

WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

Num 11:14 *I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.*

Num 11:15 *And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.*

Num 11:17 *And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.*

What spirit was upon Moses? The answer is the Spirit of God! Who would not want to have the Spirit of God that guided Moses? Moses was overwhelmed by the constant complaints and grumbling from the children of Israel who numbered about 2 million souls in total. God's solution was to take the same Spirit that was upon Moses and share it with 70 elders. God wants more people to be filled with his Spirit. We cannot be happy with a few souls filled with the Holy Spirit in the church – the more souls filled the easier the path to heaven! We need our children to be filled with the Holy Spirit also. Today's youth are being burdened with sins which earlier generations of youth have been shielded from. Like Moses they too feel the wear and tear of the stress and sin of the world invading their private spaces.

What benefits accrued to Moses through the Spirit of God resting upon him? He was called the humblest man on the earth. "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). We cannot truly be humble without the Spirit of the Lord – only his Spirit can mold and shape our characters to be like his. Moses was also a very patient man. He had to be in order to lead 2 million contentious people for forty years in one of the most inhospitable places of the world.

Mat 11:28 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Mat 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Mat 11:30 *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Let us also remember how hasty and ill-tempered Moses was before God called and anointed him with his Spirit. "And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand" (Exodus 2:12). Patience is a virtue! Is anyone struggling with pride and lack of patience? The Lord Jesus Christ knows you cannot change without his Spirit dwelling in you. Give your life over to him; he wants to make you his tabernacle, his dwelling place forever. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man

hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Next, we need the Holy Spirit because God is holy.

Lev 20:7 *Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.*

1Peter 1:15 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*

1Peter 1:16 *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Because God alone is holy, his Spirit is referred to as the Holy Spirit. This means not only that God cannot sin but that he is the source and essence of all that is holy. Holy may be a simple word, but it cannot be understood and experienced except through the holy God himself. Purity, goodness, mercy, love, kindness, empathy and an infinite number of similar qualities go into the concept of holiness. “Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?” (Job 15:15&16). No one can measure up to God’s standard of holiness unless the Spirit of God dwells within. God knows that human company has great influence and so he decided to become closer to us than any family member or friend can get – he tabernacles in us. “No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house” (Mark 3:27). Rather than worry ourselves endlessly about our children and the company they keep, a better course of action would be to plead with the strong man – the Lord Jesus Christ – to enter in and ward off evil company. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is called the Comforter.

John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

2Cor 1:4 *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

Sometime ago we studied about Buddhism. Buddhism rightly focused on sorrow and pain as the biggest challenges in life. However, and sadly, the Buddha believed one could meditate away or escape from sorrow through Nirvana, a state of nothingness. This is unrealistic. The Lord Jesus Christ promises to provide supernatural comfort through and trials and tribulations. The Greek word for Comforter is *paraklētos* and means “summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid”. The God who carries the weight of the universe can surely carry the sum of our sorrows and pain. Is it not the case that we love to have those who truly love and care for us comfort us when we go through severe problems? “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:7). Jesus doesn’t take long to change our

mood from sorrowful to cheerful. Imagine two men walking sorrowfully a short distance and talking about a dead man who suddenly walks besides them! How many of us Christians make the mistake as these two disciples on the road to Emmaus! In our sorrows and struggles in life we talk as if the Lord Jesus is still in the tomb. Misery may love company, but one Jesus is sufficient to bring cheer into the lives of thousands of dejected people. “And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:51&52). The sorrow of the disciples was turned into joy. Jesus is still giving comfort to millions of people in the world today. Next, the Spirit of the Lord Jesus gives power to be witnesses for him.

***Act 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

The Greek word for power is *dynamis* and means strength and ability. Power here includes the ability to do miracles and live a moral life. All these gifts come from the Holy Spirit and enable us to win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ. Why was the Lord so eager to return as the Holy Spirit? “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you” (John 16:7). The reason is because he can now witness through the mouths of millions of believers.

***Luke 21:13** And it shall turn to you for a testimony.*

***Luke 21:14** Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:*

***Luke 21:15** For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.*

Every Christian who loves the Lord wants to be a good witness for him. This is a very good reason to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Who can witness about the Lord better than the Lord himself? The Book of Acts is full of people who were Spirit-filled. The Lord took their mouths and gave them wisdom which no adversary could gainsay nor resist. All we need to do is be filled with the Spirit and practice yielding our mouths, minds and spirits to the Lord. I once talked to an audience about the Lord for a long time and noticed only when I finished that some were in tears. The Lord spoke through me and did not let me take note of these responses so I may focus on the testimony. Similarly, the Lord was in control when Stephen witnessed and rebuked the Pharisees so he did not seem to notice their growing anger. One young Pharisee though, by the name of Saul of Tarsus, never forgot Stephen’s testimony and

death. Like the blood of Abel, the voice of Spirit-filled Christians who witness about the Lord can never be silenced.

***Act 22:19** And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:*

***Act 22:20** And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.*

It is impossible to exhaust all the reasons why we need the Holy Spirit but let us dwell on one more. Receiving the Holy Spirit is the title deed that proves we have a heavenly inheritance. David may have been a poor shepherd boy from Bethlehem but the oil on his head, anointed by Samuel, was the title deed proving that he would soon become King. “Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah” (I Samuel 16:13). I pray the young will listen to me! Young person please pray for the Lord Jesus to fill you with his Holy Spirit. You may not think much about it now but, like David, you will definitely inherit the Kingdom of God.

***Eph 1:13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

***Eph 1:14** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

The Greek for earnest is *arrabōn* and means “money which in purchases is given as a pledge or down payment that the full amount will subsequently be paid”. If the down payment is so good imagine what the rest will be like in heaven. God cannot lie, says the Bible. Receive the Holy Spirit and heaven will be yours and mine. Like David, God promises us a Kingdom and to make us kings and priests.

***Rev 1:6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

***Rev 5:10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

So, what are you waiting for if you haven’t been filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ? Jesus is himself the Holy Spirit. “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6). Ask the Lord directly to give you his Spirit and it will be the start of the most incredible and soul-satisfying journey that will continue forever.