

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER

Week 20/JROC – The Spirit Searches the Deep Things of God

June 9, 2024

Acts 7:59-60 - *And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'* ⁶⁰ *Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.'* And when he had said this, he fell asleep (to be quieted, to be calm, to be at peace). Might Stephen, filled with the Spirit, been given by the Holy Spirit a special readiness for battle, and a deep-seated peace as he was being stoned, while also expressing compassion and asking God to not charge those so angrily ending his life on earth with this sin.

WHY are we given the Spirit? As One Who comes alongside, “another Comforter” - “just like Myself” - just like Jesus! The Spirit is given to us to comfort, to counsel, to intercede for us...to guide us into all truth...to speak of what He hears...to tell us things to come...to glorify Jesus. The Spirit of truth will reveal Jesus to us!

Paul's arrival in Corinth is described in Acts 18. The church in Corinth was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. Paul's ministry, as usual, began in the synagogue where he was assisted by two Jewish believers, Priscilla and Aquila, who were tentmakers by trade, like Paul. Paul ministered in Corinth for more than a year and a half. It is thought that I Corinthians was written on Paul's third missionary journey.

I Cor. 2:1 - *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.*

Paul did not come displaying his wisdom. Paul came as a witness ...declaring the testimony of God. The Holy Spirit had regenerated Paul and he experienced a transformation that changed the entire direction of his life. So transformed was Paul that he traveled to serve God among people who were impressed with worldly demonstrations of human wisdom.

I Cor. 2:2-3 - *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.* ³ *I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.* And this is when the Spirit of God intercedes – when we are desperate for Him!

I Cor. 2:4-5 – *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom...but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,* ⁵ *that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.* The power of the Holy Spirit ignited Paul and his message of life to the people!

Paul, having spoken of “the demonstration of the Spirit and of power,” continues...

I Cor. 2:7-8 – ...*we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery* (which can only be known by God's revelation; truths of God which had been hidden in the past), *the hidden wisdom* (having been previously concealed) *which God ordained* (appointed beforehand; decided from eternity past)

before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Paul, beginning with a quote from Isa. 64:4, spoke of the Spirit's "searching" ministry...

I Cor. 2:9-11 - *But, as it is written...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of*

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God. ¹¹ *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.* God's wisdom is not discovered from human sources. God's wisdom is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit! The Spirit of God knows the things of God! He resides within believers, not to be dormant and passive, but to be actively engaged in revealing God's hidden wisdom.

Rom. 11:33 - *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

It appears that the Spirit of God searches the deepest depths of the wisdom of God to lift out truths from Scripture that we need to know and to understand...and to reveal them to us – we who are believers...Jesus' followers.

I Cor. 2:12 - *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God (from Scripture) that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God – the things that are recorded in Scripture. (Deut. 29:29 - those things which are revealed belong to us....).* The Spirit of God is fully equipped to reveal God's wisdom, having searched the deep things of God! The Holy Spirit illuminates God's Word (Eph. 1:17-20). (I Pet. 1:10-12 – The OT prophets studied their own writings about the sufferings and the glories of the Messiah.)

Regarding our experience in life as we walk in the Spirit, have you found this to be true...when you're in a situation and there's no way of escape...the Holy Spirit makes the way.

During times of loss and much grief, the Spirit of God is there to give us insight by bringing to mind Biblical principles/the truths of God into such pain...and He comforts us.

When we encounter unknown waters, the Spirit of God is alongside. II Tim. 1:7 - *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

The Holy Spirit lives within us to reveal, to teach, to direct.

When you believe God has given you the answer re: a decision for which you have been praying, waiting on God, and searching Scripture...and others think you're foolish. But you

know that the Holy Spirit is directing you in your decision...that He has given you His wisdom, conviction and knowledge. Upon what did you act?

When Paul departed from the leaders in Ephesus. Paul told them...

Acts 20:22-23 - *And see, now I go bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.* It appears that, because of the confidence Paul is expressing in this passage, that he is bound by the Holy Spirit...not tied up in knots. Paul was surrounded/encompassed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Supernaturally, the Spirit communicated with Paul's spirit as the Spirit "testified" to Paul what was to transpire...that in every city chains and tribulations/afflictions would occur. And, Paul was confident! The Spirit does not always lead us into places of comfort,,and so, Jesus promised the Comforter to believers. At times God leads us into a difficult place to serve as His representative.

Acts 20:24 - *But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.* I'm thinking that this is a preliminary prompting of the Holy Spirit with us. The Holy Spirit also gave Paul confidence which was an assurance! What we're understanding in this example of the Apostle Paul is the supernatural way in which fear flees when the Holy Spirit communicates His presence and gives us His incredible power!

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The Spirit of God takes the things of God and communicates them to believers – in whom He dwells. Let's look at I Cor. 2:12 again with the addition of I Cor. 2:13...

I Cor. 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. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual or perhaps, spiritual things with spiritual persons... those who have the Holy Spirit dwelling within. Since every believer has the Spirit of God dwelling within them, every believer has access to God's wisdom.*

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