God has planned for you.

THE COMMUNION OF THE SPIRIT

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen" - 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Three things are mentioned in the above verse: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ; the love of God; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, and there is a relationship between all three.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ refers to all the free blessings and benefits made available to man through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In other words, grace is any benefit or gift, which has been made available by

the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross. That sacrificial work was motivated by the love of God.

John 3:16: "for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God, the Father, so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. This begotten son was full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Thus, grace is the gift of love. The love of God made grace available. This grace is accessed by the communion of the Holy Spirit. Without the communion of the Holy Spirit, grace cannot be experienced.

Hebrews 10:29 calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of grace; He is the One that brings us into the

experience of the grace of God made available in Christ Jesus. Therefore, we can confidently say that the communion of the Holy Spirit is man's connection to the love of God and the grace of the Lord Jesus.

Notice that three persons were mentioned in 2 Corinthians 13:14; the Lord Jesus Christ, God (referring to the person of the Father), and the Holy Spirit. Both the Father and the Lord Jesus are in heaven. The Holy Spirit is the only person of the Godhead who lives on the earth and dwells in the believer. He is man's connection to God, who dwells in heaven. This is why we say that it takes the communion of the Spirit to enjoy the love of God.

Therefore, without the Holy Spirit, God will be far away from man, which is why it is His will that everyone receives the Holy Spirit. God declared that through the prophet Joel in Joel 2:28: "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..." His desire is for all flesh (every human being) to receive His Spirit. Why is this so? The Holy Spirit is the bridge or link between heaven and earth. He is the connection between God and man.

Ephesians 2:18 says, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." Jesus Christ gave us that access by His sacrificial work, but it is by the Holy Spirit that we can experience and enjoy it.

1 Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free..." That's quite clear, isn't it? Everyone who is a member of the

body of Christ today was baptized or engrafted into the Holy Spirit. He is our point of contact or connection to Christ. Without Him, no one can enter into the experience of Christ's finished works of salvation. He is the One that makes spiritual realities tangible in the physical.

In John 1:1, it tells us that the Word had been in the beginning with God, but that Word only became flesh and walked the roads of Galilee by the Holy Spirit. When the angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she was going to conceive and give birth to a child who would be called the Son of the Highest, she asked him, "How can this be since I do not know a man?" The angel answered her and said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." The Word was made

flesh by the active operation of the Spirit of God. If there is anything that God has given you in the spiritual realm which you desire to experience in this physical world, know that it can only come into being by the Holy Spirit. This is why it is important to receive the Holy Spirit, and having received Him, to experience an everabiding communion with Him. This was what Paul prayed about in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

What is the Communion of the Holy Spirit?

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen" - 2 Corinthians 13:14 The word, Communion, translated in Greek is 'koinonia'. which means partnership, participation, or fellowship. So, when the Bible says "the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you", it translates to mean "the partnership of the Holy Spirit be with you" **or** "the participation of the Holy Spirit be with you." **or** "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you." In this vein, when the Apostle Paul prayed for the saints that the communion of the Holy Spirit would be with them, he was praying that the partnership or the participation of the Spirit would be with them. This partnership or participation of the Spirit is the key to walking practically in all the blessings of the New Testament; whether they are blessings that impact directly on our spirits, souls, or bodies.

In Ephesians 1:3, it tells us that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. Notice that the verse doesn't say that we are going to be blessed with all spiritual blessings, it tells us that we are blessed already. Notice also that we have not just been blessed with some blessings, but blessed with all spiritual blessings.

Now, what kind of blessings are these?

Spiritual blessings!

Where are these blessings or where can they be found?

They are in heavenly places in Christ.

'Heavenly places' refers to that realm of existence that's beyond the physical. In other words, all the blessings that we have been blessed with are not in the physical realm; they are in the spiritual realm.

The Bible tells us in John 1:14 that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. That Word was with God in the spiritual realm, but by the operation of the Holy Spirit, the Word became flesh; it came into the realm of physical tangibilities. This shows us that spiritual realities can become tangible in the physical. How? By the Holy Spirit.

If there's no active working of the Spirit of God in the life of the child of God, the spiritual blessings that he or she has received in Christ will not be seen or experienced in the physical. This is why the communion of the Holy Spirit is so important. It is through this active working that spiritual blessings are brought into the

physical. It is like having the Nigerian naira and needing to do a dollar transaction. Although the naira has value, and you may have a lot of it, it will not be accepted for dollar transactions. So you will need to change it to dollars so that you can receive whatever goods or services you require.

The Holy Spirit is God's agent that converts spiritual blessings to physical entities. As a child of God, you have all spiritual blessings in heavenly places; but for these blessings to become tangible in the physical, you need the active participation of the Holy Spirit in your life. This vital partnership of the Holy Spirit with us is what makes the 'word' become 'flesh' in our lives.

John said in his epistle; "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us." (1 John 1:1-2). The Word that was with the Father in the beginning was manifested for men to see, look upon, and handle.

How was this possible?

By the Holy Spirit!

That was what angel Gabriel said to Mary in Luke 1:35, " - And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born

of thee shall be called the Son of God." Do you desire for the word of God to be made tangible in your life so much that men will see and touch it? The Holy Spirit is the answer; the communion of the Spirit will make that possible in your life.

Great things will happen for the child of God that enjoys the communion of the Spirit. Conversely, there will be a lot of unnecessary hardship and trouble for the believer that does not enjoy the communion of the Spirit or fails to yield to His participation.

When Jesus was leaving the earth, He said to His disciples in John 14:15-18, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees

Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." The Holy Spirit is the helper of the believer. If you fail to give place to your helper to do His work in your life, you will suffer needlessly. The believer who is not enjoying the communion of the Spirit will experience life as one without a father or a helper. In other words, life would be difficult for him.

I remember an experience I had on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia in the United States, which greatly underscored this truth for me. My flight was booked for Lagos to Washington D.C, with a stop-over in one of the African capital cities. This meant that I needed to book a local flight from Washington D.C to Atlanta. For some reasons, I was not able to get a local flight booked

before I left Lagos, so I just concluded that I would buy a ticket over the counter once I got to Washington D.C. While waiting for the connecting flight, during the stop-over, the Lord brought a thought to my mind to call a brother who was resident in the United States and ask him to book a local ticket for me from D.C to Atlanta. I would then do a refund to him afterward. For some reasons, which bordered on me not wanting to disturb him, or 'bump' into his schedule, I did not make the call all through the time of our stop-over. I reasoned that I would simply buy a ticket over the counter once we arrived in Washington D.C, which we got to at night. I tried getting a ticket as I had planned but was unable to secure one. I spent several needless hours at the airport initially because I was trying to get a ticket to continue my journey that night. Secondly, because I was trying to get

a hotel to lodge in for the night (that was not in the plan at all) after it became obvious that I wouldn't be flying to Atlanta. Eventually, I got a place to lodge late into the night and was back at the airport the following morning to buy a ticket to continue my journey. Since I was buying the ticket over the counter, I had to pay a premium for it. I spent extra unplanned money for my overnight lodging, and also had to pay a high sum for my ticket to Atlanta. The Naira, Nigeria's currency, had just undergone a devaluation at the time, so when I did a mental conversion of my spending, I realized that I had spent a lot on the trip.

When the time came for me to return to Lagos, I needed to go back to Washington D.C from Atlanta, and this time I decided to follow that gentle nudge of the Spirit of God on my heart. I

picked up the phone and called the same brother that I should have called while coming from Lagos, and asked if he could help with the booking of my ticket from Atlanta to Washington D.C. He was so willing to do it and told me how he would want to be refunded. Unlike my trip from Lagos to the United States, my return trip was different. I had taken advantage of the help that God had provided for me, so I didn't have to go through any stress as I did when flying in, and I didn't have to spend money unnecessarily. God's provision was available even before I got to the U.S. If I had responded to the nudging of the Spirit of God in my heart from the beginning, I would have avoided the stress I went through, and the extra expenses I incurred on the journey.

A story told by Brother Jesse Duplantis further goes to buttress the importance of walking in partnership with the Holy Spirit in order to enter into the fulfilment of the promises of God. Years ago, a friend of his came to see him one morning and asked if he had a thousand dollars, of which he responded in the affirmative. His friend asked him to accompany him to a place, and he obliged. On their way, they picked up a mutual friend, who also said he had a thousand dollars. All three went to a particular landed property somewhere in the state of Louisiana in the United States. When they arrived at the site of the property, their friend who had picked them up told them that he wanted all three of them to contribute a thousand dollars each to buy the property. The property was three thousand dollars.

Brother Jesse said both he and the other friend refused to put down their one thousand dollars because they felt the place was a dump and wasn't worth that amount. Their friend told them that while driving past that place some days before, the Lord told him to buy the property. He told them that he had three thousand dollars but had asked them to bring their money because he wanted them to be a part of it. The man went ahead to buy the property alone for three thousand dollars. Six months later, the state of Louisiana decided to put an overpass across the land; his friend was paid three million dollars for the property. Brother Jesse said every time he passes by the place, he remembers the story, and still feels so bad about his decision not to put down his own one thousand dollars. Had he invested the money, his one thousand dollars would have become one million dollars in six months. His friend's three thousand dollars became three million dollars within six months; that's a return on investment of ninety-nine thousand nine hundred percent (99,900%), in just six months! All by hearing and obeying the voice of the Spirit of God. That's the blessedness of the communion of the Spirit of God.

Years ago, I was praying about an internship placement following the successful completion of my undergraduate course in Physiotherapy from the University of Lagos. I had put in applications to some hospitals in Lagos, Nigeria, and was releasing my faith for placement in one of the hospitals. While praying about the matter one day, the Lord spoke to me in my heart; He told me that I should not ask Him to open a place up for me in Lagos, Nigeria. He said I should

trust Him and expect Him to do what was best for me. I said "Alright Lord", and I changed the direction of my faith and prayer. I began to pray about Him bringing to pass what He had planned concerning the internship regardless of the location.

Not long after that, an opportunity came to apply to the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Complex in Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. After some months, I was given an internship placement alongside a few of my former classmates, and we had to relocate from Lagos, Nigeria to Ile-Ife in Osun State, Nigeria. It was a whole new environment and experience for us. It was after about seven months that the plan of God began to unfold for me. God connected me through a friend to a church (God's Love Tabernacle International Church)

that had recently started at the time. I had the opportunity to meet the Pastor of the church (Pastor Segun Obadje) the first day I was there. A relationship was established with him that day which has brought immense blessings and benefits to me. God has used him over the years to provide the needed spiritual covering and leadership for me which has enabled me to enter into the greater things that He had prepared for me.

At about the same time, in the same church, I met a beautiful, intelligent and spiritual young lady, Adebusola Olonilua, to whom I was attracted to. With the approval of the Lord and our Pastor, we started a relationship which eventually led us into marriage. We are still going stronger and stronger in marriage, day by day to the glory of God. Ile-Ife was not in view at

all for me while I was in school, but the Holy Spirit knew that it was part of the Heavenly Father's plan for me. So, He guided me even when I didn't have all the details. That one move has brought countless blessings into my life, and even today, fruits still abound from that one leading of the Spirit of God. Hallelujah!

JESUS AND THE COMMUNION OF THE SPIRIT

*****Led to the Wilderness***

The Lord Jesus is our perfect example. He experienced and enjoyed the communion of the Spirit His entire life. Hence, He walked in sync with the Father's plan for Him. Immediately after His baptism at Jordan, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He didn't go to the wilderness because He felt like going there or because that was the most natural thing to do; He went there because the Holy Spirit led Him there. Matthew 4:1 says, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil". When He

returned from the wilderness, Luke 4:14 tells us that He returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding regions. Verse 15 says, "And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all". Before Jesus went into the wilderness, He was not popularly known by people. By the time He returned from the wilderness, news of Him had spread to all the regions around Galilee because of the miracles that happened by His hands.

The Holy Spirit could use Him, and work with Him the way He did because He was a yielded and obedient vessel. He was willing to follow the Spirit even to a difficult place. Many want to walk in the power of the Spirit and have news of them spread abroad, however, when it comes to listening to and following the Spirit of God to the hard places, they shrink back. Jesus walked with

the Holy Spirit every step of the way. His life was an unfolding of prophecies because He carefully walked with the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:12-14 says:

"Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned".

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus relocated from Nazareth, where He was brought up, to

Capernaum. Matthew tells us that His relocation was in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 9:1-2). His ministry to the sick was also a fulfilment of another prophecy by Isaiah.

Matthew 8:16-17 says:

"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

Even His teaching style fulfilled prophecy. Matthew 13:34-35 says: "All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable he did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying; I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things

kept secret from the foundation of the world." He was a man who fully yielded to the Holy Spirit.

The story of Lazarus' death and how he was raised from the dead by Jesus is one that clearly shows the involvement or communion of the Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus got a call from two sisters, Martha and Mary asking Him to come quickly because their brother, Lazarus, was sick. Their call was one that you would expect Jesus to naturally respond to quickly because that family was one that the Lord had a personal relationship with.

In John 11 verse 3, the sisters sent a message to Jesus saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." The Greek word for love is 'Phileo', which means to have affection for a person or a thing. It denotes a sense of personal attachment for a

person or thing. It is used to represent the love between family members or friends. That was the kind of relationship that Jesus had with Lazarus; they were friends. Verse 5 also says, "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." Therefore, when the call came from Lazarus' sisters to Jesus, one would have expected Jesus to immediately hit the road, with His disciples to go to Bethany. However, Jesus did not do that. His first response was to say, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." He immediately declared ahead of time that the sickness would lead to His glorification. In other words, death would not be glorified; the Son of God would. Then verses 6-7 also say, "So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, Let us go to Judea again."

Jesus remained where He was after hearing the news of His friend's sickness, and even with the urgent call from the sisters, He stayed where He was another two days. After the two days were completed, He then began the journey to Bethany to see Lazarus. Why did Jesus do this? Why didn't He immediately respond to the call of Martha and Mary to help his friend? Why did He stay another two days before He went on the journey to Bethany?

In Mark 5:22-24, when Jairus asked Him to come to his house because of his sick daughter, Jesus went with him without hesitation. In Luke 7, when the Roman Centurion sent some Jewish elders to Jesus on behalf of his sick servant, Jesus

was on the way to the man's house; He only stopped when the man told him not to bother to enter his house. He told Him, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." Jesus immediately went to Jairus' house; He did the same with the Roman Centurion. Why then did it take Him two days to respond when it came to Lazarus' case; a man that the Bible says Jesus loved? Did you ever think about it?

When you study the events around this story carefully, and Jesus' response, you will see the involvement of the Spirit of God in the decision-making process of Jesus.

Let's read John 11:6-16:

"So, when he heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, let us go to Judea

again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him". These things He said, and after that, He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up". Then his disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well". However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him". Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him".

Jesus told His disciples that they were going to Judea again. His disciples replied by reminding Him that not too long before that time, the Jews had tried to stone Him (John 10:31-40); they were wondering why He wanted to go back there. In their minds, they thought it was a dangerous journey to embark on. Jesus' response to them in verses 9 and 10 shows that He was not making decisions on His own. He told them that anyone who walks in the day (light) does not stumble. Those who stumble do so because they have no light in them. Jesus was telling them that He could not be killed because He wasn't walking in darkness; He had light (revelation) from His Father. He didn't make His decisions based on circumstances; He made His decisions based on what the Spirit of God led Him to do.

When Jesus finally arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been dead four days, and Jesus raised him back to life. It was a miracle like none that Jesus had previously performed. The miracle was so outstanding and remarkable that the next time Jesus would go to Jerusalem, He was met by a great multitude. They had branches of palm trees and cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!" Even some Greeks who had gone to Jerusalem to worship sought to see Him; it was the first time such a thing would happen in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus had been to Jerusalem a number of occasions before then (see John 2:13, 5:1, 7:10). In those previous times, the Bible doesn't tell us that He was met by a great multitude, until the time in John 12:12, when he rode on a young donkey in fulfilment of Zechariah's prophecy. John goes further to tell us in chapter 12 verses 17-18 why the multitude came out to meet Him with shouts of praise; "Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign". It was because news of the raising back to life of a man who had been dead for four days had spread all through Jerusalem. There was something about this particular miracle that was different from all others that Jesus had done. He had opened the eyes of the blind, restored hearing to the deaf, and made the dumb speak before the miracle at Bethany. He had even raised the dead back to life previously. However, this particular one involving Lazarus was on another level. When the Pharisees saw the multitude that gathered to meet Him, they said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him"!

The raising of Lazarus back to life was the most outstanding miracle that Jesus did, and it happened at the end of His earthly ministry. When you consider carefully the events that surrounded that miracle, you will then understand why Jesus said "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it". You will then understand why Jesus stayed two more days where He was before He went to raise Lazarus from the dead. The Spirit of God must have told Him to wait because of what God had planned to do. Jesus could have immediately responded to the call of Martha and Mary and healed Lazarus. Had He done that, he would have missed out on the greater glory that God had planned to be revealed in and through that situation. Lazarus would have been healed, but that would not have been significant enough to cause the great multitude to meet Him as they did.

There was a prophetic word that still needed to be fulfilled, and Jesus' sensitivity to the Spirit of God was crucial to its fulfilment. Zechariah, in Zechariah 9:9, spoke by the Spirit; he said, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey".

The miracle of Lazarus brought about the fulfilment of this prophecy. The people met Him with celebrations, rejoicing and shouting according to that which was spoken. Jesus Himself was riding on a young donkey, and He

was going to carry out the work of salvation in just a few days ahead. His partnership with the Holy Spirit made it possible for Him to walk in the fulfilment of that which was written concerning Him.

Hebrews 10:5 tells us "Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, Behold, I have come – in the volume of the book it is written of Me – to do Your will, O God". It was by the communion of the Spirit that Jesus was able to walk in the reality and practicality of the things that had been written of Him. And it is by the same communion of the Spirit that we too will walk in the reality and tangibility of the things that have been written concerning us.

SIMEON AND THE COMMUNION OF THE SPIRIT

Luke 2:25-31 says:

"And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your

salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples"

Another man in the scripture that entered into the fulfilment of prophecy by the communion of the Spirit was **Simeon**. The Bible tells us that Simeon was a resident of Jerusalem; he was a just and devout man who waited for the consolation of Israel. He was also a man of the Spirit, the Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit was upon him. This man had received a word from God that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Simeon must have lived every day expectantly, as God had given him a word. He believed it, and most certainly had looked forward to its fulfilment.

Then came a certain day, when the child Jesus was taken to the temple for the customary

dedication. The Bible tells us that Simeon went into the temple that same day by the Spirit of God, and that was the day his eyes saw the salvation of the Lord as God had promised him. The leading of the Holy Spirit was Simeon's connection to the fulfilment of the word that God had given him. If he had failed to recognize and respond when the Spirit of God moved him to the temple that day, he would have missed the fulfilment of the promise that he had been carrying, for possibly, many years.

The communion of the Spirit was the answer. The Spirit of God led him to go to the temple that very day and at the same hour that the child, Jesus, would be in the temple. Think about this, what was the probability that Simeon would be in the temple at the same time that the baby Jesus would be dedicated? There were many

children dedicated in the temple every day in accordance to the Law of Moses, and unlike Anna, the prophetess, spoken of in that same chapter, Simeon didn't live in the temple. He most likely visited from time to time like every other resident of Jerusalem. It was within this context that Simeon walked into the temple on the same day that the baby Jesus was taken to the temple for dedication. Only the Spirit of God could have made that connection possible for Simeon. This same Holy Spirit will lead you into the fulfilment of prophetic words spoken to and concerning you if you will follow Him as Simeon did.

PHILIP AND THE COMMUNION OF THE SPIRIT

Acts 8 tells the story of how Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ to the people.

Acts 8:6-8 says:

"And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city."

Through the ministry of Philip, Samaria experienced great miracles and the salvation of

souls. Philip's ministry was so impactful that news of what had happened got to the ears of the apostles in Jerusalem. They had to send Peter and John to minister to the new believers so that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

Acts 8:26 describes the event amidst the great move of God thus: "Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert."

The next verse says: "So he arose and went..."

Philip obeyed the instruction of the angel of the

Lord and went down the road leading to Gaza.

The angel was not acting on his own volition. He was acting under the orders of the Spirit of God

because all the angels of God working on this earth are under the command of the Holy Spirit. For instance, in Acts 10:3-6, an angel of the Lord appeared to Cornelius and told him to send men to bring Peter to his house. The following day, Cornelius, obeying what the angel told him, sent three men to bring Peter to his house. About the time the men approached the house Peter was lodged in, the Holy Spirit spoke to Peter while he prayed, and said: "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

The Holy Spirit assured Peter that He had sent the men who came looking for him. We know that the men were sent by Cornelius who was obeying the instruction of the angel. But we were not told that the Spirit of God spoke to Cornelius. The angel that appeared to Cornelius was following the orders of the Holy Spirit (the director of heaven's operations on earth). So Philip's obedience to the instruction of the angel was, in effect, obedience to the instruction of the Spirit of God.

Philip acted on what the angel told him to do by going down the road that led from Jerusalem to Gaza. Thus, the Bible says in Acts 8:27-30: "...And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, Do you understand what you are reading?" On his way, Philip saw a chariot and heard the Spirit tell him to join the chariot. Thereafter, he met the Ethiopian Eunuch, a man of great standing who was returning to his country. Philip led him to receive Christ and baptized him in water.

Acts 8:39-40 says:

"Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea."

Philip experienced something extraordinary; the Spirit of God caught him up and instantly transported him from that desert road to another city. He did not have to expend his energy walking; the Spirit of God saved him all that stress. He had the glorious privilege to lead a soul to Christ - a strategic one at that because the man was described as one with great authority. Thereafter, Philip was given an experience which is a foretaste of the world to come. One moment, he was on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza baptizing the eunuch, and the next moment, he was at Azotus. The limitation of time and space were taken away by the Spirit of God instantly.

Everyone would like to have this kind of experience that Philip had; I certainly would love to! I remember standing at a bus stop, many years back, and reaching out in faith to be supernaturally transported home, just like Philip had been. I stood at the bus stop for quite some time, and when it dawned on me that it

wasn't going to happen, I had to transport myself home on my feet.

Philip wasn't praying to be transported; he simply followed the Spirit of God in obedience, and the Lord chose to do something special for him. When we follow the Holy Spirit in obedience like this, even when it is not convenient, great things usually follow. If you want the Holy Spirit to lead you into great harvest, then you must be ready for Him to lead you into great sowing. A lot of people are looking out for instructions from the Spirit that will bring great harvest into their lives, however, they are not looking for instructions that will require them to sow, but the Bible tells us that God is not mocked: it is what a man sows that he will reap (Galatians 6:7). Besides that, seedtime will always come before harvest, not the other way around (Genesis 8:22). So, if you desire the leading of the Spirit into great opportunities to harvest, then open up your heart for His leading into great opportunities to sow and to be a blessing to others.

For example, Luke 5 tells us that Peter had a great catch of fishes because he threw in his net at Jesus' instruction. Before Jesus gave Peter the instruction that led to that great catch, he had first asked Peter's permission to use his boat as a platform to preach the Gospel, of which Peter obliged. It was when Jesus was done with the multitude that He said to Peter: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." Jesus did not give that instruction to all the fishermen in town. It was specifically for the fisherman who had made his boat available for Him to use. Peter did as the Lord said and caught so many fishes that both his boat and that of his partners began to sink. Peter was led by the Lord into a great harvest because he had first been willing and obedient to be led to sow a seed. Jesus asked to use his boat after an unproductive fishing night and he responded in obedience. That first act of obedience opened the way for the second instruction to come to him. This is where a lot of people are missing it. They are looking out for instructions that will bring in a great catch of fish, yet, they are not paying attention to instructions requiring them to make their 'boat' available for the Lord to use. When we listen to the Lord and follow His instructions to sow, He will instruct us into our harvest.

I had an experience along this line years back while I was in university. I left school to see an aunt of mine at her house and while I was there, she prepared a lovely meal (pounded yam and vegetable soup). I decided to take my portion of the delicacy back to school where I would take my time to enjoy every bit of it. It was carefully packed for me before I took my short journey back to school. When I got to school, I had a prompting in my heart to give my 'precious' food to the pastor of my campus fellowship at the time. He didn't ask me for it; I simply had it laid on my heart to do that for him, which I obliged obediently. Talk of precious seed; that was precious to me. I hadn't thought of sharing the food with anyone, let alone giving it out altogether - that was what I ended up doing. I gave the food to my pastor as I had been prompted to do. Though I wouldn't have the opportunity to enjoy the good taste of the meal, I was glad within me that I had obeyed God.

Later that evening, I had an experience that impacted my academics and life greatly and has stayed with me these many years. Before that experience, my academic result had been an average one. I desired to do better and knew I could, but I didn't know how that could be. It wasn't only a matter of studying more; I knew of classmates who spent hours studying and still got average results. It was more of a wisdom matter; a matter of knowing how and what to study. So, that night, a couple of hours after I had responded to the prompting in my heart to give my food, I was in the bathroom. As water poured over my head, all of a sudden, it seemed as if someone stood beside me (no one else was there physically) to my right. Also, it seemed as if the person was speaking into my right ear. Now, I didn't hear any physical voice (I am only describing how vivid the experience was). This

person (I believe it was an angel of the Lord) began to show me what I hadn't seen and known about how questions were set in our assessments and examinations. Right in that bathroom, I saw clearly what I was to do, how to study and prepare for examinations.

During the next assessment, I put to work what I was taught, and it worked. Even from the assessment hall, I knew that my score would fall within a certain range, and it was so. I moved from average scores to distinction. The template that I was shown became my pattern for studying for the remaining three years I spent in the school. I no longer struggled academically because the Spirit of God had given me light. One of my classmates who had some serious academic challenges began to keep company with me and my friends. This classmate

experienced a significant change in her results also. She regained her self-confidence and finished school on a strong grade. I can trace everything that night to when mv understanding was opened in that bathroom, where I saw clearly what I was to do. I believe very strongly that that breakthrough was connected to my obedience of faith in 'sowing' my precious pounded yam and vegetable soup because God always honour those who honour Him.

If you desire to experience the move of the Spirit in your life, you must be willing and obedient to do whatever He tells you regardless of what it will cost you.

EGYPT: TO GO OR NOT TO GO?

"Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land." - Genesis 12:10.

Genesis 26:1-3 says:

"There was famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech, king of the Philistines, in Gerar. Then the LORD appeared to him and said: 'Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father'."

Genesis 46:2-4 "Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." So He said: "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Abraham, Isaac his son, and Jacob his grandson at different points in time were faced with famine. Each of them was faced with a decision whether to go to Egypt or not to go. Abraham went to Egypt and came out richer than he was when he went in (Genesis 13:1-2). When Isaac too was faced with famine, he was about to follow the path of his father, but God told him not to go to Egypt. He told him to stay in Gerar

where he was. Isaac stayed and the Bible tells us that God blessed him (Genesis 26:12-13). When Jacob was also faced with famine in his own time, God told him to go down to Egypt. It was part of His grand plan for the nation of Israel. God already told Abraham many years before Jacob came that his seed would serve in a strange land, and afterward come out with great substance (Genesis 15:13-14).

So we see three men, faced with the same type of situation but with different instructions and responses. One went to Egypt, the second was told not to go, while the third was instructed to. In these three different instances, we see the importance of a walk with God. Isaac would have missed God had he gone to Egypt like his father, and Jacob would have missed God had he refused to go to Egypt. God had a specific plan

for each of them, and He led them differently, based on that plan. None of us can fulfill God's plan by looking at what others have done or are doing. God's plan for each one of His children is specific and tailor-made. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has prepared good works beforehand for us to walk in. The Amplified translation puts it this way "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of timel, that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live!". The Spirit of God knows the deep things of God - It is as we follow Him that we will walk in the paths that He has prepared for us. This is why the communion of the Spirit is so important.

HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE COMMUNION OF THE SPIRIT

The communion of the Holy Spirit is the partnership of the believer with the Spirit of God. A partnership involves at least two persons bringing something of value to a venture to make it successful.

For you to experience the communion of the Holy Spirit, there are things you need to do. The Bible shows us these things, let's look at some of them:

Receive the Holy Spirit

The first important thing in experiencing the communion of the Holy Spirit is to receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Promise of His Father in Luke 24:49. Peter also said in Acts 2:38-39: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

In Joel 2:28, God gave a promise by the mouth of His servant that He would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. After Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. Today,

all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord can receive that blessed Promise of the Father.

Recognize and Be Aware of His Presence

Once you receive the Holy Spirit, He comes to live in you permanently. From the day you receive Him, His interaction with you will be from within you.

Speaking to His disciples about the Holy Spirit, Jesus said in John 14:17: "...but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." He told them the Holy Spirit would be in them. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Where did He say the Spirit of God dwells? In the believer!

1 Corinthians 6:19 also says: "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you.

1 John 2:27 says: "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you…" The anointing refers to the Holy Spirit; the scripture says the anointing that we received abides in us.

1 John 4:4 says: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." If you are born again and have received the Holy Spirit, there is a 'He' that is in you. That 'He' is **the Holy Spirit.** Therefore, for you to enjoy His

partnership and participation, you must know where He lives, which is "**in you**" and that's where He functions from.

Little wonder Jesus cried out in John 7:37-38 that "If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." He didn't say that the rivers of living water would flow out of heaven; but that they would flow out of the heart (innermost being) of one who believes in Christ.

John tells us in the next verse that what Jesus was talking about was the Holy Spirit that those who would believe in Him would receive. The Holy Spirit flows from within the believer. The believer's inner man has become His operational base. This is the reality I came into, that created

in me the confidence to lay hands on other people to receive the Holy Spirit. I reasoned that since the Holy Spirit lives in me, then He could flow from me to another. That day, I saw that I too could minister to others to receive the Holy Spirit. From that day on, I began to get results on a higher and consistent level whenever I laid hands on people to receive the Holy Spirit.

The knowledge of the indwelling of the Spirit is so important because it will make for easy connection with the Holy Spirit. Once you are conscious of His indwelling, you will become more sensitive to what goes on in you.

Romans 8:16 says: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him,

that we may also be glorified together." The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit because He lives in us that is we are the place of His abode.

Be Willing and Obedient in Your Heart

Willingness in the heart to do whatever the Holy Spirit instructs and commands is very important when it comes to enjoying the communion of the Spirit. The Lord Jesus was willing to do whatever the Spirit wanted Him to do even when it was not convenient. The Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He did not refuse or resist; He went, He yielded and was malleable. Hence, the Spirit could lead and guide Him to do miracles.

When it comes to walking with the Spirit of God, the first thing that we must develop is a willingness of heart and submission. Philip's obedience and submission in Acts 8:26-40 is a classic example as seen earlier. Those who desire to experience the move of the Spirit of God in their lives, as Philip did, must commit to being willing and obedient to do whatever the Spirit tells them to do regardless of the cost. When we follow Him, even when it is not convenient, He will lead us into fruitfulness, prosperity, and glorious places.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "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 paths."

Pray in Tongues and Minister to the Lord Regularly

1 Corinthians 14:14 says:

"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful."

Praying in tongues regularly is one of the ways to develop sensitivity to the Spirit of God. Every time you pray in tongues, your spirit is praying; as a result, your spirit is active. So, when you engage your spirit regularly, praying in other tongues, you will be in a state of continuous sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. If you take time (at least an hour daily) to pray in tongues, you will discover that you will become more sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit within you. The Holy Spirit in you is a Spirit being. You are also a spirit being. You will not perceive Him with

your body or your mind. However, you will perceive Him with your spirit. This is why praying regularly in tongues is so important in a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul was certainly a man that experienced the communion of the Spirit. He wrote the words in 2 Corinthians 13:14. It was this same Paul that told the Corinthian church that he prayed in tongues in his private time of prayer more than all of them (1 Corinthians 14:18-19). He was a man who prayed in tongues a lot. Little wonder he was a man who walked with the Holy Spirit.

Also, in Acts 13:1-2, we are told of a company of prophets and teachers who took out time to minister to the Lord with fasting. What does it mean to minister to the Lord? The Amplified

were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, separate now for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." They ministered to the Lord by worshipping Him. This means that they offered Him the sacrifice of praise according to Hebrews 13:15. They offered Him the fruit of their lips. We can offer to the Lord the fruit of our lips by speaking words of thanksgiving and praise, and by singing in other tongues and in our understanding.

Ministering to the Lord with words and songs of praises stir up the glory of God.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 says:

"Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard

in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God." The glory of God filled the house of God when the trumpeters and singers lifted their voice in one accord to praise the name of the Lord. In the New Testament, the believer is called the house of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16), and the Holy Spirit is the glory of God. His indwelling in the believer is the habitation of the glory of God. When the believer takes time to minister to the Lord as the priests and Levites did in 2 Chronicles 5, the glory of God within will be stirred.

Commit to Walking in Love

1 John 1:5-7 says:

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. To have fellowship with God, we must walk in the light as He is in the light. The word, fellowship, is from the same Greek word translated as communion in 2 Corinthians 13:14. Thus, we see an important condition for walking in partnership with God is walking in the light.

What light is this? 1 John 2:9-11 shows us. It says: "He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

The Apostle John shows us by the Spirit of God that hatred is darkness, and love is light. Therefore, to walk in love is to walk in the light; and to walk in hatred is to walk in darkness. God is light; He is love (1 John 4:8 and 16) and His way is the way of light or love. Anyone that will walk with Him must walk in the light, which is love. Ephesians 4:29-32 gives us insight into how our love walk is important to a good

relationship with the Holy Spirit. Verse 30 says "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." When you read from verses 29 to 32, you will gain more insight into how not to grieve the Holy Spirit. Let us read: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Speaking words that do not edify or build up others can grieve the Holy Spirit. Allowing bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and malice in our hearts will also grieve the Holy Spirit. The word "grieve" can also mean to "make sad" or "sorrowful". If you grieve the Spirit of God that lives in you, He will withdraw. He won't leave you; Jesus said He will abide with us forever. However, you won't hear His voice or receive His nudging within you anymore, until you repent and ask for forgiveness for not acting in line with God's word.

Love is a command; Jesus said in John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." To walk out of love is to walk in disobedience; it is to displease the Holy Spirit. This is why we must commit to love regardless of what men do to us. Choose to speak the right words at all times. Choose to forgive, and think well of people. Choose to be a blessing to people

at all times. Avoid strife in your environment. When you live this way, you create the right atmosphere for the communion of the Spirit in your life.

Renew Your Mind with God's Word

There is a consciousness that we must have if we will walk with the Spirit of God. There is a way that God thinks, and there is a way that men think. God tells us in Isaiah 55:8 that "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." His thoughts are higher than man's thoughts. If we will walk in partnership with His Spirit, then we must come up to His way of thinking. For

example, God doesn't think "impossibility". His thoughts are thoughts of possibilities. Luke 1:37 says: "For with God nothing will be impossible." He doesn't think of "selfishness" or "selfcenteredness". He thinks love (that is His nature). He doesn't think of "hoarding", He thinks of "giving". Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35).

In Matthew chapter 14, we have the story of how Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish. Jesus had just finished ministering the word to the multitude, and healing the sick among them. His disciples came to Him and said: "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus' response was one that they were not expecting to hear. He said to them: "They do

not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

He was telling them that they could feed the multitude, instead of sending them away. Rather than saying: "Yes Lord! We will get to it right away!" They said to Him: "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fishes." In other words, we cannot do what you are telling us to do because we don't have the required resources to get it done. Was it true that they could not feed the multitude? Why did Jesus tell them to do it if they couldn't do it? Was He teasing them? If it was true that they could not do it when He told them to do it, then Jesus would either have been joking or was simply being wicked. Why tell them to feed the multitude if they really couldn't have done it? Or, did He know what they did not know?

Well, knowing the character of the Lord, we can safely say that the Lord was not joking with them, nor was He being unreasonable with them. He knew that they could do it, but they did not think that they could. He was seeing the situation from a higher place. Thus, He spoke to them from that place. They did not catch on with what He said because their minds were not renewed to His way of thinking. Jesus eventually fed the multitude, but, notice that he didn't initially say: "Don't send them away; I will give them something to eat." He said "No need to send them away; you give them something to eat." The disciples could have been the ones to perform the miracle if they had been reasoning on the same frequency that Jesus was.

Jesus was reasoning on the frequency of the Spirit of God; He saw possibilities when others saw impossibilities. That was why the Spirit of God was able to work with Him.

If you want to enjoy the communion of the Holy Spirit in your life, you must allow your mind to be dominated by the thoughts of God. The more your mind is dominated by God's thoughts, the easier it will be for the Spirit of God to work in your life. This is why you need to give attention to the Word of God; reading the scriptures, and listening to the Word from anointed men and women of God. As you do this, your mind will be renewed, and you will begin to see things from God's perspective. When you see from God's perspective, it will be easy to cooperate with Him whenever He requires you to. This vital cooperation or partnership between God and man is the key to miracles on earth.

YOUR BEST DAYS ARE AHEAD OF YOU

In John 5, after the Lord Jesus had raised the man who had been bed-ridden for 38 years, the Jews accosted and accused Him of breaking the Law of the Sabbath. The Lord told them that He only did what He saw His Father do. He was telling them that the reason He healed the man on the Sabbath was that He saw the Father do it. He then went on to make a remarkable statement. He said: "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel." John 5:20. Jesus told them that all the works that He had done were shown to Him by the Father. Then He said that the Father would show Him greater works than the ones they had seen Him do, so they may marvel.

Jesus had seen great works, yet He knew that there were greater works, and He declared that the Father would yet show Him those greater works. The raising of Lazarus back to life after being dead for four days was a fulfilment of that declaration that Jesus made. That miracle was one like no other that Jesus had done. It occurred about the time of the end of His earthly ministry. As stated earlier, Lazarus was raised back to life because Jesus followed the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God led Him into the greater works. You may have seen God do great things in and through your life, but I say to you "There are greater works!" There are greater things to see and greater things to do. Just like Jesus, you too must follow the Holy Spirit every step of the way. He is the one that will lead you into the greater things that the Father has prepared for you.

Thank you for reading!

We hope you were blessed by this book.

We would also love to know how it has blessed you.

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Permission is fully granted to share this eBook with others so they too would be blessed by it.

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