

The Power of the Holy Spirit

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.¹ The same power that Jesus returned to Galilee with in Luke 4:14 after He overcame the devil in all his temptations. Jesus opened His ministry to Israel with the power of the Holy Spirit at His disposal... a power, which Paul says, is purposed so that our faith will not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power.

What is the power of the Holy Spirit and is it vital that we should know it well enough to distinguish it from the power of the Father and the Son? The answer is a simple and obvious yes because **the knowing of the differentiation of the power of God is part of our getting to know Jesus Christ and the One true God who sent Him.** Understand now: **You are being taught not the power of God but the spectrum of the power of God** in the same way as light is light, but for those who know what light is, they will know light has a spectrum. Within that spectrum there is infrared, ultraviolet and other colours of light, each of them being part of the light, and in their own right are light but not the whole light. In their pure form, each spectrum of light can reveal a different image with each image adding to the knowledge of the subject matter. The use of the light spectrum in its segregated form has been particularly useful for astrologers in their study of the stars and the Heavens.

So likewise, as it is in the natural realm, we will find that an effort to study the power of God in its full spectrum of the Father's power, the Holy Spirit's power and the Lord Jesus' power, in their manifold presentation, will also yield secrets of God to those who seek to know God more than that of the casual observer. It is one thing to observe a miracle and know that the power of God can raise the dead, cause the blind to see, help you to walk on water, multiply the food, heal the sick, overcome the power of Satan, and to be trained in the power.

However, as I was taught in university when we questioned why our course contained so much information that seemed apparently useless to our career as a doctor, the Dean of the School then said, "Even monkeys can be trained, only you can be educated." Thus, you are called, chosen and elected to know the Lord, the Lord and the Lord, and to do as They can do, not as a trained monkey or parrot to do what you are shown or to say what you hear, but to be educated in the ways of God. An education that will allow you to have a more sophisticated relationship with God; certainly a relationship more sophisticated than a monkey and his trainer.

I have said this before and I will say this again, you are not being trained to be a son of God in the stature of Jesus Christ, you are being educated. The Holy Spirit we know is the Spirit of Sonship who raises us up to be sons of God to the stature of Christ. The word is stature in Ephesians 4:13. **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**² which is expanded in the NASB to: **the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.** The word is not statue. The Gospel of Luke records that **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.**³ And indeed, as part of our witness of the truth of John 14:12, **we likewise must increase in wisdom and stature to the fullness of Christ's stature so that we may have a relationship with God that is not based on being trained as a son of God but educated as a son,** imparting a sophistication into the relationship so that indeed, we can do the greater things as Jesus said we could.

Thus, as part of your education as a son of God, and never lose sight of this end, this end times, the tactics of God's endgame, the Millennial Reign, the new Heavens, new Earth and New Jerusalem, your eternal life is part of your education as a son of God so that you may not only know and believe God, but understand Him. Likewise with the power of God, not only should you know and believe but you must understand the power of God and part of this understanding entails knowing the spectrum of God's power. **Understanding the power includes knowing how and why it works and what are its prescribed applications and authorised applications, then when you are mature, to take it into applications that are beyond even what is prescribed and authorised.** Taking it into the realm of John 15:7 so that it is what you wish and what you will that is done in fulfilment of John 14:12 with these greater things that you do. The alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end belongs to God. The great and the greatest belongs to God, but we can extend the reach of the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the great and the greatest by filling the space between with the greater things, thus extending the riches of our God and our Father. Thus, increasing the wealth, the commonwealth of the family of God to which we belong.

¹ 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

² Ephesians 4:13 KJV

³ Luke 2:52

Indeed, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that raises us up as sons of God in the same way this same power raised Jesus from the dead declaring Him to be the Son of God. The power of the Holy Spirit does the impossible thing, raising us from sons of Adam born into sin, filled with sin, to sons of God despite our sins to glorify the finished work of Jesus Christ. The work of Jesus is finished. The Holy Spirit is now raising up sons in the fullness of the stature of Christ to glorify that work.

What do I mean? It is like the artist who has finished his greatest painting. Now an Art Gallery suitable to display it is to be built. Thus, we are being built up into the temple of God to display the finished work of Jesus Christ, the work the Father started and gave to Jesus to finish. The Holy Spirit's work is to glorify that work.

Understand this and you will understand the use of the power of the Holy Spirit and its prescribed and approved application according to what is written and what is shown so that you can take it to the greater applications of your own will and wishes, proving that through Jesus Christ, God has raised up sons in the fullness of Christ's stature.

It is recorded for us that the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon four individuals – Samson, Saul, David and Elijah. To Samson, each time the power of the Lord came, he killed a lion with his bare hands, struck down thirty men in Ashkelon and a thousand men with a jawbone at Lehi.⁴ When it came upon Saul, he prophesied and he rallied Israel to fight.⁵ Take note that it is written: **Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.**⁶ And when it fell upon Elijah, it allowed him to outrun Ahab,⁷ and we know Elisha received a double portion of that power as the cloak of Elijah came on him. As is often said, God shows us in the Old Testament a shadow of what is to come in the New Testament.

Likewise, we can learn this from the Old Testament appearance and application of the Holy Spirit's power. It tore apart a lion, which in this case symbolizes Satan, and out of the carcass came honey, figuratively promising us that out of the destruction of Satan's work will come something sweet and refreshing. It killed those who mocked Samson and who were the enemies of Israel. In Saul, it was prophetic and it rallied a reluctant Israel into battle overcoming their fear of the enemy with the terror of the Lord, and in Elijah and Elisha, the power of the Holy Spirit manifested miracles that were a foretaste of Jesus'.

Thus, as it manifested in the order it did from Samson to Elisha, so likewise, as Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit came upon Him in power and together They went out into the desert and tore the spiritual lion apart—Satan. Out of the carcass of Satan's works, there is some honey, some sweetness, and something of use.

Likewise now, in the Holy Spirit's workshop, the power of the workshop must be the power of the Holy Spirit. That is the spectrum of God's power. The application of the power is to destroy the threats of Satan and to overpower Him like Samson overpowered the lion, and to produce honey out of its carcass. The power of the Holy Spirit in the workshop is to produce that someone stronger whom Jesus spoke of in Luke 11:22 who will attack and overpower the fully armed strongman who is guarding his house and possessions. It is to produce the stronger man who attacks and overpowers him and strips him of his armor and divides up the spoils. As such, the Holy Spirit now is not in the work of raising up meek and mild Christians minding their own business, whispering hallelujahs as they creep towards the grave to go home to Heaven. The Holy Spirit is raising up those who like Samson, Saul, David, Elijah and Elisha, who will take the fight to the devil and terrorize him. The people of the church are always confessing, "Satan is attacking me," and huddle behind stockades of wood in fear of marauding hordes. You are being raised up like Samson and David to be lion and giant killers, tearing them apart by the power of God in your hands and the word in your heart. No, it is time for the strongman to be in fear, to be alert and armored up because there roams on Earth stronger men who can overpower him. And like Jesus, you will have to learn to come like a thief in the night.

The strongholds of Satan are what we raid, and if even the gates of Hell cannot prevail, what is there to stop us except God and ourselves? Samson was not stopped by the Philistines but by his careless words for he did not hold the secret of his power dear and close. **Learn to hold the secret of your power dear and close.** You are the elect of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is who you live with until Jesus arrives at Jerusalem.

⁴ Judges 14:6,19; 15:14

⁵ 1 Samuel 10:10; 11:6

⁶ 1 Samuel 11:7

⁷ 1 Kings 18:46

Just as the power caused Saul to prophesy, now the power of the Holy Spirit will fulfill the prophecies of Jesus completely, and through that same power, we prophesy with one voice, one mind and one heart, "Jesus is coming soon," without declaring a date for those who tell do not know and those who know do not tell. So, look to the prophecies of Jesus and the works that will herald His arrival, and in those you will find the power of the Holy Spirit available. As it was with the kings, Saul and David, in the power will be available to rally and raise up the manpower necessary to protect and establish the Kingdom.

Within the Kingdom, the power of the Holy Spirit as it was in the days of Elijah and Elisha, will be with signs and wonders for the people of the Kingdom and the people outside of the Kingdom. In particular with regards to these signs and wonders, which have their own power, the power of the Holy Spirit through the power of signs and wonders, Paul tells us: **I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done.**⁸ **Ultimately, the power of the Holy Spirit through His elect, which is His workshop, is to bring all people to obey God.** ...To obey God in what? To obey God in His only command that carries salvation for both Jews and Gentiles: **"This is My Son whom I love, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him!"**⁹

By now I hope you can see that the power of the Holy Spirit is not a protective power but rather an offensive and aggressive power. That is why He is the Spirit who goes forth from the Father, causing our hearts to cry, "Abba, Father."¹⁰ The heart cry of the children of God may be one of distress and longing for their Father in love, but the heart cry of the sons of God is one of determination to seek justice for their Father and their Brother, Jesus Christ. Now, as you have been taught already, the protective power comes from the Father, as Jesus said, **"Father, protect them by the power of Your Name."**¹¹

The power of the Holy Spirit offers no protection; certainly no protection for the enemies of God; and the people who are trained and educated in His powers will find protection when they go forth to overcome the enemies of God. **Thus the power of the Name of the Father is our protection and the power of the Holy Spirit strips away the enemies' protection.** Since the power of the Holy Spirit belongs to the Holy Spirit, how else can the church be trained to use the power unless the church can recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit and is listening to the Holy Spirit?

Satan quoted Psalm 91:11-12 back to Jesus and Jesus replied, **"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."**¹² We have not realized that when we quoted the words spoken by men back to God as if they were God's word, we are testing God. And if we claim that the Holy Spirit is telling us to do something because He is using words from Scripture not spoken by Jesus, I can tell you now, we have been testing the Holy Spirit. For it must be clear to you and I now, the Holy Spirit will only remind us of what Jesus has said and tell us what He heard Jesus saying as Jesus makes His intercession from the right hand of God on our behalf. If we can recognise the voice of the Holy Spirit, we will know what Jesus has interceded for and therefore carry it out or receive it.

Many times Jesus spoke of losing our lives for His sake. **"Whoever find his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."**¹³ **"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it."**¹⁴ **"...will save it"**¹⁵ **"...will preserve it"**¹⁶ **"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the gospel will save it."**¹⁷ The loss of your life for Him and His gospel is not loss as in throwing it away or as in the enemy coming in and taking it away, otherwise He would not speak of finding it, saving it and preserving it. The loss of our lives for Him is in the context of one marching into the arena like men condemned to die, who by fighting victoriously will be granted a pardon by Caesar, as was the tradition. It is the attitude of one marching into battle as if the life is lost, but in that battle, finds the life, saves the life and preserves the life through victory.

Thus, **the power of the Holy Spirit is the power to witness for Jesus, the truth of His words when Jesus spoke of overpowering the power of the enemy in attacking the strongman and stripping him of his armour, it is the power to attack and overcome.** When you understand this, you would understand why

⁸ Romans 15:18

⁹ Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35

¹⁰ Galatians 4:6 KJV

¹¹ John 17:11

¹² Matthew 4:7; Luke 4:12

¹³ Matthew 10:39

¹⁴ Matthew 16:25

¹⁵ Luke 9:24

¹⁶ Luke 17:33

¹⁷ Mark 8:35

Jesus commanded those who have ears to “hear what the Spirit says to the churches,”¹⁸ and that He always gives this command after the promised reward to the overcomers.

You see, Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses...”¹⁹ the power of the Holy Spirit, which allows us to witness that the words of Jesus are true, is meant to change you from sheep and lambs to lion and giant killers just like it changed a scrawny little guy called Samson to a Hercules and a runt of a son called David to the mightiest warrior King Saul of Israel had known, and mere shepherds and farmers to such men of power that whole armies are blinded by one word from them.

It is the power that will cause the terror of the Lord to fall on the citizens of the Kingdom so that they will wake up and arm themselves to listen to Jesus. It is the power that will give Jesus and the saints who are returning with Him a vision of men like Eleazar, son of Dodai the Ahohite, and Shammah, son of Agee the Hararite, standing their ground.²⁰

That which is written about the power of the Holy Spirit is written. **You only need to listen to the Holy Spirit as He teaches you His way to bring glory to Jesus.** AMEN

¹⁸ Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22

¹⁹ Acts 1:8

²⁰ 2 Samuel 23:9-12