

ND2-006: Knowing the Holy Spirit

Foreword: Now is the dispensation of the Holy Spirit

The triune God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, is the one true God who has revealed Himself in different times and in different ways by communing with His people. The Father sent forth His Son and came into the world in the flesh. And after Jesus Christ completed the great work of redemption, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, the Heavenly Father sent forth the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost and began the present "age of the Holy Spirit" and "the age of the Church." Concerning the following 5 major points, everyone not only needs to understand, but also needs to receive it by faith with the hearing of the word - only then will it be beneficial to us.

Outline:

I. The Holy Spirit is the "Indwelling Spirit"

- The Holy Spirit abides with us and will forever be with us.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17).

II. The Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of Truth"

- The Holy Spirit enables us to understand all truths and to experience and live out the truth.

▪ *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; He will glorify Me.... (John 16:13-14a).*

▪ *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)*

III. The Holy Spirit is the "Life giving Spirit"

- We are born again through the Holy Spirit and enabled to continually experience the newness and transformation of life.

▪ *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5)*

▪ *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.... For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Romans 8:2, 5-6).*

▪ *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).*

IV. The Holy Spirit is the “Giver of the spirit of wisdom and revelation”

- The Holy Spirit enables us to know who God is and what He has given to us.

▪ *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, 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, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power (Ephesians 1:17-19).*

1) To know who God is: “revelation in the knowledge of Him...”

2) To know what God has given: “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know...”

a) What is the hope of His calling

b) What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

c) What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe

▪ *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. (1 Corinthians 2:14-15).*

V. The Holy Spirit is the “Power giving Spirit”

- The Holy Spirit enables us to receive power from on high to be witnesses of the Lord.

▪ *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).*

▪ *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20)*

- The Holy Spirit is building up the body of Christ and making ready the bride of the Lamb.

▪ *Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)*

▪ *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Revelation 19:7)*

Note: The rightful experiences of the Holy Ghost (see next session: ND2-007: Experiencing the Holy Ghost).

Meditation, practice and discussion:

- **Content review: Review the key points, difficulties and doubts according to the key verses and content.**

1. Why is the time we are now living, the "time of the Holy Spirit" and "the age of the church"? What is the significance of this statement?

2. Our God is the only true God of the Trinity. Among them, how should we view the Holy Spirit and His character?

3. Please list at least five aspects of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

- **In depth thinking: the impact of this lesson on me and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.**

1. In what ways has the information in the main message helped you to gain a new insight, expanded view, or deepened your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

2. How have these insights made a difference in your life? (Includes: whether to believe in these five roles of the Holy Spirit, attitude towards the Holy Spirit, desire to have a closer experience of the Holy Spirit, seek more work and freedom of the Holy Spirit for each church gathering, and so on.)

- **Practice:**

1. For the next two weeks, from Monday to Friday, focus on one thing mentioned in the daily prayer teaching about what you should know about the Holy Spirit. Meditate on whether you believe it, and write down what you have learned or practiced.

First week

Day	Experience or practice
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	

Second week

Day	Experience or practice
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	

2. We yearn for the work of the Holy Spirit, not only for ourselves, but also because the Holy Spirit is building the church, and we are part of it. Please share how you pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to work in the church without hindrance?

Message Text File (Draft):

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you.

Today we move on to lesson six: To know the Holy Spirit. In the next lesson, we'll talk about experiencing the Holy Spirit. These two classes are directly linked to each other, they are very important. When preparing for this information, I thought about the example that has been told before: a guy who has never seen the ocean before, arrived on the west coast and saw the ocean. He marveled at the vastness and wanted to tell his friend about it; However, he could only use a bottle to bring the sea water back to his friends by the mountain and describe the ocean he saw to others. That's how I feel right now. The Holy Spirit is so great! More than any of us can explain clearly. Likewise, I hope that when brothers and sisters listened today, please don't think that a lot of things are known. In fact, there are really a lot of things that we still do not understand. Let us listen to this message with a thirsty heart together before the Lord.

First of all, let me remind you of one thing. The so-called "time of the Holy Spirit" and the "age of the church" began from the time of the resurrection of Jesus and the arrival of the Holy Spirit. For in Pentecost, the Father sent down the promised Holy Spirit, and the church was born. In the book of *Corinthians* chapter 12:13, it stated: "*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*" The "time of the Holy Spirit" is closely linked to the "age of the church". The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit trinity of Gods in the Bible express themselves to people and to intersect with others in different times, in different positions and different ways. Jesus Christ came to the world "as a human being" and began the "age of the Holy Spirit" after we nailed Him on the cross, Jesus raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven. With the advent of the Pentecostal Holy Spirit, the church also established.

God, the Holy Spirit today is with us all the time and everywhere. When Jesus lived on earth, His flesh was limited by time and space. When He was in Jerusalem, He could not be by the sea of Galilee at the same time. But when Jesus returns to us in the Holy Spirit, He is no longer bound by time and space. It is also because of the coming of the Holy Spirit that we are baptized in one body in the Holy Spirit, and the church established. The age of the church and the Holy Spirit seemed to be going on at the same time until the second coming of Jesus. The church was born from the Holy Spirit, and its existence, growth, and desire to fulfill God's will and mission in this world are all connected to the Holy Spirit.

The age that we are in, arguably the most blessed in the history of human salvation, can also be called the "era of grace," because Jesus Christ has completed salvation, beginning with the "time of the Holy Spirit" and the "era of the church." The church is very important in the eyes of God. The Holy Spirit comes here not only to witness the Lord, to honor God, but also to establish the church and prepare a wife for the Lamb so that Christ Jesus can come again and marry the church Himself.

Similarly, the truth of the Holy Spirit and the church is at the heart of the New Testament, which takes place after Jesus Christ completed His salvation program. It is also something that the enemy wants to destroy. I already said more than two decades ago that the two most critical New

Testament core truths are also the two areas that the enemy wants to destroy the most. In addition to many confusing and misinterpretations of the Holy Spirit, there are also emphasis only on various experiences, such as shouting, vision and dreams etc., many of which have no basis for truth. It is not that they are all wrong, but enemies confuse God's children with many plausible experiences and sermons. Some people are afraid to talk about the Holy Spirit, feel that it is too charismatic, and it must be wrong. Others look down on the traditional teaching, thinking it is only old-fashioned, talking about principles without actual experiences, you did not experience the power of the Holy Spirit. Either one is not correct.

"The truth of the church" is another very twisted issue. As we discussed last time, there are more than 30,000 denominations in the world, they divided and divided more. Even in the same church, the unity between God's children and the testimony that the church is supposed to give are often destroyed.

Why would I mention this? It is because these are the enemy's most directly attacked areas and these are the issues that the enemy cares about and is afraid of.

We ask the Lord to help us not only have a correct understanding of the truth, but also that the Holy Spirit will bring us into the real experience. That's why we will talk about "Experiencing the Holy Spirit" next. If we only talk about principle, but have no experience, then after a long time, truth will become just words without life and ability. On the other hand, if we leave the truth to just speak of experience, it is also very dangerous. The emphasis will be on personal special experiences and fall into the self-elevation. Therefore, it is important to both know the truth and to have the experience.

Because of the time constraints, I will speak from five perspectives about a Christian's understanding of the most basic aspects of the Holy Spirit. I will use only one or two Bible verses for each point. More scriptures can be found in the handouts of "Knowing the Holy Spirit (1) and (2)" in the "Basic Theology" course. The key is not only in listening, but also in reconciling faith with the message, otherwise these truths are not helpful to us. Listen and to see if you believe what you have heard.

I. It is the Holy Spirit of Inner Residence

The Holy Spirit lives inside us and always be with us.

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17).

First, "another Helper" (John 14:16) that Jesus mentioned is to emphasize that the Holy Spirit has His unique characters. Although God is a trinity (the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit), He is also a unique true God. In different times, God manifests Himself and His people in different ways. Here, the Holy Spirit is independent and the third of the trinity. He is not just a feeling, an ability, or just an experience, He is God with His own characters. Just as I have a personality, if we change a speaker now, he is another person standing here, he also has his own independent position.

There are many verses in the Bible that help to illustrate the independence of the Holy Spirit. For example, the Holy Spirit will worry and will manage the actions of human life. Apostle Paul said in *Acts 16:6*: “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.” As he was about to go to Bithynia, he added: “... but the Spirit did not permit them.... (*Acts 16:7*). And: “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” (*Acts 13:2*). Chapter 5 of *Acts* tells of Ananias' concentric bullying of the Holy Spirit with his wife, Sapphira, and the tragic result. If the Holy Spirit is only an ability, how can anyone deceive Him? We may also desecrate and commit crimes against the Holy Spirit, or we may dismiss the reminder of the Holy Spirit. All these prove that the Holy Spirit has its own characters.

The Holy Spirit lives inside us. You may ask what do you mean "inside?" It is to live in our spirit, in our lives. God is not only a great God above the heavens, He lives in us today by reborn us through the Holy Spirit. When we talk about the inner Holy Spirit, there are at least three things that we need to emphasize:

First, He will always be with us. Whether you feel it or not, you believe it or not, with or without experience, He lives within us, as promised by the Bible, and He is always with us.

Second, He has a close relationship with us. You meet a lot of people every day, on the bus, on the plane, or in your company, but these people don't have a close relationship with you. God is not only with us forever through the Holy Spirit but is also in a very close relationship with us. We can sing a poem to God and say: "My heart is thirsty, and I love you", and we can also call Him "Father Abba." In the Holy Spirit, God is always with us, close to us, and He is our guidance, our best teacher, our comforter.

Third, He has a relationship with our lives. Christ lives within us through the Holy Spirit and becomes part of our lives. Andrew Murray said: The Holy Spirit, as stated in chapter 7 of the Gospel of John, is the spirit of the glorious Christ. Watchman Nee made a poem called "In All Thy Work, O Lord" (Hymnary 234), And in verse 4 it says: "By living within the Holy Spirit, He comes; ... He represents the You, and He is the You." It sounds confusing, but it's real in experience (the "Trinity" itself is too deep a mystery to be analyzed and fully understood by human limited minds, reminded Augustine). Jesus Christ is in the Holy Spirit and becomes our life, allowing us to live "no longer me, but Christ."

II. It is the "Holy Spirit of Truth"

The Holy Spirit lets us understand all truths and to experience and live out the truth.

Several times in the Bible, the Holy Spirit is emphasized as "the Holy Spirit of Truth". The book of *1 John, chapter 5, verse 7* says directly that the Holy Spirit is not only to bear witness, but also "the Holy Spirit is the truth." He came on one hand, to let us know the truth, and on the other hand, He brought us into the truth, so that it was not only objectively the truth to us, but subjectively possible to experience and live it out.

The book of *John 16: 13* is also an important verse about the Holy Spirit. It says: “*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.*”

The "Holy Spirit of Truth" is important on one hand to make us understand God's revelations and on the other hand, to allow us to enter the reality of these truths. The word of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord, like the two railroad tracks, lead us smoothly without making mistakes. Similarly, the Spirit of the Lord and the word of the Lord seem to be the wings of an eagle, leading us to soar and let us live in the realm of heaven. From the original creation of *Genesis*, or God's restoration in history, or the revival of the church, the word of the Lord is almost indispensable in parallel with the Spirit of the Lord.

"Understanding" is like seeing an opera, and no one tells you what is the name of the opera, it's like a secret to you. You wait until the start of the show, the big screen on the stage starts, you then know that today is playing Snow White. This is also true in understanding truth. In principle and from the words, as if we understand, but often seem not to understand. When viewed by the Holy Spirit, we truly understand and know the meaning of it. At the same time, the Holy Spirit also helps us to experience these truths and live them out. A Christian brother talked about his own experience that one day, he was suddenly inspired by the Holy Spirit and understood the truth. Although this was the truth he already knew, he was very excited when he was led by the Holy Spirit that day and said, "God not only lives in heaven, He also lives within me!" He described himself as he was walking down the road and saying to himself: "Please don't touch me, do you know that the great God lives inside of me?" You'll find this incredible because his spiritual eyes are open now.

I heard that Brother Watchman Nee also had witnessed this before. One morning he was on the second floor doing his devotions and suddenly the Holy Spirit revealed to him and he understood the truth. He ran down the stairs to the kitchen, holding a brother and said, "Guess what, Christ lives inside of me!" He was so excited and happy about the truth that he had preached for many years, and then revealed by the Holy Spirit to him again now!

Brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit can lead us to truth. In Christian experience, there are often times when we have struggles: I want to win, I don't want to lie, I don't want to commit crimes, nor lose your temper, don't do this nor that. But then it was discovered that *"For I know that in me nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find."* (Romans 7:18). Until one day it is led by the Holy Spirit, the way to victory lies in the replacement of Christ *"No longer me, but Christ ..."* (Galatians 2:20), the Holy Spirit leads us into the truth! I can enter Christ with faith in a moment from a situation where I have failed, been humiliated, weak, incompetent, and transformed us into complete victory, honor, glory, freedom, and release.

We had the opportunity this week to spend every day as a whole family, reading a passage in the book of *Romans* chapter 8 every morning. I will use a metaphor that was commonly used before to help us understand the difference between "live in the body" and "in the Holy Spirit." Modern buildings usually have a revolving door. When you step in it, it takes you from outside the door to the inside, but it can also lead you outside again. If indoor is the Holy Spirit and Christ then the outside is a world of greed, sin, and a depraved system. Assuming the weather is hot, more than 40 degrees Celsius, followed by sandstorms, it's an unbearable environment. Indoor air conditioning and filtered clean air. When we have a chance to get inside this revolving door, don't just stand outside and complain and say, "Why can't I enjoy the air conditioning? Why should I suffer from this? Why am I breathing this polluted air here? Why should I put up with

the hot sun?" All we have to do is put ourselves on the entrance to the revolving door and let it take us into a very different state.

The Holy Spirit not only gives us the truth, but also takes us in. When the Holy Spirit suddenly reveals to us, we find that it is just between thoughts, not gritting your teeth, or struggling, not by determination to do good, but by accepting Christ's substitution in the Holy Spirit, accepting the renewal and transformation of the Holy Spirit. I can be inside, I can also be outside, two completely different realms, two completely different feelings and results, because the Holy Spirit leads us.

"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." (1 John 2:27) Allow truth to be fulfilled in everything. Truth doesn't just give us reading and doing homework at seminaries; it's not just about talking to each other during fellowships. Truth can and should be implemented in everything we live on. It teaches us "everything," without being told what can and cannot be done. The Bible says, *"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things."* This is the Holy Spirit of Truth. We can turn a million dollars in deposits into food, cars, clothes, all kinds of things we need to use, to experience, to enjoy it.

As the apostle John said in *1 John 2:27*, the Holy Spirit of truth will bear witness to Christ, reveal the truth to us, and then lead us into truth through the lessons of anointing in everything. The key is: First, do we believe and respect His existence? Second, do we care about Him? Third, do we obey Him in the end? We need to reconcile faith with what we hear, and we need to cooperate with obedience. If we only have knowledge without experience, that is useless; If we only have knowledge without the Holy Spirit, we are missing life and vitality; Therefore, the Holy Spirit of truth balances truth with experience.

III. It is the "Holy Spirit of Life"

By the Holy Spirit we are reborn and continue to experience the renewal of life.

"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." (John 3:5-6) It talked about the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. We will be born again through the Holy Spirit when we truly repent, confess, believe, and accept the salvation of Jesus Christ. Not only we have been reborn in the Holy Spirit, we have acquired new life; the Holy Spirit is also the spirit that gives life, and for the rest of our lives, it runs within us, updating and changing us in everything, giving us life, and making our lives richer; and change us to be more like Christ and into the image of the Lord.

The book of *Romans 8:2* says: *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." Verse 5 to 6: "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the*

same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) From these verses we can see that the Holy Spirit not only brings us rebirth, but has always operated in our lives. The Apostle Paul taught us, *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6)* Whether the children of God can receive life, whether they can feel the vitality of life is very concrete, the key lies in what is our relationship with the Holy Spirit. When man obeys the Holy Spirit, he gets life, and abundant life. But when people refuse to follow the Holy Spirit, the Bible says, *“it is dead.” (Romans 8:6)*

Take a simple example: during a church fellowship service, the Holy Spirit suddenly inspires you to open your mouth and pray. A born-again Christian should have this kind of experience, right? But we often have a whole bunch of reasons to resist, refuse or dare not pray: "How can I pray when others pray so well?" or "My voice is too weak", or "I wanted to pray but others always pray ahead of me." We can find many reasons not to obey the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. When fellowship is over, you will feel bad because you did not obey the Holy Spirit. But if you follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, there will be an indescribable joy, life, and peace, which is experienced by those who follow the Holy Spirit.

The first time I prayed in a large service was in my sixth grade. That day the Holy Spirit continuously inspired me. I was frightened, and was desperately trying to find a reason to resist, but all was useless. Finally, I had to stand up and pray. I prayed here and there without much logic. Although I could not remember anything that I prayed for, there was an indescribable joy. The pastor joked and said that I spoke like a little mouse and my prayers were too weak for anyone to hear. It was very frustrating for me at that young age and prayed for the first time. But this joke cannot take away life, peace, and joy from the Holy Spirit. This experience of entourage to life in the Holy Spirit is indeed an experience that every Christian should always have.

What do you mean by "entourage?" To show that He is active, that He has touched me, and that I have chosen to follow Him so that our lives will grow. And the more obedient we are, the easier it is to experience the touch of the Holy Spirit. Some people say, "I'm not touched" or "the Holy Spirit has never touched me." There are many reasons not to be moved or inspired, often because we allow many people, things, materials, and even ourselves to become barriers between the Lord or the Holy Spirit and ourselves. Apostle Paul said in *2 Corinthians 3:16* *"Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."* A veil not only blinds us from seeing the glorious face of the Lord, but also isolates us from the power and operation of the Holy Spirit. Self-centeredness is one of these situations.

Our lives are full of such opportunities and experiences. For example: if someone is clearly wrong but the Holy Spirit inspired us to first to reconcile with each other, and even to apologize to others. It is often the Holy Spirit that runs within us, asking us to follow the Holy Spirit so that He can renew and change our lives. We need a renewal from the Holy Spirit, because I often try to keep an old self. Are you keeping an old self? Singing hymns sometimes without much feeling, are not moved during holy communions, other people's sharing and testimonies have no effect on you are just some of the examples. We need to have the spirit often renewed in the Holy Spirit, we should worship and serve in a new spirit. *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)* When our hearts turn to the Lord, the veil is removed, allowing us to turn our faces and see the glory of the Lord. Then apostle Paul said, *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (2

Corinthians 3:18) This is the transformation of life. The transformation of life is not the same as change of life. Everyone will change, we may change to the good, or we may change to the bad; But "transformation" is something only the Holy Spirit can do. The transformation of the Holy Spirit is to replace us with Christ, not to modify and improve. This will make us "*from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" When we come to see Christ, the Bible says, "*from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" In other words, every time we look up to Jesus in the Holy Spirit, it makes us a little more like Jesus.

God's children really need to have this intense thirst and hope so often that there is a motivation within us to pursue the Lord and to accept more of the renewal and transformation of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit is the spirit that gives life, and He will make us, both personally and for the whole church, full of life, full of energy, and full of joy. The book of *Romans 14:17* tells us, "For *the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*" I believe we all envy this kind of joyous ointment and live in the "... *Joy in the Holy Spirit.*" Don't think it's a distant, out-of-reach state. If we are truly willing to begin to follow the Holy Spirit and experience it, the Holy Spirit will bring us into such a blessed situation, for this is also the situation that the Holy Spirit hopes to bring His children into.

IV. It is the Holy Spirit that gives wisdom and revelation

The Holy Spirit let us know what God is and what He has given to us.

Apostle Paul said in the *Book of Ephesians 1:17-19* "*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, 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, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*"

1. To know what God is

This passage is the Apostle Paul's "prayer for revelation" and implores God to let us know exactly what God is like. By saying "know Him," it means that many of us do not really know, but think that we know, or that what we know is wrong. The Apostle Paul is here to ask God to "give us *the spirit of wisdom and revelation*" so that we can truly know God.

Our understanding of the God we believe in, and our understanding of ourselves, often determines our spiritual life, as well as our qualities and realms in the ministry. I often say that because we don't know God well enough and we don't really know ourselves, it greatly affects how our spiritual lives grow. Our understanding of God often just stays in the stage when we are facing difficulties, asking God to listen to our prayers and solve the problems for us. When problems are gone, I am myself and God is Himself, and our whole life seems to be counting on His grace, unaware that God has such glorious and eternal plans and wills for us and for our church.

If we don't really know what kind of God we believe in, what God is, what He is doing, what He wants, then we will live very narrow minded. Our prayers and our lives will tend to revolve around ourselves, or around our own homes, our own small groups. When we encounter a greater

difficulty, we will be afraid, and even doubt if God can solve our problems. In fact, this mentality was how the people in Old Testament time caused God's anger. *Psalm 78:13-22* described it like this: they have nothing to eat and no water to drink in the wilderness, and they deliberately forget the God who once separated the red sea and let the living water flow out of the rock like rivers, wondering if God could save them again. *"And they tested God in their heart by asking for the food of their fancy. Yes, they spoke against God: They said, 'Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?'* Therefore, the Lord heard this and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also came up against Israel," (*Psalm 78:18-21*) They deliberately say what God has done before, and challenge God by saying, "can God do it today?" Such an attitude greatly offends God. Today, it is also easy for God's children to know God according to their own experiences and their own opinions, as if to put God in a box. When last year's pandemic was at its worst, Brother Don Moen sang a poem he had written himself and then shared: "In this pandemic, we all need to recognize a sin to God that we believe too little in God!" This is indeed a constant reminder not to limit our understanding of God with our own ideas, experiences, and what we see and hear.

The Apostle Paul prayed and said: *"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"* and let us know what God is: He is almighty, has full knowledge, full of love, full of wisdom, full of holiness and glory. We need to know more about God, otherwise it is easy to lack trust in God, and we will not "let God be God" to honor Him. If we lack the understanding of what we should have, we will lack the inferiority and dependence that God deserves, and many of us will rely on ourselves, even self-righteousness. Knowing God and knowing yourself is the work of the Holy Spirit.

2. To know God's "gift"

In *Ephesians 1:18*, apostle Paul says: *"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."* He goes on to say: "Let you know" Here again it is referred to "know". Then the Apostle Paul said three things that were too important and too precious, and three things that he wanted all God's children to know:

- 1) What is the hope of His calling: His glorious hope
- 2) What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints: Talking about the abundance of our inheritance in Christ. Another translation is: how abundant is the inheritance that God has in us.
- 3) What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.

These three great things, "the hope of glory", "the foundation of abundance" and "the great power", are apostle Paul's quest for the "spirit of wisdom and revelation" to open our eyes so that we can really see and know what God has given us. So, the first emphasis is on "knowing Him" - knowing what God is, the second emphasis is on "knowing what God has given us", to know God's "gift".

I think everyone, even if young, has "owned" something. For example: bank deposits, cars, clothes, bicycles... When you're liquidating your property or other possessions, I don't know if

anyone would think of counting their own “spiritual estate.” We probably miss it all the time, don't we? It is rare to think that God has given us all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ, as *Ephesians 1:3* says. Therefore, we should not be poor spiritually, instead, we should know that we are very rich.

Not only that, but we should no longer be weak. The Apostle Paul's prayer said: “... *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*” (*Ephesians 1:19*). The following verse tells us that this great power is the power to call Jesus Christ who rose from death: “*which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 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.*” (*Ephesians 1:20-21*). Thank God, this great power is on us today in the Holy Spirit, so we can no longer casually say that we are weak. Some people like to call themselves weak every day, we should remind them: “God knew you were weak yet don't you know?” Don't say how bad you are every day from morning till night, and we should remind him, “God knew you were corrupt, yet you just realized that now?” Ask God to help us to be humble in the Holy Spirit, knowing who we believe in and what He has given us. So that we can all just get strong, really know what God “is” and “has given us”. Live by His rich salvation, and live in the hope of glory.

Next is to “know what God has done” and to know what God wants. “*But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.*” (*1 Corinthians 2:14-15*) We should not only know more about what God “is” and “given” by God, but also what God does. The Holy Spirit helps us see through everything so that we will view our difficulties at a different level. Many people encounter difficulties. If we just see difficulties at a regular person's level, any difficulties can block or blind us, so that we cannot see God. If you look at everything from above rather than at the ground level, it is two completely different angles, visions, and patterns, and naturally it will affect how we respond to these situations. For example, you may feel trapped and thirsty to death. But if you pull yourself high, maybe there's such a big, beautiful and clear lake behind the house, but you can't see it on the ground.

Ephesians 2:5-6 says that those of us who died in the past are now resurrected with Christ and sitting in heaven together with Him! Therefore, we need to be lifted to a higher level by the Holy Spirit, and to see what is going on in our lives from the perspective of heaven. “*But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.*” (*1 Corinthians 2:15*). Not that we have any great skills of our own, but because we are afraid of God, and often filled with the Holy Spirit, so the Holy Spirit, who can see everything, helps us to see things not the same but from His perspective.

In *1 Chronicles chapter 14*, when the people of God triumphed over the Philistines who ran away and left many statues of gods on the ground. These statues are generally made of expensive materials such as gold, silver, and precious stones. Now the Philistines have left them all over the place. However, “*David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire*” (*1 Chronicles 14:12b*). Because he knew that if God's people brought these idols back, probably because of greed for money, they would be reluctant to destroy it, and would turn to worship those gods. If

you can't have children, they have a god who specializes in fertility and you can ask for it, if you have a bad harvest, you have a god who specializes in harvesting and you can worship to, and if you are sick, there is another god who specializes in medicine ... For people's different needs in real life, they have a variety of gods to attract people to ask for advice. However, behind these gentile statues there is often Satan's power, which attracts people to worship these false gods and not to worship our true God. Because of his knowledge of God and spiritual vision, David burned them all instead of using them as trophies of war. Brothers and sisters, that's to look at things from a spiritual perspective, and we need to take it very seriously.

Another example is Joseph. Joseph never saw his own unfair experience from the point of view of being betrayed by his brothers, and he has accepted and viewed the whole thing from a spiritual point of view. He knew that God had sent him to Egypt in advance (*Genesis 45:5*), so he could comfort the brothers who betrayed him and tell them that they did not need to blame themselves, which was spiritual! We can easily complain about other people, complain about this or that, or easily get trapped by the situations. We often only look from our own point of view: Why was I born in this home? Why did I marry this man? Why did I come to this church? Why is my boss so mean? ... We often have so many questions. In fact, why don't we pray before God, and really understand why God let this situation, let this person, things in front of you happen? What does God think of this? What exactly does God want me to learn? What does God want from me? Brothers and sisters, this is called spiritual vision, spiritual perspective, spiritual discernment, spiritual insight These are all from the Holy Spirit.

V. It is the Holy Spirit that gives people power

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to bear witness for the Lord.

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability from above to bear witness for the Lord. The power from heaven means the ability does not come from man, nor from the forces "*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit* " (*Zechariah 4:6*). "*Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*" (*Luke 24:49*). "*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" (*Acts 1:8*) These verses remind us that whether we want to work for the Lord or to bear witness to the Lord, we rely on "the ability to come from the above" and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As it says from *Acts 1:8*: The Holy Spirit has given us power, not for us personally, but for the purpose of witnessing Christ, and for the establishment of the church. If we seek our abilities only for ourselves, the Holy Spirit often does not allow it, for the purpose is not for the Lord. Even when we seek God's own healing for ourselves, sometimes God does not agree, or suspend the prayer because the center of our prayer is focused too much on our own. Mrs. Jessie Penn-Lewis once shared some of her thoughts on how some people did not get the experience of "God's healing" and said something like these: "Sometimes people ask why miracles or healing didn't occur to some of us. That's because the person's life is not pure or immature, if he experiences such a great miracle, it is likely to destroy his vessel." Because life is not pure or immature, the healing he experienced may only make him proud and make him look down upon others and say: "Why don't you pray? Why do you go to the doctor? You see, when I pray, I'm healed." The Holy Spirit does it alone, and He knows that He is the solution, and he knows better

what God's will is. *"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."* (Romans 8:26-27). Therefore, the work done by the Holy Spirit in the children of God, or the power He has given to them, is all to call us to bear witness for the Lord.

Not only we receive the ability outside, but *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."* (Ephesians 3:20) Whether it's the ability or the power, it's to enable us to fulfill the Lord's trust and mission to us.

The Holy Spirit builds the body of Christ and prepares the wife of the lamb.

The Holy Spirit, in addition to witnessing Christ and honoring God, builds the body of Christ here and prepares a wife for the Lamb. Here are two Bible verses:

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27).

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (Revelation 19:7)

The angel revealed to Apostle John that the wife is ready, and he saw the holy city of new Jerusalem. The "body of Christ", "the wife of the Lamb", "new Jerusalem of the Holy City" and "golden candlesticks" in the Bible are the epitomes of the church and the center of the work of the Holy Spirit. Today we will go to church and serve, but not necessarily for Christ and the church. Mrs. Yu once said: "many people are in the church, but not in the body of Christ." This is not only an important statement, but also a serious reminder. Although some people will come to church, there are fellowships and so on, but they are not in the body of Christ, because they are not living in the communication and connection with Christ's life, they are independent, I do whatever I want to do. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us and let us all be in the body of Christ, and the Holy Spirit is personally building us and preparing a wife for the Lamb. The whole center of the New Testament, the teaching of all ministries, and even the direction of human history, through the Holy Spirit, through the church, together as a witness to the Lord, here to welcome the return of Christ.

We will wait until the next time to talk about experiencing the Holy Spirit. Let us hope our understanding of the Holy Spirit will first be elevated and deepened, and that faith will be reconciled with the Words we hear.

Finally, I would like to give you a small challenge, which is the "five basic understandings of the Holy Spirit" we mentioned today, to focus on one of these points every day to learn. For example: on Monday, we will concentrate on the first point, on Tuesday, we will concentrate on prayer and another point, Wednesday we will pick another point ... Read the scriptures well, then think, and think back to what I have communicated today, and let the Holy Spirit bring us into the reality of these truths. Not just to seek understanding, but to believe with faith, to reconcile

with what we hear, and allow us to experience Him and to live out of Him. One point a day, we will do it for two weeks in a row. I believe that the next time I go through this lesson regarding the Holy Spirit, at least we will have a good foundation for truth. I must stress again: I really can only take a glass of water to show you this ocean, how I hope that we can come together, let the Holy Spirit open our eyes, come together to see, and enjoy all the richness of Christ, and have a share of this glorious trust and mission.

Prayer:

Jesus, we thank you for achieving such a great salvation for us and that God, as promised, has given the Holy Spirit and lives in our hearts. Yes, "He comes, He represents You, and He is You." He is our Comforter and Strength. He helps us grow, setting the standard for us to live in this world, and strengthens our hope. Lord, what we said here can never replace the Holy Spirit speaking and working in a person. Please help us take root in such an important truth and walk the path well. We pray and give thanks in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!