

# THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MATURITY

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# BACKGROUND

- The Holy Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Godhead.
- He is fully God with the same qualities and characteristics of the Father and the Son.

- Everything God does in the earth is by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- It is important that we recognize and honour Him as God, a person, and not a force.

- The Holy Spirit is who drew us to Christ; baptized us in Christ for us to be born again; and in whom Jesus baptized us to release in us power for service

# A. The Transformer of Life

## □ Zechariah 4:6

***“It is not by might nor by power, but by His Spirit...”***

- How does God work in us? By the Holy Spirit.
- The work of salvation from new birth to maturity and reigning in life is all the work of the Holy Spirit in a believers' life.
- He was sent by Jesus to work with us and indwell us, providing all we need to be made the righteousness of God in Christ.

- ▣ He came as Comforter/Advocate, Teacher, Guide, etc.
  - John 16v7-8, 12-15 – These are key roles in the process.

*<sup>7</sup> But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate<sup>[a]</sup> won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.*

- *<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. <sup>14</sup> He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.*

▣ He gives power for victory and service – Acts  
1 v8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*



- He imparts gifts – 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 - to serve the needs of the body of Christ and humanity as a revelation of God's love.
- *<sup>7</sup> A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other... <sup>11</sup> It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*

# **B. THE RESTORER OF CHARACTER**

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# What is good character?

Character is conviction of heart to do what is right according to the highest standards of behaviour in every situation, regardless of the circumstances or whether or not anyone is watching. It is who one really is doing what is right according to the Word of God in every situation, regardless of the circumstances. Living out the nature of Christ within that has been engraved in our hearts as true representation of His life; *being “the expressed image of God”*, as Hebrews 1 v3 says

# How is it attained?

- It is the fruit that is produced from the seed (Word of God) planted in our heart.
  - ▣ Knowledge of the Word believed in the heart causes the renewal of the mind.
- The Holy Spirit who dwells within imparts His nature, the fruit of the Spirit –Galatians 5v22-23

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

- This fruit of the Spirit is what forms the base of Godly character. The believer must know them and apply them to daily living
- It requires discipline and intentional action to cultivate and produce the fruit in our lives.

- As the fruit grows, the more mature we become.
  - The seed has been planted within. The Holy Spirit is with us; ours is the responsibility to play our part to produce the fruit in our character by doing what it takes to grow. Eat, sleep, exercise and allow excretions to happen
  - All behaviour is determined by the quality or content of character. Godly character cannot be developed without the help of the Holy Spirit.

# C. The Stimulator of Fellowship

- ▣ 2 Corinthians 13v14, “...***fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all***”
- ▣ Developing and driving fellowship is a major role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- ▣ He brings us into fellowship with God, the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▣ Developing fellowship with the Holy Spirit is essential for our maturity. God, the Father, is in heaven. Jesus left earth and promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell with us.

- ▣ All the enabling ability of God comes through fellowship with the Holy Spirit. This is why the baptism of the Holy Spirit is so important in believers' lives.
- ▣ It is fellowship with the Holy Spirit that releases the anointing in our lives. He is the Spirit of the anointing – 1 John 2v20, 27.

*27 But you have received the Holy Spirit,<sup>[h]</sup> and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit<sup>[i]</sup> teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.*



- It is the fellowship with the Holy Spirit who helps strengthen and deepen our prayer life. Remember that it is by prayer that we commune and build our relationship with God. The person of the Holy Spirit is who makes all this happen. We must honour and fellowship with Him – Romans 8v26-27
- *<sup>26</sup>And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers<sup>[1]</sup> in harmony with God's own will.*

# CONCLUSION

- The Holy Spirit is the One through whom we have fellowship with the Godhead. He is the abiding Presence, Teacher, Guide and our Enabler in all things. He brings us to maturity as we submit to Him, allowing love, His divine life to flow as rivers of living water from us continually.
- Build intimacy with Him.