



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 3—The Holy Spirit: God in Us

We have been looking at the richness of the resource which God has given His children in the Holy Spirit. By uniting His Spirit with our spirits at salvation, *He makes His own divine attributes available to us!* To the extent that we develop the habit of “setting our minds” on the Holy Spirit, we allow these attributes to be released into our lives. We thus have the potential to replace the natural expressions of the flesh with the manifestation of the very character of God (Rom. 8:5; Gal. 5:16; 19-23). Not only does this grace those around us, but the degree of love, joy, and peace that we experience surpasses anything the world has to offer (Rom. 5:5; 14:17).

We also have the potential for the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead to flow through us, and it is absolutely limitless in what it can do (Jer. 32:27; Eph. 1:19-20; 3:20-21; Col. 1:29). It is not freely at our disposal but is released at the discretion of the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill God's particular calling in our lives, which is always within the broader context of advancing His Kingdom (Acts 9:32-42).

This power makes a night and day difference in the effectiveness of any type of Christian ministry or witness that we attempt. It not only emboldens us to speak out in witness for Christ (Acts 1:8; 4:31), but the words we speak are also quickened to accomplish God's purpose in the lives of those to whom we speak them (Isa. 55:11; 1 Thes. 1:5). Amazingly, this can occur even if we are not skilled orators or rich in the world's wisdom but deliver our message in fear, trembling, and halting words (1 Cor. 2:3-4).

In addition to enriching our verbal ministry, the Holy Spirit's power can also flow through us to do the same kinds of miraculous works that Jesus did when He was on earth, such as healing the sick, casting out demons, and even raising the dead (Luke 4:18; John 11:11-45; 14:12; 20:21-22). The degree to which we see this occur through our lives will be determined by the extent to which we are living in the fullness of the Spirit, the measure of our faith, and the specific gifting that God has given us (Mat. 17:19-20; Acts 13:5-12, 52; Rom. 12:3-8; 15:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 5:18-20).

Having our minds actively focused away from the flesh and onto “the things above” is the key to enjoying any of the Holy Spirit's benefits (Rom. 8:5-8; Col. 3:1-2). To see His miracle-working power released in our lives, we must also apply our faith to what we want Him to do. This simple mental act has incredible power in the spiritual realm (Mat. 17:14-20; Gal. 3:5-6; 2 Thes. 1:11; Heb. 11:11, 23, 27-35). It alone changes our eternal destiny (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:15). It can also stop the enemy's attacks, overcome the attraction of the world, empower our prayers, activate the promises of God, and release His power to change any reality in the physical or spiritual realm (Mark 11:24; Eph. 2:8; 6:16; ; 1 John 5:4).

Faith also releases and empowers the spiritual gifts that God has given to believers. These gifts reflect a special design God has imbued our spirits with that enables us to receive and manifest a specific aspect of God's nature to a heightened extent. His omniscience (infinite knowledge) is seen most clearly through those who are gifted in wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, teaching, administration, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. His power is demonstrated most dramatically through those who are gifted in faith, healing, and miracles. His character is manifested most profoundly in those gifted in exhortation, service, mercy, and giving. (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:6-10; 1 Pet. 4:10-11). These gifts are not intended to be used in isolation or for personal gain but for the benefit of the whole Church (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12; Eph. 4:11-13, 16). When every believer is functioning properly in their spiritual gifts, the Church truly becomes the Body of Christ, reflecting the full scope of His being (1 Cor. 12:7-30).

Amazingly, the same divine power that is able to flow through us to do abundantly beyond all that we could ask or think can also work in us, giving supernatural strength to our inner being so that we can persevere in handling the many challenges we face in carrying out God's mission in a fallen world. Once again, the degree to which we experience this divine uplifting and energizing of our soul depends on our maintaining our focus on the Spirit (having a heavenly mindset) and the exercise of our faith. As we by faith open our spirits wholly to God, Christ's presence floods our being and becomes an increasingly evident part of our daily lives, filling us with all that He is, including both His strength and His love. The more consistently we allow this, the more firmly rooted His love becomes in our own character and disposition and the more we move toward experiencing the full extent of the benefits God intends us to have through His very real presence in our lives (John 10:10b; Eph. 3:16-19; Col. 2:9-10).