

HANDBOOK

What You Need To Know About Your Daily Companion, The Holy Spirit



MIKE MURDOCK

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The Holy Spirit Is

The Mystery
For Which Everyone
Is Searching.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK

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My life changed dramatically on July 13, 1994.

It happened on a Wednesday morning. I had gone to bed at 5:00 a.m. after working all night long on a very special project. Two hours later, at 7:00 a.m., I was awakened suddenly and completely. An unexplainable, undeniable and awesome Presence was in my room.

Something more powerful than anything I had ever experienced...like an invisible emotional current was pulling me from my bedroom toward my "Secret Place." (This is my private prayer room in a small complex next to my house.) Now, I did not really call it "The Secret Place" at that time. It was simply my Prayer Room. But, that day was to change my understanding of God forever.

Because of the overwhelming and compelling urge to enter into intercession and go to The Secret Place, I thought that perhaps my father had suddenly passed on to be with the Lord. You see, my 81-year-old father is the greatest intercessor I have known in my lifetime. When I think of my dad, I think of him on his knees, with his hands raised, eyes closed and praying "in the Spirit." It was normal for him to spend six to ten hours a day in his personal and private prayer room. Throughout my entire life, I have never heard my father curse, lie or say a single word that could not be placed on the front of any newspaper in the world. That has always impressed me. He walks with God. Well, I had asked the Lord for many years to put his

Mantle of Prayer over my life.

When this incredible, unexplainable and compelling surging current began to *draw me toward The Secret Place*, I thought the Mantle was being transferred that morning. But, I couldn't feel any real sorrow had he really passed away. There was incredible calm and peace.

So, my second thought was, "Someone must be praying for me." You see, my entire ministry is held up daily by hundreds of people who call my name to God. I need their prayers, their intercession and their spiritual support more than any finances or even words of encouragement. I have built my entire ministry on Matthew 18:18-19, and the Prayer of Agreement. Somehow, from my childhood I received unshakable faith that when two people would pray for something *in the will of God*, every demon in hell had to submit to this penetrating power. God answers prayer. Quite simply.

When I travel, I often ask the audiences to remember "Mike Murdock in prayer every day. In fact, every time you walk into a grocery store and see a little bag of M & M's—let that be a reminder to call the name of Mike Murdock in prayer." Everyone always laughs aloud, but they get the point. And, many have told me over the years that every time they see a little bag of M & M candy, they immediately remember to call my name in prayer. So, I thought that somebody had just interceded and had a breakthrough in prayer for my life because of the overwhelming atmosphere and Presence in my room.

My third thought was more dramatic:

Could this be the burning bush experience I had wanted from the Lord my entire lifetime? I've always

admired ministers who experience visitations from angels. Wow! I have begged God in my early years to "please let me *see* an angel, *talk* to an angel." That seemed to be something so remarkable and life changing. I will never forget having supper with the late Roland Buck who had remarkable encounters with angels. But, these kinds of visitations never happened to me.

Yet, I have always believed that God can give you dramatic encounters that create an unshakable, unmovable confidence in His Assignment for your life—something that no man can ever make you doubt. He did it for the Apostle Paul, when his name was Saul, on the Damascus road. He did it for Peter when He sent an angel in to the prison while the church prayed for him. He did it for Moses. The burning bush episode was never doubted, even when people were complaining around him many years later.

God is a dramatic God.

God is an emotional God.

God creates unforgettable encounters.

Normally, upon awakening, I would punch "play" on the tape recorder beside my bed or in my bathroom. I always listen to Scriptures being read while I dress. (Nothing on earth is as important as The Word of God being spoken into your mind, heart and life...every single day. *Nothing*.)

But, this surging, invisible and compelling current was overpowering me. Literally, I felt that time was of such essence—I didn't take time to even turn on the Scripture tape.

I grabbed my clothes. Pulling them on, I took my Bible and rushed out the door. I bounded down the concrete steps beside my swimming pool and crossed

the driveway over to the little "guest house complex" next door. (I had turned it into private offices for myself, away from the ministry offices.)

It was the most dramatic day of my lifetime.

I fell in love with The Holy Spirit...as a Person. Not an experience. Not feeling His power surge through me. Rather, beholding His countenance, His glory, and finding Him to be the Best Friend I would ever have in my life.

Now, I am not merely a religious man with religious experiences. Neither am I a novice in the things of God.

My father and mother were married 63 years. She recently went to be with the Lord. My dad has been a pastor and minister for 62 years or so. I am the third child of a proven, established and precious man of God. Seven children are in our family today. My father is an intercessor. I was raised in a non-stop, continuous atmosphere of praise, worship and continuous prayer life. In my own mind, I remember seeing my father more on his knees than I ever saw him off his knees.

He always had a private room for prayer. Though some of us children had to pile up in one bedroom, Daddy always had his separate room for prayer. (It never occurred to me to question it. That was an accepted habit in our household. Daddy was always in his Prayer Room.)

Now, I also had a powerful and unforgettable encounter with The Holy Spirit at the age of ten. Many call it "the baptism of The Holy Spirit." It was at the altar in Franklin, Louisiana, that I was encouraged by a lady evangelist and her husband, Paul and Alice Cormier, to pursue "the baptism." This

was basically considered to be an overwhelming encounter with The Holy Spirit that was accompanied by "an unknown prayer language."

I will never forget it. It was real, wonderful and genuine. Great joy entered my heart. And I was so thrilled that I could tell everyone at the church, at last, I had "experienced the baptism." Then, several years later, about the age of 15 or 16, I experienced another mighty and unforgettable baptism in The Holy Spirit in Beaumont, Texas. This happened on the platform when a wonderful man of God, Harry Hodge, prayed over my life on the platform at the church called Sabine Tabernacle.

But, none of these experiences can compare with July 13, 1994.

As I review my entire spiritual journey, I perceive that the body of Christ has an obsession with new spiritual experiences, encouragers and memorable events. There is nothing unholy or unspiritual about this. Most great champions of faith can trace the turning points of their life to a night with God, like Jacob had at Bethel.

Whether you experience unusual laughter, falling under the power of God called "slain in the Spirit" or simply running around a church building in response to the flow of joy...every experience that brings you closer to God should be celebrated. Every one of them.

Remember, too, that satan creates memorable experiences. He is an imitator of God, not a Creator. So, everything God does, satan tries to duplicate. I am thankful for every remarkable encounter that has swept me *towards* God's presence.

However, experiences are never enough.

Your experience should bring you to Him. If your

spiritual encounter does not bond you with The Holy Spirit, it has merely been an experience.

1. The Holy Spirit Is The One Who Changes You. Any experience with Him will create a noticeable difference in your conduct, behavior and even the words that flow from your mouth.

Sometimes, it seems that the church sees The Holy Spirit as the wonderful proprietor of a grocery store of blessings. Just like grocery stores sell candy, fruit and many wonderful "gifts," too many are coming away from His power and experiences discussing the "toys and candy."

The Holy Spirit does not want His gifts and manifestations to mesmerize you, paralyze you and become your focus.

- 2. He Expects You To Listen To Him Continuously.
- 3. He Expects You To Glorify Jesus In Your Life.

Most of us are like the inexperienced country kid visiting a city market for the first time. We are trancelike in our response and never stay around the store long enough to know the proprietor...who makes it all happen.

I would trade every discovery of my lifetime (including my knowledge of the alphabet) for what I discovered about The Holy Spirit on July 13, 1994.

My life changed in many ways.

My attitude changed forever.

The searching ended.

That invisible quest for "answers" stopped. I knew I had just found "The Answer" to every important question of life. The unrest stopped. The discontentment was over.

I lost all fear of man and what men could do to me. Every ounce of fear regarding any potential failure dissolved into nothing. I lost completely, the fear of criticism. The need for encouragement and affirmation from others evaporated. (It simply ceased to add anything to me for someone to compliment me in any way.) It didn't matter any more. His opinion alone mattered.

He was enough.

His presence, pleasing and pleasuring Him and the look on His countenance has become my *obsession*.

Two statements soon came from my lips that had never been uttered before in my whole lifetime. But, I was able to make after July 13, 1994:

First, when one of my best friends called and asked me how things were going, I had to honestly make this statement to him. Never, in 50 years of living, had I ever made such a statement. "I don't know how Heaven could possibly be better than this earth." That almost sounds blasphemous. How could anyone say such a thing with all the problems on earth? Simple—I could not feel any pain whatsoever, emotionally, mentally, financially or spiritually, of anything going on in my life. Things were in bad shape in some areas—but I could not feel any of the pain or discomfort from it. Today, I know why this happened. You see, everybody shouts and gets excited over Heaven. It is guite acceptable to believe that it's not streets of gold in Heaven that makes everyone happy. It is the presence of God. The Holy Spirit, Jesus, the Father—it is their presence that makes Heaven a Heaven.

Well, if this is really true—then His presence on earth could keep us just as happy now...before we ever

leave here...if we are focused totally on Him.

Now, there have been days and some weeks since then that my focus has been *broken*. Earth contains warfare. Heaven does not. So, our inner battle here is to maintain total focus on Him *continuously*. In Heaven, no distractions exist.

Second, I was able to make a statement to him that was a first again—"I cannot think of anything that could possibly improve my life." Can you imagine such arrogance or pride or bliss? But it was true. This was incredibly unusual for me. I am in constant pursuit of excellence. There has never been a day in my life that I could not think of many things to improve my life! Hundreds! But, after developing an obsession with The Holy Spirit and His presence, it has occurred and been very true. Nothing else on earth is really necessary for your total joy (Psalm 16:11).

I looked into the face of a pastor friend some months ago. He asked, "What are your goals and dreams for your ministry? Where do you see your ministry going in the coming years? What is your vision and dream?"

I thought for a good while before answering him. I knew my answer might be misunderstood or misinterpreted. I wasn't trying to be cocky and arrogant. I knew that my answer would make me sound very prideful. But, I went ahead and told him my heart.

"I am already there. There is nothing else I'm obsessed in trying to do or achieve. I am already where I have been wanting to go."

He looked stunned.

"Are you telling me that you have *arrived*?" He looked incredulous and shocked. Actually, disbelieving.

Well, I knew that this did not show my humble side at all. But, I had to be honest with him.

"Yes," I replied slowly. "Yes, I suppose I have arrived."

"I've never heard anybody in my entire life say that they had arrived!"

"Well, don't get mad at everybody for it. Everyone ought to know if they have arrived at where they've been going!" I laughed.

Then I continued, "Let me explain. I wrote a song like this, 'You are where I have been going! Holy Spirit, You've been my destination all this time."

Everything inside you is moving toward something. The success teachers tell us it is a dream to be birthed. Relationship teachers tell us that it is a "soul mate." Religious leaders teach that you are in search of "the meaning of life." Philosophers focus on "your destiny."

Your quest is for The Holy Spirit.

He created you. He formed you. He skillfully sculptured your life. You are *empty* unless He enters your life. You are *blind* unless He opens your eyes. You are *deaf* to the incredible sounds on earth unless He unlocks your ears. You are *lost* unless He reveals the way.

The Holy Spirit is the mystery for which everyone is searching. He is the Person Jesus told us to wait for, look for...that would continue His presence on the earth, after His ascension.

Now, some of the occurrences on that Wednesday morning, July 13, are "unlawful for me to utter." The Holy Spirit will not permit me to discuss them in detail. Perhaps it is my private "burning bush" encounter. Some of the details must be withheld. Sometimes, The Holy Spirit gives us special secrets between us and Him—that's what makes the relationship so different and unique with Him.

However, there is not a single doubt in me that I have found the *Greatest Secret of the Universe*—the constant presence of The Holy Spirit will satisfy you beyond your imagination. He is who you are looking for. I know it *without a doubt*.

I call Him, "the One who stayed."

Now, I'm not a theologian. I understand little about the mystery of the Godhead. Those who claim great knowledge about the Godhead seem to be joyless. I refuse to be mentored by The Unhappy. I do believe...Jesus is making intercession in Heaven for us today and He assigned One who would never leave us nor forsake us, The Holy Spirit. This is only a small portion of my personal studies. It's not exhaustive, but I felt you'd want to get started...now.

That's why I wrote this book.

Mike Hunder

1

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

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He Is Not Wind, Fire Or A White Dove.

Jesus knew this. He taught us, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever," (John 14:16).

He is not an "it."

He is... "Him."

You see, the pictures, metaphors and emblems used in the Bible can easily be misinterpreted and distorted.

He is a Person, not merely a presence. He is a Person who has a presence, an atmosphere emanating from Him. I think the word "Spirit" confuses many.

"Oh, she has such a wonderful *spirit* about her!" said a minister's wife to me. She was referring to the *attitude* of another lady.

"Oh, I love the *spirit* in this church!" This kind of statement refers to the atmosphere and climate existing in a building.

But, The Holy Spirit is not an attitude, atmosphere or environment. He is a Person who talks, thinks, plans and is incredibly brilliant and articulate. He is the *voice* of the Godhead to us. Read John 16:13, "He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak." A presence or an atmosphere does not talk! A *person* speaks.

A presence or an atmosphere does not have a

will, a mind, or a *plan*. Thoughts have presence. Animals generate a presence. But, *The Holy Spirit is much more than a presence*. You see, aroma is not really the food. The stink is not the skunk! The bark is not the dog. The quack is not the duck.

His presence is evidence of His Person.

Few people know this. That's why they never discuss their problems with Him. Most believe that He is a silent cloud or wind receiving assignments to different buildings or people.

Jesus recognized Him as a mentor. "He shall teach you all things," (John 14:26).

He is not merely a fog.

He is not merely a wind.

He is not merely fire.

He is not merely rain.

He is not merely a white dove at a baptismal service. If He were wind, He could not mentor men. If He were a white bird, He could not teach you all the sayings of Jesus (John 14:26). If He were merely fire, He could not impart counsel. The Holy Spirit simply uses various pictures of Himself to reveal His workings, His nature and various qualities about Himself.

The Holy Spirit can enter your life like water—refreshing you. "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses," (Isaiah 44:3-4).

The Holy Spirit can enter your life like fire—purifying you. "And there appeared unto them cloven

tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," (Acts 2:3-4).

The Holy Spirit can move suddenly and quickly in your life—like wind. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting," (Acts 2:2).

The Holy Spirit will come to you the way that you need Him the most. He can come as a gentle Nurturer—like a mother nurturing her starving and dependent child. He can come as a brilliant and articulate Advisor—when you are facing a difficult decision. He can come as a comforting *Healer*—when you have been scarred and tormented from a battle.

The Holy Spirit is a Person. When you embrace this, your Christian experience will change dramatically, instantly and satisfy every part of your heart and life.

Always remember, The Holy Spirit is a Person.

Our Prayer Together...

"Father, teach me to walk and live with my Mentor, my Companion, The Holy Spirit. You are not fire, wind or rain. You are the Holy One who created me. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Your Change Of Behavior Is

Not The Price Of
Your Relationship With Him,
But The Product Of
Your Intimacy With Him.

-MIKE MURDOCK



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