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Getting To Know The Holy Spirit For Everyday Life

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As we have been learning about the Holy Spirit and His ministry to each of us, we find that there are things He is responsible for that we sometimes do not recognize. He is a part of the God-Head that we don't always acknowledge as we should. He has a definite purpose for each of us and as we become born again, He will enter into us to be a Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby and to some people they call Him, their "Best Friend".

Kathryn Kuhlman always referred to the Holy Spirit as her best friend, and when she was asked about Him, she always said do not "grieve or quench" the Holy Spirit and great miracles would happen in her crusades. Maybe the key to seeing miracles not happening might be as a result of our not fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit, with us not getting to know the Holy Spirit. This might cause someone to question that maybe He has a function for our lives, because He is the agent in the earth today ministering to the church and through the church, a tool that is not being used. Many believers over the years have received the Holy Spirit or tool, but they for whatever reason have chosen not to put the tool to work, have stored it someplace and it needs to be brought out and used as God intended.

There was prayer acknowledging and asking the Holy Spirit to minister in the service; "we know that you are in this place, we are going to talk about you, we need you to give us revelation and utterance, we need understanding that would bypass any previous thought patterns, because we want to get to know you and get acquainted with you, we yield to you and are believing every person here will be touched by Your presence"

Acts 1:4-5,8 "And while being in their company *and* eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak. 5 For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit. 8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth." AMP

Jesus is talking to His disciples in this verse. He didn't suggest that they wait in Jerusalem but commanded them to go and not leave until they received power from on high. He had great faith in them knowing, they had a big job ahead and He would not be with them, He would be seated at the right hand of the Father. They would need the power in order to carry out His plan for them, to go all over the world and preach the gospel.

So how important is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Acts 19:2-4,6 "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." KJV

Paul went to Ephesus and began asking the believers there, had they received the Holy Ghost, they knew nothing of what he was asking them, the only baptism they knew was what John had taught about repentance. Paul taught them about being born again, they were water baptized, then Paul laid hands on them and they all received and spoke with tongues and prophesied. Paul thought that it was important for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

There are some denominations which teach that instead of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues, there is a process in which believers are sanctified or set apart but never speaking in tongues. However, if they should sometimes be present in a service where there are strong feelings being felt, they might at this time receive the Spirit.

Pastor Margaret shared about having relatives that spoke in tongues and that was OK because they were of a different religion than she was. She thought that it was strange and was sure that she knew better and she did not need to have that experience. However, some neighbors who were spirit filled, full gospel, offered to share a book with her that was entitled "They Spoke In Other Tongues", at which time she refused because she felt she didn't need it. Later as time went on, she began to experience situations that she didn't know how to handle. She began to seek God and in prayer began to say words that she had heard earlier from one of her relatives, but at the time was not ready to accept what was happening to her. She had read about Cornelius in the bible and the experience that he had when Peter laid hands on him, the Holy Ghost had come upon him and he spoke with tongues. She began to realize that there was something more that she needed in her life and that was the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. As she was praying late one night, she ask that God give her the closest experience that she could have with Him; a bright light came into the room and she felt the presence of Jesus, but when the words she didn't understand began to come from her, she said "anything but that" and the light, the presence and the words left leaving her with a sense of darkness and oppression. She realized that she had missed what God was wanting to do for her, she rebuked the enemy and again the light, His presence and the words returned and she knew she had a decision to make. She had asked for the closest experience that she could have with God and was now ready to yield and began to speak with other tongues. The Holy Ghost began to make her new on the inside, a door was opened and the wall was removed it was like walking into the supernatural realm of God where He wants us to dwell. Her life has never been the same since that time so many years ago. The gift of the Holy Spirit began to work more and more in her life, she began to hear the voice of God more readily.

Many people come to this same wall and are not sure how to open the door. The Holy Spirit has been given to us to empower us to do what He wants us to do, He does not expect us to do anything in our flesh but by His Spirit.

Rom 8:26-27 "Likewise the Spirit also **helpeth our infirmities*: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." KJV

We begin to realize that there is much that needs to be done with our prayer life and without having the Spirit who makes intercession for us, we don't always know how to pray, but allowing the Spirit to speak through us, we are able to pray the perfect will of God for situations. We speak and the Holy Spirit gives the utterance, we know He hears and we have the answers. The groanings made by the Spirit tells us that there is God talk involved, they are talking on Their

level. * Help comes along beside us, infirmities are short comings, we are aware of but don't always know what to do with them, the infirmity mentioned here is not illness. The Holy Spirit does not do things for us, but will do things with us and help us. Prayer is much more important than we realize, we have been called to prayer, God can do nothing without our prayer, it is our cooperation with God. Our will does not get involved when we are speaking in tongues, because we are speaking the perfect will of God.

1 John 5:14-15 "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." KJV

This scripture tells us that He hears what we are asking for according to His will and that we are going to receive what we have ask Him for, this is an effective prayer. Many times after we have prayed for a situation in the Spirit, not knowing what the situation was, we may find out later, that we had prayed for something important and there was an answer to our prayer.

Ezek 22:30-31 "And I sought a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none. 31 Therefore have I poured out My indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their own way have I repaid [by bringing it] upon their own heads, says the Lord God." AMP

God was looking for one that would stand in the gap, He couldn't so He destroyed the land, He just wanted one intercessor and there was none. That is what He is wanting from us, that is the reason there is such an importance for the Holy Spirit to be working in our lives, that we may intercede and we can stand in the gap by praying in tongues for others.

Mark 16:17-20 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen" KJV

Jesus gave us power and authority to do all the things that He had done while on earth.

Jude 20-21 "But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; 21 Guard *and* keep yourselves in the love of God; expect *and* patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)—[which will bring you] unto life eternal." AMP

Praying in the Spirit, builds up our faith and keeps us in the love of God, because it builds our spirit up. How important is it to pray in tongues? It is not just a side issue with God it is not just a denominational thing, it is the center of the life of the church. If you haven't walked through the door, it is available to everyone, God is not a respecter of persons. Seek the Lord, He will hear you and you shall begin to move into that realm.

Pastor Charles begins to minister regarding the communion service we are about to participate in.

As we begin the communion service we must realize that this cannot become just a ritual but is a very important time for reflection of ourselves. Paul is teaching in 1 Cor 10:17 through the remainder of the chapter, the taking of communion. The church can come together for the better or

for the worse, there cannot be different groups in the church that cannot agree on doctrines or are having strifes, they must be learning to walk in love and forgiveness. Paul also speaks about this in chapter 11 as well, we must judge ourselves.

An example is given of us driving and maybe seeing a patrol car, what is our response to that? Do we check our speed, slow down in case we are speeding, we get back in regulation.

If we are walking in areas of unforgiveness it may be hard to forgive but we can do that, by looking at our spiritual speedometer. We don't hide from the Holy Spirit, He is watching all the time, He knows when we need to make correction unless our conscience is seared and if it is we won't hear the Holy Ghost. Communion is a time when we must judge ourselves in order that the Lord won't have to judge us. If we don't judge ourselves, then God will judge us, that we might be a partakers of His righteousness or holiness, He doesn't judge to destroy, we do have to judge ourselves, having repentance, changing our direction or course. His purpose is to bless us, that is His plan. The Holy Ghost is watching, so make that course correction, get things right, Gods plan and destination for us has never changed.