

Walk in Holy Spirit (3)

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[Exodus 4:15-17] Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So, he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.

In our last study, we looked into the first two categories of the works of the Holy Spirit out of the following four categories. Now, let us examine the third and the fourth categories of the Spirit's works:

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

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

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

Fourth, the Holy Spirit accompanies us in our journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. The Works of the Holy Spirit 3: Holy Spirit Helps Us Do God's Work

The verses of Exodus 4 above contain God's command and promise to Moses when He commissioned him to the mission of bringing the people of Israel out of Egypt. The promise God gave to Moses was that His Spirit would be with him to teach him what to say and what to do. God's command to Moses was to become God's spokesman and servant to perform the works according to His directions. God has called people to have them perform His works so that His plans could be fulfilled. He gives such persons the gift of His Spirit, to teach them what to say and what to do in detail. The Spirit of God resides in them to teach, guide, educate and empower. A good example of such a calling was the case of Moses.

Having fled Northern Egypt and from Ethiopia, Moses now was spending time tending the sheep of Jethro, the Midianite priest, who was serving God. Having been persuaded by God to go forth as His servant, Moses delivered God's command to the Egyptian king Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go from their state of slavery, led them across the Sinai Peninsula and the Strait of Aqaba (which used to be called 'The Red Sea' in the Old Testament era), promulgated the law of God to Israel at the foot of Mt. Sinai, and led them for forty years in the wilderness until they reached the east side of River Jordan. He served God for forty years faithfully as His servant, messenger, and leader of Israel through the special help of the Holy Spirit.

When God called Isaiah to be His prophet, he looked into his sinful past and confessed that he was a sinner in words and deeds. He confessed that he was not worthy to be a servant of God. Then, God had a chief angel bring fire and touch his lips to cleanse them and forgive all his sins so that he was sanctified before God. Only then, Isaiah had a willing spirit, "Lord, here I am. Send me!"

[Isaiah 6:5-8] So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

If you are a pastor, preacher, or missionary who has been called by God, have you had a similar experience as Moses and Isaiah? When God called you to preach the gospel or to tend His flock of sheep, perhaps you were not willing for the calling because of your sinful state or deficiency, which only you and God knew? You simply could not say, "Lord, here I am. Send me!" Then, God, through His Spirit, washed your sins and transformed you as a new person. After that, you came to have a new goal and motive—of doing God's work only and nothing else in

your life. Nothing in you or this world could prevent you from going forth to accept the Lord's calling. Have you had this experience of being transformed into a new person of God through the working of the Holy Spirit? And because you were so transformed, just as Moses and Isaiah were, you then could go forth speaking the word of God as a messenger of God without fearing any consequences as you bravely take steps together with the Holy Spirit as He leads, proclaiming His commands, warnings, visions and even harsh criticisms.

When God called Jeremiah into His work, He gave the promise of the help of His Spirit in addition to the mission definition. God touched Jeremiah's lips with His hand and gave the promise that His words will be with the mouth of Jeremiah as he speaks:

[Jeremiah 1:4-10] Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." 7 But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. 9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. 10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."

Jeremiah felt he was too young to be a servant of God, but God touched his lips and promised His words will be with the young man's mouth, saying "*Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*" Young Jeremiah received courage from God and became a prophet who succeeded Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah during the difficult years of Israel's history. Thus, these prophets of God spoke His words of instructions, the hope of future years, and prophecies of the Kingdom of the Messiah which would be coming in the distant future. As a preacher or pastor called into a mission for Jesus, perhaps you have received such promises. Jesus gave a similar promise to His disciples and all succeeding messengers of God, before His crucifixion as follows:

[Luke 12:11-12] "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

When we read the Acts of the Apostles, we find that this promise of the Lord Jesus was fulfilled in the fullest sense. The apostle Peter, who was an uneducated fisherman of Galilee, spoke very powerfully before the crowd of people in Jerusalem immediately after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples by quoting relevant prophecies of the prophets of old times. The power of the Holy Spirit was definitely with Peter on this day. The gospel of Jesus Christ went forth powerfully throughout Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the Roman Empire territories through dedicated missionary works of the disciples and believers including Stephen, Philip, the apostle Paul and others, who worked in the power of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul declares how the power of the Holy Spirit was with his missionary work of bringing the Gentiles into God's promise:

*[Romans 15:17-19] Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— in mighty signs and wonders, **by the power of the Spirit of God**, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

As such, to those who are called to the glorious work of God, the special help of the Holy Spirit is promised. This promise includes the gift of speaking the word of God, the gift of courage, the gift of revelation, and at times the gift of healing. Through these gifts, God's servants are empowered to do God's work so that the kingdom of God is expanded here on earth and God's power and majesty are manifest for His glory. It is difficult for us to fully comprehend how the Almighty God, who is the Creator of Heavens and the earth, desires to accomplish His will and plans through the labors of His frail human servants. But, may our hearts be filled with unmeasurable thankfulness and gladness of having been called by the Almighty God to do His glorious work despite our weaknesses and shortcomings, as we submit our frail mind and body in humility, "Lord if this fragile vessel of mine can be of use to You, use me for Your good pleasure!" May the memory of His calling us continue to fill our hearts

and lives with the special help from the Holy Spirit so that we may overcome any trials and tribulations that may come before us.

2. The works of the Holy Spirit 4: Holy Spirit Helps Us Finish our Journey to Heaven

Our Lord Jesus, before He ascended to heaven, gave the great mission of propagating the gospel to the ends of the world. He also gave the promise that He will be with them to the end of the world. This promise applies not only to those disciples of Jesus of the first century but also to us in the 21st century:

[Matthew 28:19-20] Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

How could the Lord keep the promise of being with His disciples till the end of the age once He has gone up to Heaven? The promise is being kept because the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God as well as the Spirit of Christ, stays with the faithful children of God until the end of the world. When parents leave their children behind at home as they leave for a vacation in a far land, they cannot keep the promise of being with their children no matter how much they long to be with them. But, we believe in the promise of our Lord Jesus that He is with us until the end of the world. The promise is being kept even now. Concerning this promise, the apostle Paul encouraged the saints as follows:

*[Philippians 1:3-6] I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;***

*[Hebrews 13:5] Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"*

‘He who has begun a good work’ refers to the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit will continue until the day of the Lord’s return. From the moment you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you will experience the presence of the Holy Spirit until either you finish your life here on earth or the day the Lord returns to harvest the faithful souls from the earth and take them with Him to Heaven. Unless you reject the Holy Spirit in wilful defiance against God, His presence will be with you just as parents walk holding the hands of their children, just as a good shepherd tends his flock of sheep in love, until the end of your life’s journey, helping you keep faithful and true to God.

Let us believe that the Holy Spirit gives us sufficient wisdom, insights, and spiritual fortitude to fight the good fight against the present-day evil forces and keep our faith pure and uncompromised so that we may stand true before the Lord when He returns to claim us as His own people.

[Ephesians 6:7-13] Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Friends, we live in spiritually and politically dark times. The forces of darkness have taken over the political powers in many countries around the world through deceptive methods. They are destroying the democratic processes, law and order, traditions and values that are based on God’s principles as stipulated in the Bible, wilfully destroying individual freedoms and order in societies, imposing dictatorial laws and restrictions that resemble those of the totalitarian regimes and the communist regimes, and harming the nation’s economy and industries. Why are they doing these things? The architects of these forces have planned this massive takeover of the free democratic world since several centuries ago and assiduously pursued their plans. Now, their works of darkness are openly being performed—they are madly driving our nation we love and the formerly free democratic world toward a unified “Brave New World,” which was described by George Orwell and Aldus Huxley a long time ago.

The conflict between good and evil is now fully open. The forces of evil are endeavoring to dedicate the corrupted and unified world onto the altar before Satan.

In such a dark time as now, the awakened children of God need to cry unto the Holy Spirit, to gain a full understanding about how we ought to live and how we might keep our faith pure, how we might keep ourselves and our families safe from the poisons of the devil. With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us clearly see how the world is plunging into darkness—how precarious is our nation, our societies, our values, and our freedoms because of the unchecked powers of the evil forces. Based on this understanding, let us earnestly pray to the Almighty God to frustrate the endeavors of the evil forces, to help the brave warriors of the truth to have victories in their warfare against the forces of the enemy, and to help His children keep on fighting and to keep true until the Lord returns to take us to the kingdom of heaven. Furthermore, let us strive to be united in our spirits, to help and encourage one another, and to keep our love burning. Amen.