

## Experiencing the Holy Spirit

### Outline:

From “Knowing the Holy Spirit” to “Experiencing the Holy Spirit” and to become “Full of the Holy Spirit,” is the spiritual progression that every individual and every church should experience. Even though we have some understanding of the working of the Holy Spirit and as the third person of the triune God, our subjective experiences with Him may still be very limited, if not severely deficient. We ask God to give us humility and desire, and to have richer experiences of the Holy Spirit.

### I. Experiencing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the eternal presence of God

- *“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)*
- *Pray in the Holy Spirit “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)*
- *“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:37-39)*
- *“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 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.” (Romans 5:3-5)*

### II. Experiencing the deliverance and transformational power of the Holy Spirit

- *“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)*
1. **From objectively knowing justification to sanctification in Christ to subjectively experiencing the renewal and transformation in the Holy Spirit is a continual process**
    - *“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)*

- *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:12-13)*

<i>Romans chapter 6</i>	<i>Romans chapter 8</i>
Salvation perfected once and for all in Christ	A lifetime of continuous work in the Holy Spirit
Objective death -- positionally (The Death accomplished by Christ)	Subjective death - experientially (Death implemented out by the Holy Spirit)
The truth of dead with Christ - in Christ	Experience dying with Christ - in the Holy Spirit
The death of the old self – freed from the power of sin	The death of the flesh - into the freedom of the Holy Spirit
I am in Christ	Christ is in me
The Lord died for me - no longer I	The Lord lives for me - but Christ

## **2. From experiencing the filling of the Holy Spirit to becoming a vessel (individual and church) full of the Holy Spirit**

- *“... but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18b)*
- *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22-23, 25)*
- *“... For the Spirit searches all things, ...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. ...But he who is spiritual judges all things...” (1 Corinthians 2:10-16)*
- *“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) “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:4)*

**Example** *“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” “And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.” (Acts 6:3, 10)*

## **III. Experiencing the illumination, comfort, and guidance of the Holy Spirit**

- *“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.” (Ephesians 1:17-18)*
- *“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.” (John 16:13)*
- *“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)*
- *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...” (Ephesians 4:30a) “Do not quench the Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19)*

**Example:** *“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. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.” (Acts 16:6-7) “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” (Acts 9:31)*

#### **IV. Experiencing the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the building up of the body of Christ**

- *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)*
- *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.” (Ephesians 4:11)*
- *“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)*
- *“But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.” (Romans 7:6)*

**Example:** *“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) “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)*

#### **V. By the Holy Spirit, experience victories in spiritual battles**

- *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:12, 17-18)*
- *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)*
- *“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)*

**Examples:** *“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)*

**A few things to pay attention to when it comes to experiencing the Holy Spirit:**

<b>The experiences in the Holy Spirit are:</b>	<b>The experiences in the Holy Spirit are NOT:</b>
Based on biblical truths	Based on subjective experiences
Emphasized in laying hold more of the Lord, and being laid hold of by the Lord	Focused on the experiences themselves, to satisfy self-centered needs
The promise and command in the Scriptures – “Be filled by the Holy Spirit”	To be rejected or fear because of the extreme and erroneous expressions by some
Does not mean that all signs and wonders are to be trusted	Every sign and wonder is to be trusted

**Other mentioning:**

**1. Pursuing the Lord with a pure heart is the secret to being filled by the Holy Spirit.**

When we do not place our focus on the people around us, our own conditions, thoughts, feelings... but with all of ourselves, all our hearts, and all our love focused on Jesus Himself - with a pure, longing, and open heart, communing with the Lord by faith, we will often experience being immersed in the moving of the Holy Spirit.

**2. The most central experience of being filled by the Holy Spirit is “meeting the Lord” and being immersed in His presence.**

Each person's reaction may be different, so do not imitate, do not compare, do not constrain yourself, do not be distracted by others, and certainly do not criticize others, but let the Holy Spirit move freely.

**3. Pray for those who have clearly received spiritual gifts or special experiences of the Holy Spirit.**

- a. True works of the Holy Spirit are not dictated by human intentions, it is not tampered by human hands, nor can it be ruined by the enemy.
- b. Subject the use of spiritual gifts entirely under the control of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of others, and the building up of the church.

**4. The Holy Spirit and the Cross are complementary to each other.**

Deeper the work of the cross will bring about greater blessings from the Holy Spirit, and likewise those who are often filled with the Holy Spirit will inevitably walk the way of the Cross more faithfully, more willingly, and more determined.

**5. True experiences of the Holy Spirit will inevitably bring about the renewal and transformation of life and will eventually bear more fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

**Meditation, practice, and discussion:**

- **Review: Review key points, difficulties, and doubts** in a question-and-answer manner based on the subject verses and content

1. How do I work from an objective understanding of the Holy Spirit to a subjective experience of the Holy Spirit?

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2. Based on this message, what aspects of the Work of the Holy Spirit can we experience? Please list at least five items.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What should I pay attention to when experiencing the Holy Spirit? Please list at least four or five items.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

- **Meditation: the impact of this message on me and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit**

1. How can we subjectively experience the renewal and change of the Holy Spirit from being objectively righteous in Christ to becoming holy?

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2. Describe what you expect in a man full of the Holy Spirit. How do you tell the Lord that your desire to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit and thus become a vessel (individual and church) full of the Holy Spirit?

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- **Practice:**

1. The Holy Spirit lives within us and becomes our life, ability to help, and His work is free from the limits of time and space. Jesus Christ, who was resurrected, lived among us with divine and human nature. Please write down: Your personal experience of living in the Holy Spirit, praying in the Holy Spirit, the experience of salvation, the inspiration, comfort, guidance, or spiritual struggle of the Holy Spirit, and so on, over the next two weeks.

**The first week**

Day	Experience
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	

**The second week**

Day	Experience
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	

2. What experiences have you had in these two weeks of the work of the Holy Spirit during the worship service or fellowship? How do you feel about it? Does it motivate you to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of Christ's body?

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### Message:

**From “to know the Holy Spirit” and “experiencing the Holy Spirit” to become “full of the Holy Spirit”, it is a spiritual life growth process that an individual or a church will experience. Even though we have some knowledge of the Holy Spirit's place in the trinity of God and Its work, our subjective experience with Him may still be very limited, if not poor. We ask God to give us humility and desire, and to have a richer process of experiencing the Holy Spirit.**

Last week, when we talked about "to know the Holy Spirit," I mentioned the example of a guy who lived in the mountain region and had never seen the ocean. He arrived at the ocean one day and filled a bottle of sea water to take back so he could show it to his people. I believe the Holy Spirit is so great, and no matter how much we know and experience Him, it's like a small bottle of water that we can never fully describe His richness, His vastness, and His greatness. It must be experienced by our individuals personally.

In light of the Holy Spirit, He led us to confess we are sinners. We accept the salvation of Jesus Christ, His forgiveness with His blood, and accept Jesus Christ as our personal savior. This whole process is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, which lets us be born again and be saved to make us to be the righteousness of faith. *“When He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8)*. All the experiences in the Holy Spirit can never be mixed with sin. Some people think they can commit sin while doing miracles, speaking in tongues, and expressing all kinds of gifts. This is foolish and fundamentally wrong and of the enemy. The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit with particular emphasis on Him being the *"Holy Spirit of truth" (John 16:13)*. When we speak of the *“Holy Spirit of truth,”* there are at least two points to consider:

1. First, the Holy Spirit is true. He will not be apart from the foundation of biblical truth, nor will He violate the teachings of the Bible. There are some extremists who say that God is

the one who does things according to His will, and the Holy Spirit also does things according to His own will, and that *"The wind blows where it wishes..." (John 3:8a)*, so we cannot limit the Holy Spirit to the Bible. God's actions are indeed great, and the Holy Spirit works as the wind blows with His own meaning, but the actions of the Holy Spirit do not violate the Bible, the teachings of the Holy Spirit, the experience of the Holy Spirit, and will not depart from the Bible.

2. In addition, the Holy Spirit is holy. You cannot sin, offend God, and long to be filled by the Holy Spirit, eager to be greatly used by God at the same time. *"Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."* (2 Timothy 2:21)
3. Jesus continues to tell us in John 16, verse 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."* The Holy Spirit is the best teacher, and He came to bring us into all truth, so we must experience the Holy Spirit. Just because you have been born again by the Holy Spirit, does not mean that you have fully experienced the Holy Spirit. Many people, though saved, have never really experienced subjectively the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the immersion of the Holy Spirit, and the full blessing that the Holy Spirit brings to us.

### **I. Experience the inner residence of the Holy Spirit and the eternal togetherness of God**

The Holy Spirit resides within us, and He has come to enable us to experience God's being clearly, truthfully, first-hand, and the eternal togetherness 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) Here the trinity of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all appear together, and *"I will pray the Father"* to *"give you another Helper"* and that the Holy Spirit is the comforter, the best mentor, and the *"Holy Spirit of truth"*, that He will always be with us, and that He will live within us. These verses are enough for us to experience the Holy Spirit, and enough for us to experience for the rest of our lives. Below, we will know the inner residence of Holy Spirit from at least three aspects:

1. **Experience togetherness of God.** Our experience of the Holy Spirit, in addition to what we have just said: rebirth, confession and repentance, the first thing the Holy Spirit lets us experience is making God's being real. As someone who has experienced deeply the Holy Spirit once said, *"The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to make Christ's being real."* God's being is not a theory, but an experience that each of us can have, and often has.
2. **Experience how to pray in the Holy Spirit.** *"Praying in the Holy Spirit"* (Jude 1:20-21) means that the secret realm of our prayers should be in the Holy Spirit. I often hear people say we ask someone to lead us to *"make"* a prayer. It is not to *"make a prayer"* but prayer is to talk directly to God in the realm of the Holy Spirit. That's why I define prayer as *"the meeting and intersection of man and God in the Holy Spirit."* Every time I think about this definition, there is an unspoken joy. It turns out that this is my envy of *"prayer!"* This is an extremely divine encounter and fellowship. The Holy Spirit has come to make prayer very real and meaningful, to bring those of us who are worldly to God, to the Holy Spirit, to meet God, to intersect with God, as if heaven could be on earth.



Apostle Paul in chapter 8 of the book of *Romans* tells us that, *"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"* (Romans 8:26). We often pray for ourselves, for our current life, and even pray for the wrong things, or pray to God with the wrong attitude. But the Holy Spirit teaches us and prays for us, because *"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 8:27).

When praying in church, I really hope that my brothers and sisters will not make long prayers. In fact, short, powerful, and true prayers, even if there is only one sentence: "Jesus, I love you" are very valuable prayers. If you really pray in the Holy Spirit, you can meet yourself and others with the God who listens to the prayers.

Once Mrs. Yu and I had holy communion somewhere in China. There were 120-130 college students huddled together in a warehouse in a small factory. We were very touched that day, we prayed for the bread and the wine with at least a hundred people. We prayed one after another non-stop in the Holy Spirit with short, sincere, and powerful prayers. We felt the whole event was like a feast in heaven. In addition to the holy communion, many brothers and sisters gather in China every day at 5 o'clock in the morning. Their prayers are like the sound of the water, everyone prayed and sang in the Holy Spirit freely.

Our Christians living abroad are often blinded by the gods of the world, and often we meet or pray without the touch of the Lord. The Holy Spirit comes and brings God with it, and the Holy Spirit comes and brings us before God through prayers.

### **3. Experience a rich life and enjoy the blessings of the Holy Spirit**

*"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.' "* (John 7:37) Are you thirsty? If you are, it is in line with the conditions below. If not, you cannot drink this living water. *"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "* (John 7:37-38). The Bible specifically states: *"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive."* (John 7:39a)

Here we talk about the flow of living water from us because *"Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.' "* (John 4:13-14) What is said here is not a trickle of shallow water, but a flow of living water, because it is connected to a living spring that never dries up. In fact, many people are spiritually poor, the experience of the Holy Spirit is not true enough, not rich, and deep enough, so we are often thirsty in our hearts. The characteristic of worldly water is that it can never solve our thirst.

When the Samaritan woman heard Jesus say so, she said: *"Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."* (John 4:15) This means that it is not easy to find wells there. What's more, even if you do get water, you'll still be thirsty after drinking it. There is a poem that

says, "The water of Syria, though drinking a thousand wells, is still thirsty" This is the water that the Samaritan woman wants to receive.

*"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."* (John 7:39) Today Jesus has been glorified, the Holy Spirit has come, and He lives in you and me. The Holy Spirit has become a river of living water within us. What a blessing! Today's issue is whether the living water is mixed with a lot of sand and stone, like the Philistines stopped up the waterholes that Abraham dug. Is it because of sin you refuse to obey God, because of the world, because of the physical lust, the pride of this life, so that the living water cannot flow freely? Brothers and sisters, the key is understanding, the problem is not with the promise of Bible, not that we do not have a living spring, it is often because on one hand enemies fill the living wells with garbage and on the other hand, our relationship with God is blocked, so that we cannot enjoy the living water nor the rich life it brought about.

Also, we should enjoy God's all-prepared blessings in the Holy Spirit. For example, In *Romans* chapter 5, apostle Paul tells us that because of the inner residence of the Holy Spirit, we are all immersed in God's great love, and he says: "... we also glory in tribulations..." (*Romans 5:3*), why? *"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 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."* (*Romans 5:3-5*). In our life, no matter what difficulties we encounter, there is a valuable force that becomes our dependence and comfort *"because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit"* and we have God's presence. The two most used translations in the English version are "poured out," like the Niagara Falls, where a large body of water is poured down. Another type is called "shed abroad." For it expands slowly from center to circumference, like the ripples caused by a stone falling into the water. Both interpretations in English are excellent! The watering of the Holy Spirit immerses us entirely, the whole gathering, in the Lord's love, or pours it down like water from the top, or in the beginning, it was a little bit, but it continues to expand, overflowing endlessly, and finally overflowing out of us.

## **II. Experience the power of the Holy Spirit's liberty and change**

*"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*) When we unveiled our faces to see the Lord, the apostle Paul said, it was as if we were looking in the spiritual mirror, allowing us to *"see the glory of the Lord."* Therefore, the spiritual mirror is not to see ourselves, but to see Jesus, and the more you look in the mirror, the more you will be like Jesus. It is a special mirror. The second half of verse 18 tells us that we: *"... are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (*2 Corinthians 3:18b*) Every time the veil is removed, we can see the glory of the Lord, and every time we see the Lord, we are like looking at a spiritual mirror, the more we look, the more we are like Jesus, are you envious or not? So let our eyes learn not just to look at our difficulties, because the more difficulties or the more we look at ourselves, the more depressed we are, and vice versa, when each time we look at the Lord, we are more like the Lord, and life is transformed, and it will no longer be the same.

The Bible passage helps us understand two sides of the work of the Holy Spirit: one is the "released power" of the Holy Spirit and the other is the "life-changing power" of the Holy Spirit.

### **1. The great power of liberty**

Speaking here, "*the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*" (2 Corinthians 3:17) I really wish we have such faith and prayer at every service gathering. Not only on Sunday, but also in small group gatherings, in family gatherings, so that we all learn to humbly say before the Holy Spirit, "Please show Your work today, Holy Spirit, the glorious Lord, show us in the Holy Spirit, to release us from all the bondage inside and outside, to let us gather and worship in the freedom of the Holy Spirit."

### **2. The life-changing power**

By turning to the Lord and being close to the Lord, we can experience the "life-changing power" of the Holy Spirit, which makes us from glory to glory and becomes the shape of the Lord, we "*are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" (2 Corinthians 3:18b). We all know that scientists to this day can only study and understand a little bit of the vastness, greatness, and mystery of the entire universe. God's power of creation is how great and amazing! But all this, God is nothing more than: "*For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast*" (Psalm 33:9), and with "*upholding all things by the word of His power*" (Hebrews 1:3), so that this vast universe can function normally. But God needs to spend the rest of our lives with you and me, patient and laborious, time-consuming, to turn people like me into images like the Son of God. God's life-changing power and love, I personally feel, is far greater than the greatness He created.

### **1). Being objectively righteous in Christ to becoming holy is a subjective process of constant experiencing the renewal and change of the Holy Spirit**

In this section of the Bible, we make two special points. Objectively, in Christ, we are all called righteous. Yet subjectively, we need to be able to experience His constant renewal and change within the Holy Spirit so that we can become holy. From righteousness to sainthood is a process. Righteousness is the beginning, made by Christ's blood, we all believe and accept. But many times, we just objectively believe in acceptance, lacking subjective experience. For example, when you talk about the experience of living in the Holy Spirit, you will find that our experience is very poor. Because renewal and change in the Holy Spirit is not only a process, but also a process that requires continued growth, and our lives are constantly updated and changed by the Lord during the process.

Here are two verses that can be used as representations:

*Romans 8:2: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." The Holy Spirit has released us. At the beginning of verses 5-6, it emphasizes how we can subjectively experience this release: "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 8:5-6)

*“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Romans 8:12-13)*

Here it says that the Holy Spirit has released us in Christ Jesus - the Son of God set us free, and we are truly free. We are no longer lions locked in cages and can only walk back and forth everyday (note: examples of previous message). The cage has now been removed and we are free. Objectively, in status and in truth, this is true, but subjectively, how can we be led into such experiences by the Holy Spirit? From these two verses we have just read, you can find that after the Holy Spirit has released us in Christ, there are three things to be aware of:

- a. **Follow the Holy Spirit.** *“... but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.” (Romans 8:5b).* Here the "according to" means attention or mind. What we thought about, what we cared about was all about the Holy Spirit. We are spiritual or not today, in fact, is reflected from what we think every day. Our thoughts all day long, our plans, who do we care for, what do we want, what are we pursuing, in fact, all have reflected how much we know and experience the Holy Spirit. I owe it to the Lord! Such a great salvation in my experience, but my understanding is so limited and so superficial. In addition, it is especially true about His initiative, and I am simply responding to Him, following Him, and making Him as my Lord.
- b. **Be Holy Spirit minded.** Those who follow the Holy Spirit will be considerate of the Holy. The Holy Spirit minded bring life and peace. *"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)*
- c. **Rely on the Holy Spirit to put to death the deeds of the body.** *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13)* These are subjective experiences that are important throughout our lives. The Holy Spirit has released us in Christ Jesus, and from then on, we will learn to follow the Holy Spirit, to be considerate of the Holy Spirit, and then to rely on the Holy Spirit to heal our bodies' evil deeds, so that our lives become more and more alive "no longer me, but Christ." It is an experienced process, from objective to subjective, the Holy Spirit does it step by step.

The table below, which I have used in the message "The Way to Victory of the Saints", is to compare *Romans* chapter 6 with *Romans* chapter 8. I condensed them slightly and listed them here for your reference.

<i>Romans</i> chapter 6	<i>Romans</i> chapter 8
A salvation completed once in Christ	A lifetime of continuous work in the Holy Spirit
Objective death - status (The Death of Christ)	Subjective death - experience (Death carried out by the Holy Spirit)
The fact of the same death - in Christ	The experience of death - in the Holy Spirit
The death of the old man - out of the jurisdiction of sin	The death of the body - enters the release of the Holy Spirit

I am in Christ	Christ is in me
The Lord died for me - no longer me	The Lord lives for me - it is Christ

Chapter 6 of the *Romans* focuses on our objective experience, especially the salvation that He has accomplished once in Christ. For example, in *Romans 6:10*, he said: "*For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*" and this was Christ's completion once for all. The book of *Hebrews* says that Christ completed the salvation once for all. Every time when we say: "in Christ, salvation is once for all," it is more objectively focused. Chapter 8 of the *Romans* focuses on subjectivity, on how to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to die with Christ and to experience the continuous healing of the Holy Spirit in us. Therefore, chapter 6 of the *Romans* focuses on the objective death, speaking of status, is the death that Christ has completed. As in chapter 6:3, he said: "*do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*" It is that Christ has died for us, and that subjectively by the Holy Spirit to carry out this death in us, calling no longer me, and what makes me live now is Christ.

The book of *Romans* chapter 6 focuses on the fact that I am dead with Christ. "*Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*" (*Romans 6:6*) This is the objective aspect of death with Christ. "*For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*" (*Romans 8:13*) It's the subjective aspect that I experienced death through the Holy Spirit within me. Therefore, subjectively the experience of "death" is experienced in the Holy Spirit, in every day, and on everything, we let the cross stand in the right position, we rely on the help of the Holy Spirit to cure the evil acts of our body, so that we no longer owe the body debt, to obey the body to live, but to rely on the Holy Spirit to cure the evil deeds of the body, and to live like Christ.

Chapter 6 focuses on "I am in Christ" and chapter 8 on "Christ is in me". Christ has lived in my heart through the Holy Spirit and becomes my life (*Colossians 3:4*).

Chapter 6 focuses on the objective fact that "the Lord dies for me", and let me die with the Lord, it is no longer me; Chapter 8 emphasizes "the Lord lives for me" it is Christ.

When we accept salvation or accept Christ, objectively we become the son of God, have been righteous, have won the power and life, many of us objectively already have all these. But subjectively to experience this will need to change within us through the life of the Holy Spirit, to transform us, to help us, so that we can truly understand.

## **2). From experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit to becoming a vessel (individual and church) full of the Holy Spirit**

**Whether it's individuals or churches, how do we go from experiencing the full life of the Holy Spirit to being a vessel full of the Holy Spirit?**

Why did apostle Paul tell us in chapter 5, verse 18 of the book of *Ephesians* "*Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit?*" And he uses a present and

ongoing tense, which means that this is not a one time request or command, but a state that must be sustained.

From being reborn and saved in the Holy Spirit, we will begin to experience the renewal, change and the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our life every day. But how do you go from being filled with the Holy Spirit to being a Holy Spirit filled person or vessel? Being filled with the Holy Spirit and becoming a man or vessel full of the Holy Spirit are two different realms. In other words, an experience filled with the Holy Spirit may be an occasional experience. For example, it was in a fellowship gathering, or after we made confessions to God and renewed our devotion, the Holy Spirit suddenly filled us, and we experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit. But this may not be the norm. The popular phrase now is called "the new norm". In fact, we Christians used to be the old norm, use to live in the old creation, and now in Christ, there should be a new norm, that is, often filled by the Holy Spirit, occupied by the Holy Spirit, every day through the changes that the Holy Spirit has made in us, prayer in the Holy Spirit, joy in the Holy Spirit ... Let this experience in the Holy Spirit become our new norm and become a person or church full of the Holy Spirit. It's no longer just an occasional experience, it's the norm. Someone testified, "When I was filled with the Holy Spirit 30 years ago..." "When I spoke the tongue 20 years ago..." What's the point of just talking about an occasional experience so many years ago? What matters is what relationship you have with God now. Being full of the Holy Spirit is not the same as becoming full of the Holy Spirit.

Next, from the selected verses, let's look at what a man with the Holy Spirit should have:

**a). When you really live in the Holy Spirit, you are bound to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law... If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-23, 25).*

If anyone has pointed out to you that he has special Holy Spirit experiences, or if he shows any special gifts before you, for example: someone can heal a lame, or even blindness. You can't all believe that this must have come from the Holy Spirit. If the person everyday doing nothing except eats, drinks, and plays, or is having an affair and is greedy for money ... and then every day to exaggerate their ability to do miracles, and use of these abilities to raise money, you have to be very careful, you must observe from the testimony of his life. The experience of the true Holy Spirit must bring about a change in life, a testimony of the glory of Christ, and all that is done is to build the church, to build God's children; not to glorify himself, not to be praised and worshipped by others; and his attention should be focused on witnessing Christ, honoring God, and producing the fruits of life and the Holy Spirit.

In the book of *Galatians*, chapter 5 verse 25, apostle Paul said: *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* The Chinese translation of this verse does not fully express its true meaning, but the English translation may help us to have a better understanding of what apostle Paul is saying. He said: *"If we are born by the Holy Spirit"*, the translation of NKJV is *"If we live in the Holy Spirit"*. *"Born by the Holy Spirit"* does not refer to life that is objectively born of faith in Jesus; If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. What it wants to emphasize is to live in a different range, in a different realm, and of course it will bring about different endings.

Fish living on land and living in water are completely different realms, and the results are of course very different. If a fish can swim in the water, it must enjoy it very much, because this is the realm it deserves, and its result is "live".

Similarly, if our new life does not live in the Holy Spirit, but be sinful, submissive to the body, living in the physical desire, it is reasonable to say that we should be uncomfortable and miserable, because it is contrary to this holy life and temperament. So, apostle Paul advised us to live in the Holy Spirit and to walk in the Holy Spirit.

Our church office occasionally receives letters from other members asking us: since the Holy Spirit has come, has lived in us, why should we desire to be filled by the Holy Spirit? Why do we pursue the Holy Spirit again? Yes, of course the Holy Spirit came back during Pentecost 2000 years ago, and it was an objective fact that we were already in it when we were born again. But subjectively, we must follow the Holy Spirit, considerate the Holy Spirit, longing and pursuing to live in the Holy Spirit, walk in the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit is full of measures, the experience of the Holy Spirit can be in our lives continuously expanded, mature, enriched, and even overflowed.

#### **b). People with Holy Spirit can see things clearly and understand God's will**

*"<sup>10</sup>...For the Spirit searches all things... <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, ... but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God... <sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. <sup>16</sup> For 'who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).*

When we come across choices, when we encounter spiritual battles, and we personally or the whole church want to move forward, it is the Holy Spirit that really can see through everything. We must humbly learn to be a person with the Holy Spirit. When we truly have the Holy Spirit, we then can see through everything, for the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom, and the Holy Spirit makes us see things clearly and helps us to understand what God's will is.

#### **c). By relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to achieve great things**

*"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).*

Do you know what you want the Holy Spirit to accomplish in you now? It's likely that we'll immediately think of all the difficulties and needs of our lives, right? Not that we can't pray for these difficulties, of course we can, and it's important to pray for them. But *Romans 8:4* is a good example: *"The righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."* Do you think this is more than you wish for? Who can meet the requirements of the law? No one! Only Jesus can be righteous for the law, right? However, today, even those of us who are born in sin and grow in sin, God can achieve everything with great strength by living within me, so that *"the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."* Isn't it not "more than what we wish for"? Isn't this an amazing grace? This takes tremendous ability to achieve! So let alone the trivial things like healing, finding a job ....

A while ago, when we were communicating with our colleagues in different regions, a topic was often raised in our discussions: How can we be able to do this in my life, in my ministry without getting tired, without getting exhausted or burnout? Today, many brothers and sisters who love the Lord are tired, because many people refuse to serve, and finally only a few people work and serve in several areas, tired at the end and exhausted.

Another question often asked is: how to make our service full of living water? How can we have life and spirit when singing hymns, to pray, to preach, to share in small groups, when we speak, even when we deal with other people...? These are all that we are looking forward to but are not something that we can temporarily squeeze out like a toothpaste, it is inseparable from our accumulation of time through experiencing the Holy Spirit, and to grow. This is a mature process, something the Holy Spirit will do to us throughout our whole lives.

Example: *“<sup>3</sup>Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>10</sup>And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.” (Acts 6:3, 10).*

The early churches had picked seven deacons like Stephen, they were full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit, and the Bible said that Stephen was speaking with wisdom and the Holy Spirit. They were a group of people filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **III. Experience the inspiration, comfort, and guidance of the Holy Spirit**

Let's read three passages of the Bible together: *“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.” (Ephesians 1:17-18)* In our last message, we said that this was apostle Paul's prayer for revelation, asking God to let us know what God is and what God's gift is to us.

*“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.” (John 16:13).*

*“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)*

The Holy Spirit came to be the comforter, and He not only comforted us, but from the three verses above, we could quickly see from five aspects how the Holy Spirit of truth came to inspire, comfort, and lead in each one of us:

#### **1. The best teacher**

*“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.” (John 16:13)* He is our best mentor in truth and life.

#### **2. Teach us everywhere**

A lot of times we need help, we need to be pointed out, and we can't find the right person. But the Holy Spirit is everywhere, and He is with us all the time.



### 3. **Teach us every moment**

*"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). It is especially said that this teacher is in everything, and every moment to teach us. Any encounter, any thoughts, conversations with people, emotional processing, facing temptation, facing all kinds of problems in my life ... If I do not accept the teachings of the Holy Spirit and experience it in the Holy Spirit, I will lose the opportunity for my life to grow and be changed by the Holy Spirit.

### 4. **The best teaching materials**

The teaching materials used by the Holy Spirit are the best. *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* (Romans 8:28) Many things happen to us every day, many of which we don't understand, or even don't care about, are specially prepared by God. Our God has experienced our day ahead of us when we have not spent it. *Psalms 139* also says, *"You covered me in my mother's womb, ... Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."* (Psalm 139:13b, 16)

### 5. **The noblest of purposes**

God's almighty wisdom and great love have planned our lives. When the Holy Spirit comes, it will explain to us so that we can understand why this happened. What does God want us to learn from this? What does God want to give us? All in accordance with the purity of His heart, His noble and glorious will. It is to make us the image of the Son of God, teach us to be like Jesus. This is not just a prince's training course, but a prince's training course in heaven. We are disciples in Christ's school, which is the highest school in the universe, and one day Christ will come and lead the sons into glory and manage the new heaven and earth with the Lord, what a glorious ending!

In addition, chapter 4, verse 30 of the book of *Ephesians* tells us: *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."* *"Do not quench the Spirit."* (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

I have singled out these two verses to help us understand the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit better. *"Do not grieve the Spirit"* are negative in comparison. The Holy Spirit worries when we sin, deviate from God, refuse to obey, and do not please God. Therefore, don't grieve the Holy Spirit. If we have lost sense of the teachings of the Holy Spirit, we cannot experience the inspiration and advice of the Holy Spirit, it often indicates that our lives have become numb and that there are serious problems with our relationship with the Lord. Although our high priests can understand and be compassionate of our weakness, if we have no feeling toward crimes, lies, arguments, offend God ... this is called *"grieve the Holy Spirit"*.

*"Do not quench the Spirit."* (1 Thessalonians 5:19) focuses on positive encouragement. For example: learning to obey the Holy Spirit at a fellowship. The Holy Spirit inspires us to pray or moves us to stand up as a testimony to the Lord, then we will follow the Holy Spirit. We need to

learn and allow the Holy Spirit to gain His rightful place and authority in us, and to learn to surrender to all of His inspiration and leadership in us. Our "trust and obedience" is the key to experiencing the inspiration, comfort, and leadership of the Holy Spirit. Every faith and obedience help us to live in God's joy; In the same way, every time our faith and obedience will bring growth to our lives, making our relationship with God closer and truer, and able to be closer to the Lord and love Him more.

Example: *"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. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them." (Acts 16:6-7) / "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied." (Acts 9:31).*

#### **IV. Experience the gift of the Holy Spirit and His creation among the body of Christ**

We have said that this "new discipleship" is "to build Christ-oriented bodies". All our experiences should not be just for ourselves, but for God's desire and for the church of Christ. Therefore, our experience of the Holy Spirit, the gift, the use of the gift should also be for building the body of Christ and for the glory of God. *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)* Here we see that the Holy Spirit gives different gifts for the benefit of others, or that the Holy Spirit manifests itself in the individual to bring blessings to others through the gifts given to each of us.

It goes on to explain why God has given the church these different instruments and different duties: *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)* Once again we see that all gifts, even the work of the Holy Spirit, run in a fellowship to make our Christians complete, and then the body of Christ to be edified. This is so important that we must not ignore it.

Apostle Paul said: *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." (1 Corinthians 14:1)* Why? Because he said it afterwards: *"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." (1 Corinthians 14:4)* Why? Because when a prophet preaches, it is *"... edification and exhortation and comfort to men." (1 Corinthians 14:3b)* Paul advised us that if you ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit, you should ask for the gifts that can edify the church. *"Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel." (1 Corinthians 14:12)*

I want people to pray for ourselves and for the church, to see what the church needs are. If you feel that the church lacks gifted people, you should pray for it, ask God for such a gift, ask God to give us the one who already has such a gift. For example: for those who are gifted of governance, or of leading music to worship... someone who can edify the church and bring blessings to the body of Christ, not to be affirmed and accepted for the sake of our own personal talents.

Today's postmodernism brings with it a rather biased and even dangerous concept and pursuit. It emphasizes that the gifts a person received must be accepted, affirmed, and be used fully. Who says the reason for someone to go to church is to display his gift itself? All gifts should be for the buildup of the church and for the glory of God. We can ask God for a gift, but the motivation and purpose is to honor God and to build up the church, to make God's children edified together, to benefit together, and to grow together.

*"But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter."* (Romans 7:6).

"Newness" is not about new tricks, but because of the Holy Spirit's unique wonders, we will be under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to serve. Whether it is preaching, with the Bible study, with singing, as a receptionist, for any service, on one hand, *"do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"* (Colossians 3:23), on the other hand, no matter what I do, I will do it in the Holy Spirit, with life, with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. When we are truly in the Holy Spirit, no matter what we do, one can feel when they meet you, that they are here to God's house, to enjoy love, to experience life, and even to meet the Lord. When I was young with my swollen face problems, sometimes I was very frustrated and wanted to complain about God. But when I went to see an older Christian sister, when I entered her living room and saw her expression, she was so peaceful, she talked to God and communicated with me, I did not even need to ask her questions and immediately knew where my problem was.

Example: *"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)/ *"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."* (Acts 20:28).

Chapter 13 of the book of *Acts* deals with the church of Antioch and says: *"The Holy Spirit says,"* (Acts 13:2a). You find that all things of the Antioch church are under the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit, and that the whole church was very healthy, very energetic, mission oriented, and able to spread the gospel of God everywhere. Speaking of the church of Ephesians, it is also said: *"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."* (Acts 20:28) They all emphasized the sovereignty and operation of the Holy Spirit in the establishment of the church.

Let us not envy the church of Ephesians or Antioch but begin to learn to obey the Holy Spirit during the services and fellowships, so that the Holy Spirit can be set free. Apostle Paul begins with chapter 2, verse 1, of the book of *Philippians*, who says, *"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy."* (Philippians 2:1-2) This is about the fact that the Holy Spirit is running during the fellowship of God's children. So, if there are any thoughts inspired by the Holy Spirit, we need to share them. The body of Christ should be rich and not poor, be healthy and full of life, not dead nor weak, and this is what a church should be.

## **V. By the Holy Spirit to experience victory in the spiritual battle**

Apostle Paul tells us in chapter 6 of the book of *Ephesians*: *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,*

*against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:11-12) We must not fight with Satan directly on our own, we must rely on the Holy Spirit and must wear full uniform; “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:17-18) In addition to the six military uniforms, the seventh, in fact, is a summary of all need, is to pray in the Holy Spirit so that we know how to use them.*

Apostle Paul also said in chapter 10 of the book of 2 Corinthians: *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) Jesus gave this promise before He ascended to heaven, saying: “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) God has given the church the power to win, the name of victory, and the status of victory. The key today is how we use them.*

Examples: *“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5)*

Apostle Paul said: *“But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.” (1 Thessalonians 2:2) Not long ago they had just been humiliated and prosecuted in Philippi, beaten, and sent to prison. Here he told the Christians of Thessalonica: “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.” (1 Thessalonians 1:5) Paul stressed here: to be able to win, to be able to turn things around, to be able to beat our enemies, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.*

When Paul was with the church of the Ephesus, there were seven sons of Sceva, the chief priest, who wanted to learn from Paul, and when they called on the name of Jesus over those who had evil spirits, they said: *“We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” (Acts 19:13) Their understanding of Christ, their reliance on the name of Christ, is entirely on their own, not in the Holy Spirit. These seven evil spirits were also interesting too, they said: “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then they jump on them, humiliate them, and let them escape naked. So don't pursue people to boast that you are spiritual. “But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.” (1 Corinthians 8:3) If anyone is truly spiritual, this person is known and feared by Satan.*

Finally, there are a few things I need to pay attention to about experiencing the Holy Spirit. You can find more sharing in “Fundamental Theology”. I'm going to make a list here, they are about experiences in the Holy Spirit, and situations that shouldn't happen:

**There are a few things to note when it comes to experiencing the Holy Spirit:**

<b>The experience in the Holy Spirit should be</b>	<b>The experience in the Holy Spirit shouldn't be</b>
Based on biblical truths	Based on subjective experience
The emphasis is on getting deeper relationship with the Lord, and being acquired by the Lord	Focus on the experience itself, to meet the needs of oneself
"To be filled by the Holy Spirit" is the promise and command of the Bible	Reject or fear the Holy Spirit because some people are extreme, or mistaken
Not all signs and wonders can be believed	If it is signs and wonders, they are believable

For example, experience in the Holy Spirit should be based on biblical truth, it should not be based on subjective experience or only subjective experience is emphasized. Today, problems arise because of the abnormality of the church and the incompleteness of the human. Some say: some churches are more truth-oriented churches, some churches are more focused on the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Holy Spirit is the 'Holy Spirit of truth', it is both. There is no so-called more truth-oriented church or more Holy Spirit oriented church. If you focus on truth, then you should emphasize on the Holy Spirit, if you focus on the Holy Spirit, then you should stand on the foundation of truth, these two are fundamentally one, because He is the Holy Spirit of truth. So, we have to be very careful in the face of these generations of chaotic spiritual experiences, where some people emphasize special experiences, special visions, special sights, special teachings. Some churches teach you how to speak tongues, others teach children to stand in a row, close their eyes to learn to see visions, and then explain them with faith, or make predictions to their peers. These are terrible, they are not written in the Bible!

I am here just to remind my brothers and sisters not to believe and accept these teachings because they called themselves Christians or claim that these are based on the Bible (often out of context or to distort the Bible). We must return to the Bible and to the foundation of complete truth.

All spiritual experiences are designed to give us a deeper understanding of the Lord, to experience the Lord, and to be taken deeper by the Lord so that we can come to glorify God and edify the body of Christ. I've heard a lot of people go after the experience of being held down to pray and then fall to the ground. Some people say: "why didn't you fall? You just have to relax and then fall!" We come to church to meet the Lord, not to focus on the experience itself, not to pursue, but to focus wholeheartedly in simple faith in longing for the Lord, love the Lord, meet the Lord, and the rest is up to the Holy Spirit.

## **Other**

### **1. The pursuit of the Lord with a pure heart is the secret of the Holy Spirit**

When we don't focus on the people around us, our own environment, thoughts, feelings... but wholeheartedly concentrate on Jesus, with a simple, thirsty, open mind, with faith and

communicating with the Lord, we will often experience being immersed in the Holy Spirit and be with Him.

**2. The most central experience of the Holy Spirit is to “meet the Lord” and completely be with Himself in His being**

Each person's reaction may be different, so do not imitate, do not compare, do not limit themselves, not be disturbed, do not comment on others, let the Holy Spirit run freely.

**3. Pray for those who have a significant gift or special experience of the Holy Spirit**

a. If the true work of the Holy Spirit is not driven by human intentions, it is then not doped or destroyed by enemies

b. Use gifts entirely under the control of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of man and the church.

**4. The Holy Spirit and the Cross are complementary**

The Cross brings more blessings of the Holy Spirit, and those who are often filled with the Holy Spirit will inevitably walk the path of the Cross more faithfully, more willingly, and more determined.

**5. The true experience of the Holy Spirit will inevitably bring about the renewal and change of life and will eventually bear more fruits of the Holy Spirit**

At the end, I want to place special emphasis on the last two points:

**The Holy Spirit and the Cross are absolutely complementary to each other: deeper and more understanding of Jesus Christ experiences on the Cross must bring more blessings from the Holy Spirit.** Someone who is often filled with the Holy Spirit will certainly be more faithful, more willing, and able to walk the path of the Cross; these two are inseparable, because the real experiences of Jesus Christ on the Cross always bring Christ to us.

**Finally, the experience of the true Holy Spirit will surely bring with it the renewal and change of life and will surely allow us to bear more fruits of the Holy Spirit** *“You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.” (Matthew 7:16-17)*

Today is the time of the Holy Spirit. I hope our brothers and sisters will value and cherish it. The Holy Spirit has come, and the Holy Spirit has resided in us. We need to have a divine unsatisfying thirst and say to God: "I want the Holy Spirit!" We all must let the Holy Spirit fill us greatly - not for our own enjoyment, not for our own special gifts and experiences, but for the purpose of being brought into this fully prepared salvation, so that our lives are often updated and changed by the Lord, so that we can enjoy God's being together, enjoy growth in Christ, and enjoy the freedom and uplifting in the Holy Spirit. Let us be in the work and process of the Holy Spirit, in each of our gatherings, in our own service role, be able to rely on the gifts and abilities of the Holy Spirit to serve each other, grow in love, and build the body of Christ in love.

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we thank You! Thank You for the great work of the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the experiences in the Holy Spirit. We really feel that we are inadequate and undeserving for the great salvation. Lord, help us! The Holy Spirit comes to bring us into the truth of all this, and the Holy Spirit comes to remind us of what the Lord Jesus said to us. Lord, let these promises live, deepen, and be more and more truly implemented in our lives and deeds. Please listen to our prayers in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!