

Walk in the Holy Spirit (2)

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[Isaiah 30:21] Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it, "Whenever you turn to the right hand, or whenever you turn to the left.

1. American Football and Dialogue with the Holy Spirit

The above verse by the prophet Isaiah was addressed to the people of Israel about 2,700 years ago. This verse describes how people walking in a relationship with God hear the voice of God's Spirit. Whether they walk to the left or the right, the Spirit of God tells them, *"This is the way you ought to walk, so walk in it."* In other words, this verse is a description of how a child of God who walks in the Holy Spirit hears the instructions and guidance of the Spirit.

When you watch an American football game, have you ever noticed how the quarterback seems to listen to someone speaking through his helmet by pressing his hand on it? All teams in the National Football League (NFL) are allowed to make use of this technology of coach-to-player communication. A quarterback and a defensive player have earphones installed on their helmets so that they can listen to the guidance/ instruction of the team's head coach and another coach sitting on the VIP area high on the stadium during a 15 second period before each play. Thus, the quarterback and the defensive leader player can have an accurate picture of how the previous tactic played out and what the next tactic ought to be before they move on to the next play. How these football players hear the instructions of their coaches remotely is, in fact, very similar to how God's children hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as they journey on in this life.

"Your ears will hear a word behind you" – Is an accurate description of how a football quarterback hears the voice of his coach through a communication device embedded in his helmet so that he hears his voice behind his ears. How could God describe the communication system between a football player and his coach through His prophet Isaiah some 2,700 years ago so accurately? It is because God has been using this remote communication mode since ancient times. We, humans, have come to develop this technology and started using the mode since the 1960s. God's ways are so deep and mysterious!

2. The Works of the Holy Spirit

What are the works of the Holy Spirit in us? Having studied all instances of the works of the Spirit of God throughout the Old and the New Testaments, I have categorized His works into the following four groups:

First, the Holy Spirit enables us to be born as children of God.

Second, the Holy Spirit helps us grow into the full image of Jesus Christ.

Third, the Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.

Fourthly, the Holy Spirit accompanies us on our journey to the Kingdom of God.

Now, we will look into each of the four categories of the Spirit's works in detail.

3. The Works of the Holy Spirit 1: Enables Us to Be Borne as Children of God

The Holy Spirit overshadowed the body of the virgin Mary so that life was formed within her womb and the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Mary asked the angel Gabriel, “How could this be since I do not know a man?” The angel answered, “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 [Luke 1:35].” When we accept the gospel of Jesus Christ into our hearts and confess that He is our Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit comes into us and the power of the Almighty God overshadows us. A spiritual life is formed within us and we will be born as children of God through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Paul describes this process of our spiritual rebirth as, “Love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” Just as the Holy Spirit came into Mary’s body and the power of the Almighty God overshadowed her, the great love of God overshadows our body, soul, and life as the Holy Spirit comes into us. This is a great mystery that is deeper than the mystery of a child’s conception and birth. When a baby is conceived in a woman’s body and grows, it receives great interest, affection, and care from both parents. They do all in their power and wisdom to provide the care, nutrition, and protection for the little life to grow and to be born safely into the world. Likewise, from the moment a person becomes a child of God, the great love of God is on this spiritually newly-born child so that he/she enters the marvelous realm of heavenly blessings to live in God’s love from here to eternity.

[Romans 5:5] Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Because the Holy Spirit resides within the body of a child of God, a new life has been born while the body is now dead toward sin, as the apostle Paul explains:

[Romans 8:10-11] And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

All people who have not been born again spiritually through Jesus Christ are spiritually dead in God’s eyes. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus that you must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. This miracle of spiritual rebirth has been occurring everywhere the gospel of Jesus is preached until now.

[John 3:5-7] Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

Wherever the gospel of Jesus is preached to unbelievers by the servants of Jesus, the Holy Spirit goes forth with the spoken word and performs the miracle of spiritual life-giving to those who accept the good news of the gospel. If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ into your life, now is the time to do so. Then, the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth, will come into your soul and the miracle of being born again as a child of God will happen to you. Believe this and experience the miracle today!

When we are born again as children of God, our souls are freed from the fear and bondage of sin and death. We are truly born as free souls!

[Romans 8:1-2] There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Satan deceived Eve and Adam to fall into the trap of sin and death, whereas they used to enjoy the eternal life in Eden with God. Jesus Christ gave Himself willingly as the ransom for redemption so that we could be freed from the bondage of sin and death and born into His family as children of God. Praise Jesus! If we have been born again as free souls, let us value this precious freedom, which we came to have thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus, give thanks and songs of praise to God and Jesus our Savior!

4. The Work of the Holy Spirit 2: Helps Us Grow unto the Fulness of Jesus Christ

When a baby first calls its parents “Mama!” and “Dada!” it brings great joy to them. Likewise, the Holy Spirit causes a child of God to cry out “Abba, Father!” to God. The Almighty God of heaven and earth has become our Father now that we have been born into His family as little babes. That is why we call God “Abba, Father!” through the Holy Spirit.

[Galatians 4:6] And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

Just as parents want to convey the knowledge and wisdom they have learned in their lives to their children, the Holy Spirit becomes our resident teacher who teaches all spiritual lessons of heaven including godly wisdom and understanding. When we read the Scriptures and meditate, the Spirit of God leads our spirits into all truths of God to know and understand the mind and will of God. Thus, the Holy Spirit becomes our resident in-home teacher. From this viewpoint, the children of God live with many benefits and advantages over the unbelieving people of the world.

[John 16:13] However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will tell you things to come.

[1 Corinthians 2:12-13] Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

The Holy Spirit is ‘the Spirit of wisdom and revelation’ to us so that we come to understand God personally, our awareness of the world around us is fully enhanced, we come to clearly understand the issues of life and death, the hope we have in Christ Jesus and the value of the eternal inheritance we will be receiving from God. We also come to see clearly the supreme power of God that works in us, around us, and in the world, although the world is seemingly being lost to the power of darkness and evil. As we come to see the situation of our spiritual condition and the world around us, the Spirit also provides us the wisdom to make wise choices daily and to grow unto the full maturity of Jesus Christ as we journey on earth. We have such a powerful, wise, and kind in-home teacher residing in us!

[Ephesians 1: 17-21] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

As we grow spiritually, the Holy Spirit makes us understand that we are a holy temple of God, which is not the temple that used to be in Jerusalem. The second temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman army in AD 70 and has not been rebuilt. However, God chose to dwell in the temples that are in

the bodies and souls of His children so that they may worship Him and offer sacrifices to Him as holy priests of God. This temple in our body and soul cannot be destroyed by any military as long as we are loyal to our Lord and Savior. It is a sanctified place of worship where God takes pleasure to dwell. We have been called to become holy priests of God, as the apostle Peter declared, who offer sacrifices to Him daily that are pleasing to Him in this holy temple that is our body and soul.

[1 Corinthians 6:19-20] 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? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

[1 Peter 2:5] you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to understand fully what a great calling you have been brought into. As you embrace the presence of God's Holy Spirit in your body, soul, and spirit, may God's rich blessings fill you, your life, and your family with unspeakable heavenly gifts! Amen.

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