



## God's Resources for Life and Healing

### Part 2—The Holy Spirit: God in Us

We are continuing in this issue to examine perhaps the most powerful and transformative resource that God has provided to enable us to experience life at an extraordinary level. This is the person of the Holy Spirit, who is united with our own spirits at the time of salvation (1 Cor. 6:17). Through this union, made possible by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross, we have direct and immediate access, as privileged children, to our heavenly Father whenever we desire it, whether just to feel the warmth of His love or to bring our needs or anxieties to Him (Gal. 4:6; Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7). What a gift to be able to connect with the Creator of the universe at any time and to be treated as His very own children!

The Holy Spirit's role within us goes far beyond just providing a channel of access to the Father, however. He Himself, because of His intimate union with our spirits, deeply understands the needs and desires of our hearts and prays for us with the utmost of divine love and precision (Rom. 8:26-27). What a blessing that we often let slip from our minds!

When we consciously join into His prayers with our own spirits, the results are even more powerful, especially in the spiritual realm, where they seem to be instrumental in enhancing our effectiveness in the spiritual battle (Eph. 6:18). Praying in the Spirit also enables us to maintain the rich experience of God's love in our lives (Jude 20-21).

Joining our spirits with His in worship provides another awesome avenue of connection to God. Not only do we enjoy the exhilarating, mutual exchange of love and joy that is able to flow between us, but over time this repeated interaction with God's glorious presence has a transforming effect on our own inner beings so that we come to reflect His glory more and more (John 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:15; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:3).

By connecting to God through the Holy Spirit in these ways, we also open the channel through which God can impart to us words of truth, wisdom, and revelation to give us insight, guidance, and inner healing for our personal lives as well as to use in teaching and in ministering to others (Prov. 3:5-6; Isa. 11:2; John 16:13-15; Acts 6:3, 10; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:6-16; Col. 2:2-3; Eph. 1:17-19; 3:1-6). The wisdom He imparts far surpasses anything available to us on a human level (1 Cor. 3:18-20). For this reason God delights in choosing to use those who, in the eyes of the world, are foolish, weak, and simple (1 Cor. 1:20-29). He does not need the wisdom or intelligence of man to accomplish His purposes. In fact, His work shines most brightly from vessels of clay and those undergoing various types of suffering (2 Cor. 4:6-11).

The Holy Spirit also provides the avenue through which we can receive powerful words to say when we are under persecution or in spiritual battle (Mat. 10:19-20; Eph. 6:17). He can also give us specific instructions concerning what He wants us to do in certain situations (Acts. 8:29; 10:19-20; 13:2; 15:28-29; 16:6-7). Sometimes these messages may come as clearly worded sentences while at other times they may be received more as strong impressions (1 Cor. 7:40).

Through the Holy Spirit we are also able to receive prophetic messages (Luke 1:41-55, 67-79; 2:25-26; Acts 11:28; 20:22-23; 21:4, 11) and to experience dreams and visions giving us divine warnings, insights, and instructions for our lives (Acts. 2:17-18; 9:10-12; 10:3-6; 11:5-10; 16:9-10; 18:9-10; Rev. 1:10-20). Stephen was allowed to see into the third heaven where Jesus Christ was standing at the right hand of God the Father (Acts 7:55-56). Paul and John were actually taken in the spirit to the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-4; Rev. 4:1-2ff). These experiences are not beyond what we, too, can experience as we learn to connect with, and utilize to the fullest, the awesome resource of the Holy Spirit, which God has given to be with us always (John 14:16).