

# Building Worthy a Dwelling for the Holy Spirit (John 14:19-24)



Jesus' direct challenge to all believers after He introduced the Holy Spirit was: *'...he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to Him (by the Holy Spirit)...If anyone loves, Me, He will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'* (John 14:21, 23)

Thomas a Kempis said, 'Christ will come unto thee, and show thee His consolation, if thou prepare for Him a worthy abode within thee.' This is true for both the personal and the corporate (cf. Is 56).

## 1. We must ACKNOWLEDGE and WELCOME the Holy Spirit

*'...for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak'* (John 16:13 KJV). Sometimes this verse is misunderstood as if the Holy Spirit will never speak of Himself. The Greek preposition *ἀπό* is 'from'. It means the Holy Spirit will not speak 'from His own authority', i.e., independent of the Father and the Son. The emphasis is on the unity of Godhead (NKJV), not on the obscurity of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's priority is to glorify Jesus (16:14), and Jesus' priority is to glorify the Father, but it does not follow that the church should obscure the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

How much relationship can you have with someone without acknowledging that person's presence? We must 'acknowledge', 'welcome', and 'honour' THE HOLY SPIRIT as GOD.

## 2. We must RECEIVE the Holy Spirit

a. The disciples received the Holy Spirit from Christ on TWO occasions in the New Testament.

	<b>Resurrection Sunday (Jn 20:21-22)</b>	<b>The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)</b>
<b>They encountered</b>	Resurrected Christ	Ascended Christ
<b>They received</b>	Indwelling of the Holy Spirit	Infilling of the Holy Spirit
<b>The result was</b>	New Life or NT salvation (cf. Rom 10:9)	Power

After Pentecost, 'receiving the spirit' is always referred to as 'infilling of the Spirit.'

Cf. *'...if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.'* (Rom 8:9) *'...no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by (in) the Holy Spirit.'* (1 Cor 12:3)

b. There are THREE stages of being filled with the Spirit:

- (i) Immersion (enveloped from without), E.g., Charles Finney - 'waves and waves of the baptism of fire'
- (ii) Infilling, E.g. An empty bottle placed in a bathtub full of water will be 'immersed' under water, then filled with water next.
- (iii) Overflow (through the mouth), known *tongue as a sign or better still a 'culmination'* of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We can stop at any stage. But why should we stop at less than all that God has for us? The tongue is for personal spiritual edification and it is the gateway for all other gifts. *'He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...'* (1 Cor 14:4, 18) *'...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who [keep on] ask Him!'* (Luke 11:9-13)

c. We need the OVERFLOW. This overflow is like a hose connected to a huge reservoir by gravity feed. Once you get the overflow, you get a continual flow.

Cf. *'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst [baptism of the Spirit is for the thirsty people]. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'* (John 4:14)

C.f. 'Jesus stood and cried out, saying, '...He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers (plural) of living water.' (John 7:37-38) Heart: 'κοιλία' here is literally stomach, belly, womb, hollow, cavity. Every human being has a God-shaped vacuum within that yearns to be filled with the Spirit of God. Jesus Christ is the baptiser of the Holy Spirit, but often laying on of hands is employed to jump-start the overflow.

### 3. We must CONTINUALLY be FILLED with the Spirit

*'And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled [continual present tense] with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...' (Eph 5:18).*

What is the wine here? Self-medication like drugs, alcohol, TV, food, electronic games - whatever is wasteful and sinful. Dissipation (Greek, ἀσωτία - 'without' & σώζω - 'save') means what can't be saved. Once again, notice the overwhelming connection between the use of our mouth and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. We use our mouths to drink of the Spirit.

### 4. We must maintain 'UNGRIEVED SPIRIT' within us

We are now the temple of the Holy Spirit individually and corporately (1 Cor 33:16-17; 6:19-20).

- a. The Holy Spirit has a sensitive nature. [OT Hint] *'But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So, He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.'* (Is. 63:10) 'פָּצַע' – to hurt, to vex, to cause pain, to grieve C.f. Gen 6:6, 34:7, 45:5. [Peculiarity of the third Person of Godhead]
- b. Paul's commentary on Is 63:10 sends a serious warning to all Christians: *'Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed (symbol of belonging or ownership in antiquity c.f. Songs 8:6, Rev 7:4) for the day of redemption...'* 'Grieve' = 'λυπέω' means 'to get someone's feelings hurt.' Paul gives a list of what grieves the Holy Spirit: *'...get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behaviour. Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.'* (Eph 4:30-31, NLT).

*'Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes – these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God, For a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.'* (Eph 5:1-5 NLT)

- c. It is the easiest thing in the world for us to grieve the Holy Spirit, and when we do, we almost never know that we do it. Samson had no idea the Spirit was lifted from him after giving away the secret to Delilah. Hardened believers have almost no comprehension of how we grieve the Holy Spirit and go on for years. C.f. *'...speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...'* (1 Tim 4:1-22). Un-convictable conscience is a curse.
  - Christian maturity can be defined as the time gap between grieving the Spirit of God and repenting, or better still maintaining the ungrieved Spirit within us. This is how we build a worthy abode for Christ to dwell in.
  - 'Try to find out what grieves the Holy Spirit and don't do it. If you will really pursue this lifestyle, you have your work cut out for you.' (R.T. Kendall)
  - *'Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the prophecies. Test all things, hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.'* (1 Thess 5:19-22) 'quench' means to 'extinguish a fire.'

Is there a difference between 'grieving the Spirit' and 'quenching the Spirit'? Internal malady vs external malady. Cause and Effect. Personal vs Corporate level. (C.f. John 14:21, 23)

## 5. How did John the Baptist know that Jesus was the One?

*'I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.'* And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.' (John 1:31-33)

a. The difference between 'dove' and 'pigeon' is the difference between the 'Holy Spirit' vs 'fake religion':

(i) chaste vs multiple breeds.

(ii) quiet & sensitive vs boisterous.

(iii) cannot be trained vs can be trained.

A missionary couple to Israel had a dove nesting on their roof. They took the dove as a sign of God's favour for them being called to Israel. Soon they learned that they had to change to accommodate the dove, or lose the dove. Every time they shut the door hard or get into argument the dove flew away. They decided to change. This saved their marriage.

b. The Lion of the tribe of Judah is the 'Slain Lamb of God.' (Rev. 5:1-6). Where is the Holy Spirit? He is the *7-Spirit of God who was sent out into all the earth!* (v6) And He is looking for a worthy '*home upon whom to land and abide*' just like the heavenly dove came upon Jesus and remained on Him. (Cf. Is. 11:1-3)

We must reach for the manifestation of the 7-fold Spirit of God both personally and corporately. Prompt and complete obedience to the voice of God is very important. (C.f. John 14:21, 23)

c. Prayer of faith for the rain of the Spirit (James 5:7 C.f. Joel 2:23-24) History of revival in Australia.