

# When The Spirit Comes!

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We will continue from where we stopped last Wednesday but before that, let's look to the Lord.

*Father, this evening, we come to You. We need You, Lord. We need You, Father. Every day, we are only even more aware how helpless and weak we are without You; how blinded we are unless You open our eyes. We are no different from the world if You are not there. Because it is You alone that makes the difference. This night, once again, we are gathered in Your house in Your Name to meditate upon Your Word one more time this year. We know You have always been faithful. Speak to us once again. Teach us. Spirit of God, teach us. Help us to lift up and exhort the Word of God, Christ Jesus once again in our lives. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

As Sammy was saying that in his prayer, we never went hungry from here even on a Wednesday or a Sunday but I don't know whether you went with indigestion. That's a different matter altogether because the meat was a little tough but we will continue from where we stopped.

We've been looking at the work (last Wednesday remember) of the Holy Spirit. The most misunderstood, neglected Person of the Trinity; yet, God the Father, when we study Scripture, has done nothing outside the Son, the Eternal Word and the Spirit. He has never done anything without the Son and the Spirit. From *Genesis 1* to *Revelation 22*, we keep seeing the Holy Spirit actually on the move. Actually, the *Book of Acts* should be called the Book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit. People always think of it as the Acts of the Apostles but it is actually the Acts of the Holy Spirit. But remember always the importance of the Word to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never do anything outside the Word of God or what contradicts the Word of God. That's why we teach the Word of God because people get confused saying, "The Spirit told me; the Spirit moved me," but how do you know? Because there are many spirits. God says, "Test the spirits." How do we know? It's by being very clear and sure about the Word of God because the Holy Spirit will never do anything outside or contradict the Word of God. Even in the famous verse which we know, which was spoken to Zerubbabel in *Zechariah 4:6*,

## **Zechariah 4:6**

***<sup>6</sup> So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.***

We know this well - ***'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.*** But it begins with the proclamation that this is the Word of the Lord to Zerubbabel. It proclaims because the Holy Spirit only comes once the Word is been proclaimed. He doesn't work on His own outside the Word of God. Then, He comes to make that Word come to pass. If you look at the advertising world especially, millions are spent to send one message across. After a few months later, the message is forgotten. Do you remember any Ads from the past 2015 or even 2016? Do you know how much was spent on it? The message is forgotten; yet, God's Word never changes from generation to generation. It endures and the Holy Spirit empowers it in the heart of everyone who believes. The Word doesn't never advertisement. It endures forever and it is not forgotten. In *1 Peter 1:24-25*, Scripture says,

## **1 Peter 1:24-25**

***<sup>24</sup> because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.***

Everything of man withers and it is forgotten but the Word of God endures forever and ever. We invent all kinds of new ways but God has only one way – that is the Word anointed by the Holy Spirit. Remember always – the Word through the Spirit. In *1 Corinthians 2*, Paul will say,

## **1 Corinthians 2:10-12**

***<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God***

***except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.***

He has freely given us the Word and the Word contains the deep things of God but we will only understand it through the Spirit. No other way. Not by might. That's the strength of the physical body. Not by power of the mind. You will say, "The pen is mightier than the sword." But not by might; not even by strength. God says, "But by My Spirit." Every servant of God in the Old or in the New, when they fell, they fell because they leaned on their own strength and stopped depending upon the Spirit of God. It's not that they did not know the Word of God; they stopped depending on the Spirit of God. That's why the Bible keeps on reminding us – "Don't do it on your own." That's why I said the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood, underestimated Person. If God won't do anything from the beginning till the end without His Spirit, how can we, who are born of the Spirit, do anything without Him? In *Psalm 33:16-18*, Scripture again says,

**Psalm 33:16-18**

***<sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. <sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,***

All this depending on what we call as strength in the world, God says, "It is useless." God's eye is upon man. God's eyes are to see whose eye is on Him so that He can strengthen us with His Spirit. Our perfect example always in the Bible. Our perfect example always is Jesus. He is the perfect example. We will see in *Luke 1:35*, where we will see that Jesus is born of the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 1:35**

***<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.***

Why is Jesus called the Son of God? Because He is conceived of the Holy Spirit. Why are we called the children of God? Because we are born again by the same Spirit. Otherwise, we won't be called the sons and daughters of the Living God. Remember the perfect example—Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit.

In *Luke 3:21*, Scripture says,

**Luke 3:21-22**

***<sup>21</sup> When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. <sup>22</sup> And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him...***

He was baptized in the Holy Spirit. In *Luke 4:1*, now, He is not just baptized,

**Luke 4:1**

***<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,***

You will see, from the beginning of His life onwards, it is a continuous progress with the Holy Spirit. Born of the Holy Spirit, baptized in the Holy Spirit, full of the Holy Spirit, led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested. If the Holy Spirit leads you into a situation to be tested, we can absolutely sure that you will come out victorious. You will never be defeated because He is the One who leads you and He will give you victory. How does that chapter conclude in *Luke 4:14*? Scripture says,

**Luke 4:14**

***<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.***

Victorious over the powers of darkness, over the devil and all the temptation. The Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tested and He comes under the power of the Holy Spirit with even more. So, Jesus is the perfect example of what the New Covenant life is.

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The *Book of Galatians* primarily uses four terms. In *Galatians 5:16*, Scripture says,

### **Galatians 5:16**

**<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

Now, we say, “Lord, help me from the lust of the flesh.” God says, “Walk in the Spirit. There is no other way.” It doesn’t matter how much of the Word we know; which is good. We need to know the Word. So, we understand what the lust of the flesh is but how do you overcome? Only by walking in the Spirit. He says,

***...you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

In *Galatians 5:18*, Scripture says, “Be led by the Spirit.”

### **Galatians 5:18**

**<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

“Lord, how do I escape the law?” God says, “Only one way – be led by the Spirit.” In *Galatians 5:25*, God says,

### **Galatians 5:25**

**<sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

And the result of being led by the Spirit, walking in the Spirit and living in the Spirit is what *Galatians 5:22-23* says. You will start manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

**<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

Everything in the Bible is actually connected and Jesus’ life is characterized by this. He walked in the Spirit; He was led by the Spirit; He lived by the Spirit; and He manifested the fruit of the Spirit. That is the life that is being offered to us. Even when His ministry officially begins, He begins with this proclamation in *Luke 4:18*; He begins by saying,

### **Luke 4:18-19**

**<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me...**

And then, He gives His declaration of what is the kind of ministry He will do. Now, we all have vision statements about our ministries. This is what our ministry is going to do. We have mission statement. He also had a mission statement. He says,

***...To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”***

This is His mission statement but He begins by saying, “I cannot do any one of this unless the Spirit of God is upon Me and He has anointed Me.” And He is telling us the same thing – you can have the most wonderful mission statement in life for ministry, for Church but if the Spirit of God is not upon you and has not anointed you, it will just remain as a statement. Nothing will come to pass. “Without My Spirit,” God says, “you can do nothing.” That is where the dependence comes. That is where we need to know this Third Person of the Trinity. What God speaks and teaches about Him. In *Acts 10:38*, this is the sum total of Jesus’ ministry.

### **Acts 10:38**

**<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

The sum total. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power and He went about doing good. So, how does a person

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come to this? We learn theory. Theory has to be learnt before you go to practical, right? Remember what God told Israel through the prophet Isaiah in *Isaiah 30:15*,

### **Isaiah 30:15**

**<sup>15</sup> For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not,**

The first thing God says is, "Turn back." The first thing the Holy Spirit will tell us, if we hear from Him, is, "Turn back to God. Rest in Him, in His power, in His strength, in His love, in His mercy." Turn back. The word we use is 'repent'. Repent means 'turn back'. That's the first thing the Holy Spirit says.

***...In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." ...***

It's not in a great deal of works and activity but the quietness and the confidence which the Holy Spirit gives you, that is your strength. Because you know, Scripture says, "Jesus knew God was with Him." He went around doing all this, but at the last, what did it say? God was with Him. That is the quietness, the confidence. The work of the Holy Spirit in every individual's life usually falls under these segments – the first thing God says is, "Turn back." In *John 16:8*,

### **John 16:8**

**<sup>8</sup> And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**

The first thing the Holy Spirit does is – when you hear the Word, when you read the Word, the first thing the Holy Spirit does in your heart is that – wherever you were worldly, He will convict you of that because friendship with the world is enmity with God. The first thing He will say, "Remember who you are, who you belong to." The first work of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world in me that, "You have sinned and you have gone into enemy territory." I'm not talking about going into the physical world but being worldly. Joseph could be in the physical Egypt and be an absolute true Hebrew, set apart for God. Daniel could be in the bohemian Babylonian court and be absolutely set apart son of Judah. It's not about going; it's whether we are contaminated by worldliness. That's the first thing the Holy Spirit convicts. He convicts us of sin but doesn't leave us there and He points to the righteousness that is available in Christ Jesus. He says, "Repent. Come back to Christ. Confess. Cleanse. Come back." That's the first thing because that is available only in Christ and Christ alone. And if we ignore message number one and two, then He has to point to judgment, which is coming. It will come one day. You take this route and keep on sowing in this, one day, you will reap. There is no escaping the laws God has set. So, He reminds us of judgment. Once we yield to this, that is, the primary work of the Holy Spirit, which is continuous; it is one-time when we come to Christ and continuous through life. This is continuous – conviction of the world, pointing to righteous if not, warning of judgment. Every message in every Church should contain these two – there should be conviction; there should be the righteousness of Jesus that is available; and the judgment that will come, if we keep moving away. Then only He moves to the next level – the work of the Holy Spirit. In *John 14:25-26*, Jesus says,

### **John 14:25-26**

**<sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

This is the second work of the Holy Spirit. He doesn't do the second work of the Holy Spirit if I do not agree to the first work. This is the truth. That's why people have stayed, lived, grown and died in Churches but learnt nothing because the Holy Spirit cannot teach them as they did not respond to the first primary work. He says, "He will teach. The Holy Spirit is the Teacher."

When Jesus was with them in the flesh, please understand; He taught His disciples under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. After He rose again from the dead, His first ministry to the disciples the day He rose again, that day evening is found in *John 20:22*; His first ministry to His disciples is,

### **John 20:22**

**<sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.**

That's the first ministry. Subsequent to that, the second ministry He does is in *Luke 24:45*,

**Luke 24:45**

**<sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**

Think about this – didn't He teach them for three and a half years? Did they understand Scriptures? No, they didn't. Nobody understood Scripture because the Holy Spirit hadn't been given to them for their eyes to be opened to understand Scripture. They didn't understand. Neither will be understand. This will be an academic exercise and not a spiritual revelation unless the Holy Spirit opens our eyes. So, He rose again, the first day evening, resurrection Sunday evening, He breathed upon them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit," and then, He opens their understanding that they could understand the Scriptures. After that, we know fifty days later, they are all in the upper room. They are baptized in the Holy Spirit. In *Acts 2:12*, they are baptized in the Holy Spirit and there is an incredible paradigm shift. These hundred and twenty are standing over there and they are all speaking in diverse tongues,

**Acts 2:12**

**<sup>12</sup> So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"**

What you are seeing is degrees of the Holy Spirit. It is increasing. From breathing, to eyes opening, to an infilling and now, when this takes place, there is an incredibly dramatic interpretation of the Scripture by the ex-fisherman.

**Acts 2:14-16**

**<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. <sup>15</sup> For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

This fisherman starts interpreting Scripture, going on to *Joel*, going on to the *Psalms*, going on to *Psalms 110*. He uses Scripture of the Old Testament to interpret about Jesus. Where did this come from? Because of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit on anybody, (it doesn't matter who it is) when the anointing comes and you know your Scripture but you have understanding now and you are able to interpret Scripture. That's why *1 John 2:27* says,

**1 John 2:27**

**<sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**

How do you know this anointing is true? If the anointing is true, the teaching under the anointing will see that you abide in Christ; not in the world. You abide in Him. That's how you know. So, it is the anointing that teaches. The more we yield to the Holy Spirit, the more He leads us into the truth. In *John 16:12-13*,

**John 16:12-13**

**<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, (Jesus is telling His disciples,) but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

He says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all things." But Jesus is saying something strange over there. Jesus is saying, "I have much to tell you," but He said, "I cannot tell you." Why? Because you do not have the strength to bear it. If He had told them before His death all the revelations which they will subsequently know through the Holy Spirit, they would have broken under the weight. This is true even now. When the Holy Spirit comes, He not only lead us into the truth but He also gives us the strength to bear the truth because truth is difficult to bear; it is not easy. He will guide us into all truth, little by little. Our problem honestly, as a Church; our problem is – we have learnt much truth but we have received less strength. So, people crumble under the weight of the truth because they do not have the strength to bear the truth. Look at this man – very early in his saved life, within three days, *Acts 9:17*,

**Acts 9:17**

***<sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."***

Immediately, Saul knew that this is the truth. "How will this man know that Jesus met me on the road," and that the Spirit has given him discernment? He says,

***...receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."***

Is he filled with the Holy Spirit? What is his future? In Acts 9:15,

**Acts 9:15-16**

***<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."***

Can God show us? If you were to tell Peter, "Go back to Nigeria. You are going to back to Nigeria in two years and in three years, you will be in prison. You will be beaten up for My Name's sake but I will be with you," he will never go back to Nigeria. Why? You need to realize – there are two sets of people. When Paul is saying, "Bye," to the Church, they are saying, "Don't go." He says, "I need to go." And the prophet rises up, takes a rope, ties his hands and says, "This is the way, if you go, you will be handed over in Jerusalem." Because they don't have the strength to bear the truth which they are speaking, which is true. Paul says, "I already know and I am going. You don't have the strength to bear the truth about me. I have already received the strength the truth of what I have to go through." That's why Jesus is telling, "I have got many things to tell you but I cannot tell you now but when the Holy Spirit comes, when He comes, you will be able to bear it. He will give you strength." Often, when we hear the truth about God's Word preached, we are not able to bear it because there is no corresponding power inside. Therefore, we draw away. Remember when Jesus was teaching about, "You have to drink My Blood and eat My Body. Otherwise, you will have no part." They said, "This is too hard a teaching. Who can bear it?" And even the disciples started walking away because this was too much for them to bear. He was not telling this to the crowds; He was telling this to the disciples but they could not bear it. So, the major issue we need to realize over this is – do we understand? How do we see life as? Do we see the Word as truth? And the Holy Spirit is given to us to bear the truth. That's our major issue. Unless we submit, surrender to the truth, we will draw away. I'll tell you why. The major issue that happened in Heaven and on earth, the fall – in Heaven and earth. In *Isaiah 14:12-15*,

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

***<sup>12</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'***

This is the major issue. When satan came to the Garden, that's the same thing he told Eve, "If you eat, you will like God." What is he saying? "I want to be like You. When I am like God, I don't have to submit to Him. I don't have to yield to Him." You need to understand – deep within, there are other things that are happening. As soon as satan said that, he was brought down and as soon as man entered into the same phase, they were cast out. It is built in us. The truth about all of us, irrespective of age, maturity; all of us, is deep inside, we all want our way and giving into someone else is seen as weakness.

In *Romans 8:7*, the sinful mind is hostile to God and does not submit to God nor can it do so. It does not. Not only it won't, it cannot. The carnal mind is hostile to God's law. Every time the Word is being preached, it is being preached for the purpose that we will submit to the truth of God, to the Word of God. Therefore, the Person of God. When the Holy Spirit leads us to the truth, He expects us to yield to the truth. But there is another problem – the Holy Spirit leads me to the truth through the preaching ministry of the mortal men. So, suddenly, the problem comes – pride rears its head, submitting to God's Word would seem like submitting to another person because submission puts us in a place of obedience. We have to understand this. In *James 4:6-7*, Scripture says,

**James 4:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***

How do you submit to God? By submitting to His Word and to His Spirit. It not just Word and His Spirit. There is another side of this. You have to read verse 7 carefully. What is the other interpretation? The other interpretation is this – when I submit to God’s Word through the Spirit, God is with me. When I resist God, His Word and the Spirit, the devil is with me. If I submit God, then God is with me. His Holy Spirit is with me. He gives grace. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. When I resist God, the devil is with me. That’s our issue because we try to read Scripture through the eyes of the world. The Kingdom of God is completely inverted compared to this world. That is why God says, “Stay away from this world.” Only in the Kingdom (I will tell you about inversion,) by giving, you can have more. In the world, by keeping, you have more. In the Kingdom, by giving, you have more. Only in the Kingdom, when you are weak, you are strong. Only in the Kingdom, when you are empty, you are filled. Only in the Kingdom, *1 Peter 5:6*,

### **1 Peter 5:6**

***<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,***

By submission, you are exalted. God says, “In My Kingdom, nobody has been exalted who has not submitted.” In the world, it is the other way – push your way through. Break down every opposition. Push your way through. Make yourself known. That is why selfies are all about. But God says, “In the Kingdom, it is the other way. You are exalted only through submission.” He says, “My Son humbled Himself, made Himself in the form of a servant, to the point He was obedient unto death and the worst death in His time – death on a Cross.” Then, what did God do? Exalted Him and exalted Him to the highest place and said, “All power, rule and authority is with You.” Why? Because He submitted to the lowest; God raised Him to the highest. That’s how the Holy Spirit works.

The Holy Spirit will not be able to function in our lives if we resist the truth. The problem is – when we resist the truth, we don’t realize we have resisted the truth but the symptoms are there – we get offended; we get depressed; we get discouraged; we start compromising; we start complaining; we start murmuring; we start accusing; and all these happen because we resisted the truth and we did not have the power of the Holy Spirit to bear the truth. So, you will see the same disciples who ran away when Jesus was arrested, those who were gathered in fear behind closed doors, when they thought He was still dead, were the ones who stepped out into the public square fearlessly; not because truth had changed. Truth hadn’t changed. In three days, truth did not change. Truth was still the same. What had happened was – power was given to bear the truth. When power came down on the Day of Pentecost, they stepped forward and declared the same Person. He had never changed. He was the same yesterday, today and forever. The Holy Spirit will first lead us to the truth and if we keep on yielding to the truth, He will keep on leading us further and further into the truth and Jesus doesn’t lie.

One old Bishop in ancient days once remarked, “Everywhere I go, they serve me tea. Everywhere Paul went, there was a riot. Is there something wrong with me?” He says, “Everywhere I go, they serve me tea. Everywhere the Apostles went, they were beaten up.” What is wrong here? Have we compromised on the truth in the marketplace that the Gospel is no longer offensive to the carnal man? God has always spoken the truth. He never minced on the truth. What is true? Jesus said, “There will be wars and rumors of war. There will be pestilences, earthquakes and famines. There will be more and more violence. The love of many will grow cold. Families will betray each other and even will be ripped apart.” So, Jesus actually said, “See, I have foretold you all these things.” Question is: can we bear the truth the Holy Spirit brings personally and corporate? That is why if the risen Savior’s first command in *Mark 16:15* is,

### **Mark 16:15**

***<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.***

His second command and the final command is, “Wait in Jerusalem until you have received power.” Otherwise, you will not be able to bear the weight of the Gospel. You will not be able to. Under the pressure, you will start compromising and changing the message and changing the truth. The problem is – truth alone can save you and set you free. Nothing else can. If you got a terrible disease and you are running a high fever, you go to the doctor and the doctor gives you Paracetamol and says, “Take twice a day,” you take it and your fever is gone. And you feel good. But has the disease gone? It hasn’t gone. Only the true Gospel can save somebody. The Gospel is offensive to the carnal ears. That’s why God said, “Wait in Jerusalem until you have

received power.”

The Holy Spirit not only leads us to all truth, He also gives us the power to be the vessels that bear the truth. That is the incredible message we see in the *Book of Acts*. James, Peter and John beaten up are rejoicing. Stephen was about to be executed; they see his face is glowing like an angel. Peter, supposedly, the day before his execution is so fast asleep in peace. Paul and Silas are singing in the Philippi prison, broken and beaten. Why? Because they have the power to bear the Gospel. Do we have? It is freely available. That is why God said, “Receive and keep receiving.” The problem is – often, the individual and the Church, what to be saved in an unsaved world means; what to be a light in a dark world means; what to be a follower of Christ truly means. We forget. That is why Jesus said, “The Holy Spirit will also do one thing,” in *John 14:26*,

**John 14:26**

**<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

So, don’t worry. You have been studying and hearing the Word for six years, seven years, eight years. The day you are filled with the Holy Spirit, He will bring into your remembrance, “This is what He meant.” He will bring it to your remembrance. He is not only a Teacher; He is also your memory bank. He brings to your remembrance because our memory is a strange thing. It plays tricks with us. That’s the difference you see between the old Israel and the new spiritual Israel in the New Covenant. You see, the Israel that came out of Egypt; when they were in Egypt and they were going through all these suffering, like I telling in the Church – I get two kinds of calls in the Church. One – “Pastor, my marriage is not taking place.” Second one – “Pastor, how can I get out of my marriage?” But when they are in Egypt, all the taskmasters, the whips and making of bricks with straw and without straw, the pain, they cried out, “Lord, rescue me.” God sent a savior and took them out. A few days and weeks into the wilderness, memory started playing tricks. Now, the wilderness journey is a little hard and we only get to drink this water and this manna. “Oh, Egypt was so good. Remember the leeks, the cucumbers, the fish we ate so freely?” I told this before also – you have to see in your mind how your memory plays tricks on you. If you look at it in your memory, in the Nile coast, the Israelites are all lounging on those chairs and the Egyptians are serving them fish, leeks and cucumbers. Really? Is that what happened? Did you forget the slavery? The same trick the devil plays with us. Do you remember the slavery of sin before you found Christ? Now, we start saying, “It was better when we were in the world.” We become very nostalgic. That is why we need the Holy Spirit to bring us to the remembrance, to our remembrance. “Are you feeling very nostalgic to the world? Let Me tell you; let Me bring to your remembrance what My Son, Jesus, said, ‘if you are in the world, you are already under judgment’. Let Me tell you the end of the world if you have remained where you have ended.”

Like I said, simple illustration; a big ship. Think of the world as a big ship in the middle of the ocean, which has sprung a hole and water is getting in. To die, what do you have to do? Nothing. Just stay in the ship. You will die ultimately. To die and go to hell, what do you need to do? Nothing. Stay in the world. Nothing. You don’t have to do anything. One lifeline alone is let down from Heaven – what is that? “Believe in the Name of Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” Nothing else. You leave yourself, sit there in the world, enjoy life in the world; ultimately, you will sink because the world has already been judged. Sentence will be passed very soon. So, Christians don’t get fooled by slogans of governments because we already know what is coming. So, don’t try to be nostalgic and say, “No, better days are coming.” No, tougher days are coming but more power is promised. Tougher days are coming in 2017. It is not going to be easier for individuals, families or Churches. Tougher days. It will only get tougher and tougher because He said so. He said, “If He did not shorten the days for the sake of the elect, even the elect themselves would not be saved.” He shortened the days but He said, “You don’t have to worry. I can give you power. My Spirit without measure if you are willing to yield, submit to the truth and to My Spirit.” That’s what we forget. We act like the children of Israel but we forget the New Covenant Apostolic Church was not like that. Listen to the beloved Apostle years and years later, hounded and persecuted. Look at what he actually says in *Philippians 3:7-8*,

**Philippians 3:7-8**

**<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these (in the world,) I have counted loss for (who?) Christ.**

You cannot count and rejoice in a loss in everything expect for Christ. That is why when people sacrificed something for a family or a ministry or even for a Church, they do not have joy because it is not for Christ. Because it is not for Christ, the Holy Spirit is not able to give you the corresponding peace and joy because He only exalts Christ. He doesn’t exalt Churches; He doesn’t exalt ministries; He does not families; He doesn’t exalt people. Only Christ. He didn’t say, “I counted it all loss for this



incredible ministry God has given to me. I am travelling all over Asia Minor and Europe.” No. He is not saying that. He says, “For Christ.”

***<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ***

This is that. Rubbish. While the Israelites are thinking about Egypt and talking about leeks and garlic and fish and meat, this man is saying, “Everything I loss is like garbage for me in comparison to what I have received. It is the Person of Christ.” Why is he able to say that? Because he has explained the actual work of the Holy Spirit in his letters to the Romans. In *Romans* 2:28-29, he said,

**Romans 2:28-29**

***<sup>28</sup> For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly...***

Because he will say in the previous verse in *Philippians* – “Who am I? Pharisee among Pharisees. Hebrew among Hebrew. From the tribe of Benjamin” All that. But he says, “Then, I was not a true Jew; I was a false Jew.”

***<sup>28</sup> For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; <sup>29</sup> but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.***

He says, “Do you know what the Holy Spirit does” What He does is – He cuts away the flesh in your heart, the world in your heart. He circumcises your heart. Therefore, you don’t consider any loss in the world of any value because He has cut it away. That’s what he is talking about. He says, “I’m a true Jew now and every believer will be too, if they allow the Holy Spirit to circumcise their hearts.” The false Jews had outward circumcision. True Jews have inward circumcision. Do you know that famous passage in *Philippians* 3:3? How does it begin? He says,

**Philippians 3:3**

***<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,***

All who is opposing him, the Pharisees, the Levites, the Jews are talking, “We are the circumcision!” He says, “No, we are circumcision in the Spirit because *we worship God in the Spirit and rejoice in Jesus Christ. Hence, we have no confidence in the flesh.*” Because our entire dependence is on the Spirit of God.

That is what Jesus had told – remember the Samaritan woman at the well? “A day is coming and it is here. What will happen? True worshippers will come who will worship God in Spirit and in truth.” The Holy Spirit will come. He will lead you to the truth and when you yield to the truth, you will be able to worship God in Spirit and in truth. And he says, “We are that.” Are we? In truth and in Spirit. That is what we don’t understand – that our entire lives should be defined by worship. By worship, I’m not talking about the songs. Man was created to worship God and the devil is the enemy of true worshippers; yet, that is what God has been doing through the Holy Spirit for the past two thousand years of Church history – creating a group of true worshippers who count everything loss in this world as rubbish because they have gained Christ. The problem is – if you sacrifice the world, like the Israelites did with the Egyptians, but you did not gain Christ, you will be miserable. The one who actually lost everything in Egypt is, who? Moses. He lost leeks. He could have said, “What are you guys talking about? I actually used to sit in that chair and they used to bring me all of this. I was the prince of Egypt but I was willing to lose this all for, what? The reproach of Christ. I lost it for Christ and Christ was with me from the beginning till the end. Even at my death point, it was He who took me up the mountain, showed me the Promised Land and then, buried me and took me over to the other side. I did it for Christ. So, I did not ever consider even the loss of the throne of Egypt as loss. It was rubbish.” That is why, if we haven’t gained Christ, every sacrifice we make will make us miserable because this is a marriage. Every sacrifice a woman makes in a marriage or a man makes in a marriage, if he or she doesn’t get the loyalty, love and preeminence in his/her partner’s life, he will consider it burdensome but if there is love and preeminence of the other person, then they say, “This sacrifice means nothing.” If we don’t love Christ, if we haven’t gained Christ through this year, then everything becomes burdensome and it cannot be burdensome as Jesus said, “My commandments are not burdensome.” He said, “They are not burdensome.” This is true. Me or He? He says, “My commandments are not burdensome,” then why is life so burdensome?

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It is simply because the Spirit is missing. That is why worship. Jesus said, “True worshippers will arise.” Our life is defined by worship. Our relationship with one another in the physical is our relationship with God is defined as worship. Our relationship with one another is called ‘fellowship’. Our relationship with God is called ‘worship’. Let me ask you this simple question: how many of you really spend the amount of time you would like to spend with God or you spend with God if you didn’t have problems in your life? So, you are problematic Christians. Honestly, check. It is only problems that is driving us to God; not a relationship. It’s like children who write for pocket money, “Please, I have no money.” They also have a relationship. That’s why we need to understand – is our worship defining our life? Did worship define my life in 2016? If it was so, it didn’t matter what we lost, if we gained Christ.

Remember the first time the word ‘worship’ is used in the Bible. An old man with his son of his old age, going up Mount Moriah. He tells his servant, “Stay aside. I and my son will go up the mountain and worship God. What is he going to do there? He is going to sacrifice his son. He says, “For me, that is worship.” Why? “Because I love my God with all my heart, all my might, all my strength and if He wants my son, I’m willing to give Him.” That’s worship. We haven’t worshiped. The Holy Spirit is raising true worshippers who have never counted the cost of worshipping God. “Nothing is too less, O Lord, for You because You did not count the cost of redeeming me.” That is why the exhortation of the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul in *Romans 12:1*,

### **Romans 12:1**

***<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.***

This is your spiritual act of worship. Have we complained and offer it? Yet, we are still fighting over the body – what to eat, what to drink, what to wear? Did Jesus say that in *Matthew 6:32-33*?

### **Matthew 6:32**

***<sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.***

What do the Gentiles seek?

### **Matthew 6:31**

***<sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’***

Now, when they sought these things, Jesus was speaking to poor people. They were worried about lack. “What will we eat? We don’t know where the next meal is going to come from. What will we drink? We don’t even know whether there is enough water. What will we wear? We have only this dress.” Our problem is not that. “Erm, I don’t know what to eat today. There are so many in the menu. I don’t know what to drink. I work in the supermarket. It’s in cans, cartons, bottles. I don’t know what to wear. I’m totally confused. I open my wardrobe. Though it from one end to another, I feel I have nothing.” And we are still fighting with the first principle of worship. What is that? “Offer your bodies.” I’m telling you – every gift I get is white because the news has gone that I wear white. That’s why I’m wearing to break that news. Now, I’ve got so many whites, I also get confused. “Which shade of white suits me? This or the other shade?” When there were only three or four whites, that confusion wasn’t there. Now, there are many shades of white. “What to wear? What to eat? What to drink?” Instead of true worshippers, the Church, because it leads the truth behind, it churns out Gentile worshippers. The Church is churning out, who? Gentile worshippers because now, the pulpit has to be turned around and the message has to be, “What will you eat? What will you drink? What can you dress in?” It is not about the freedom that consecration and sacrifice brings through the Holy Spirit; it is about the liberty you have to do anything. We have confused it completely. Because the world calls it – ‘there is no absolute truth’. Therefore, the liberty where there is no absolute truth is what they bring and they will glorify all these people who, in their agendas in their lives, deny the absolute through of God. Like yesterday, what was there in every news channel? Who died? See, everybody knows. Fox, CNN, BBC, NBC, CNBC – everybody knows. Who died? George Michael died. But did you know that he was gay and he was living with his third gay partner who said, “I will miss him forever”? But we put it upon all the frames saying, “He is the idol. Wow!” A man who walked in denial of God’s truth and never showed repentance. Those are the idols and the Church is also saying, “Oh! George Michael is dead. I enjoyed his music! Christmas time, isn’t he the one who sang ‘last Christmas, I gave you my heart’?” Wasn’t he the one? We were going in the car. We had a Christmas CD in and towards the end, this song came and I asked, “Where did this song come in the Christmas carols?” And

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I didn't know he had died. That is what happens – when absolutes are lost, when truth is lost, then we start generating pagan worshippers in the house of the living God who worship things which they think brings liberty. Remember this is what happened with Israel in the desert. When Moses was out of sight, true worshiper – in the presence of God for forty days, truth was suddenly replaced in the camp with, what? A golden calf. They were also worshipers. Do you know what they said in *Exodus 32:6-7*?

### **Exodus 32:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup> Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.***

He didn't say, “They didn't corrupt Me. Your worship doesn't change who I am. Your worship will change who you are.” It doesn't change God. Our worship doesn't change God. He is forever the same – holy, righteous, pure. But our worship will change who we are. We, ultimately, become like what we worship. Remember – that's why worship has to define who we are.

The apostolic Church realized they could do nothing without the Holy Spirit. Even for the waiting at the table for taking care of widows and orphans in the early Church; they also had the ministry of taking care of widows and the early Church and we will say, “How will all these widows come from?” Do you know how the widows came from and the orphans came from? Because I believe, because of the men who left. They left them because of their faith. Listen to what they said to the Church, what the Apostles are saying to the Church.

### **Acts 6:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup> Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit...***

For what? To serve the orphans and the widows. If this is the condition set today for ministry, how many can join? Honestly,

***...full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom...***

So that they can wait on the tables. Did we even see the necessity of the Spirit of God even to do these things? Why? He says,

***...whom we may appoint over this business;<sup>4</sup> but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”***

Can you even get pastors to separate themselves just for the Word and prayer and nothing else? You can't. To get a pastor to sit down for thirty hours and work on the Word is very difficult. You can't. The Apostles said, “The Holy Spirit which has filled us is telling us – ‘be separated unto the Word and the prayer; because that is the best you can give to My people’.” But they are telling them, “But there is another need in the Church. For that, pick up people who are full of the Holy Spirit. Do we ever see the Kingdom of God like that? That's what it brings us to.

If you study the work of the Holy Spirit, first – He tells us to turn back; second – He started teaching us all things, leading us to the truth. Then, He gives us the power to bear or He gives us the power to simultaneously or before to bear all things. Then, He brings to our remembrance all that Christ has taught. And then, He gives us a supernatural prayer life. In *1 John 5:14-15*,

### **1 John 5:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.***

Why is that we do not have this confidence? Everybody prays. There is no Church that doesn't pray. There is no individual Christian, at least, semi-believing who doesn't pray? But do we have this confidence? Because this confidence can come only when the Holy Spirit is involved in our prayers. Paul tells very clearly in the letter to Romans in *Romans 8:26-27*,

**Romans 8:26-27**

***<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup> Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

That's our problem. You know those who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit have other tongues. What they do is that – with their minds, they ask God for one thing; with tongues, the Spirit cancels it out. So, you say, "I asked for this but I got this." God says, "I gave it because My Spirit prayed for you according to My will for you and you were never in tune with the Spirit." He canceled it out. The Holy Spirit will never pray outside the will of God. Never. It is good to allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us. Therefore, Paul will say in *1 Corinthians 14:14*,

**1 Corinthians 14:14**

***<sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.***

Why had God made our understanding unfruitful? Because He knows that if we understood it, we wouldn't pray that. Imagine Tabitha praying, "Lord, please, Lord, in Calcutta, there is Amarthiya. Give him to me." Then, she starts praying in tongues and God says, "Father, give her Roshan." And finally, she says, "Roshan is coming to my life. How did this happen?" God said, "According to My will, I prayed for you." Sowbhagya is smiling. I'm not using you, okay? Everybody gets. If you pray and allow the Holy Spirit to pray, your understanding may be unfruitful but that doesn't mean Your Spirit is not fruitful. In verse 15, Scripture says,

**1 Corinthians 14:15**

***<sup>15</sup> What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.***

And then, how does he conclude about himself in verse 18?

**1 Corinthians 14:18**

***<sup>18</sup> I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;***

He says, "I pray in the Spirit all the time so that His will is done in my life; not what I want to happen in my life. Even in my ministry. No, Lord. It's Your will because it is Your Kingdom." If you want that confidence that John is talking about, you have this confidence; then, God says, "It only comes through the Holy Spirit." Outside the Holy Spirit, you cannot have that confidence. Because only the Holy Spirit can pray through us according to the will of God. So, you understand. We can have the Word; we have exalted the Word over the years but if you do not allow the Holy Spirit to reign and yield to the Spirit, God says, "It still will not work." God said, "You are the light of the world." But for the light to shine, it needs a power source and the power source is the Holy Spirit. He says, "When the Holy Spirit comes, you will receive, what? Power." First, He said, "Go and be the light of the world." But He said, "Wait. You have to receive the Holy Spirit. When He comes, what happens? You will receive power." Without the Holy Spirit, we will never be light. That is why Scripture tells very carefully to not grieve the Holy Spirit. The devil knows this. He knows this. The devil understands the Holy Spirit better than all of us because he was there in the beginning. He knows. Listen to what Scripture says in *James*,

**James 4:4-5**

***<sup>4</sup> Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (Why?) <sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?***

He envies intensely. Did you know God says to Israel, "I am a jealous God; I have saved you for Myself"? The Holy Spirit says the same thing, "I have saved you for Myself. I have not saved you for anybody. I did not save you for the world." So, the devil uses the world to draw us and trap us. Honestly, look at all our minds – if you have the preacher telling you good things about the world, he will go very happy. "This is what God wants for you, brother. I see that you are getting a better job next year. More money. I think you can afford more things." You would say, "Hallelujah! The Lord spoke to me! I'm feeling so comforted and encouraged." What did God speak to you? Did He say that this is what God speaks? What did He say through John? "Love

*not the world or the things of the world.*" One of the things I decided; it is a fruitless decision because you don't get to go back in your mother's womb like Nicodemus said and come back again. It's not possible but I said, "Lord, if I had a chance all over again, I would have an empty house with hardly any things." Because when children break things, we get upset. Why? Because things were broken. I told you the story of that young smart spiritual man who bought a new car. What did he do the first day? He took a hammer, went out and smashed the bonnet, sides and everything. Then, he drove peacefully. "Now, if somebody touches, if somebody dents, if somebody scratches, I'm not going to lose my temper over it; I've already destroyed that thing. Now, I will drive peacefully." These are people who understood what it means to love the world. It's not just the love of things; you bought a new dress and you loved it because you thought, "I will look good in that thing!" Then, you wore it and went to office; nobody gave you a second look. Now, you are really upset. Why? Because nobody complimented you on that thing. So many things. Martha could have been just happy, "Lord, I thank You. I've got this opportunity to cook and serve Jesus. This should be the greatest and joyous cooking in my life and I'm serving in joy." Instead, she is upset. Why? Because the other sister is getting all the attention. "What is that thing doing there?" "Who?" "That thing! Lord, You are also appreciating her. Don't you see my situation?" He said, "Martha, Martha, you are troubled over many things." That's why God said, "Don't love these things." "Mary has chosen something that is wise. What is it? She understood. She is sitting at My feet. She knows who I am. Martha, even if there is no food in the house, Mary knows that I can multiply bread and fish. I don't need you for that. I need you to sit at My feet first. She knows. She understood." That is our issue. Powerless Christians are powerless because they have been compromised by the world; yet, they try to serve the Living God. It's a terrible thing. We want to serve God because we have heard all this but how can you serve God without the power of God? We cannot. That's why God said, "Don't grieve My Spirit. Don't quench My Spirit." There are so many examples in the Bible. From the Old to the New, everywhere, if anything happened, the Spirit moved.

You want to come to the truth about one physical symbol in the world. Outwardly looking, he seems to be the most anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Who is that? Samson. Was Samson careful about the people he chose to be close to? No. First, he looked for a wife among the Philistines. Then, he went to a Philistine prostitute in Gaza. Then, he fell in love with Delilah, a Philistine. Was he careful? No. If you are called to bring deliverance to Israel, why are you friends with Philistines? That's the same question God asks. "If I have anointed you to bring deliverance in this world, why are you so friendly with the world and the worldly?" Yet, you need to realize – his believing parents never knew that 90% of the things this kosher-eating Jew was doing. In the same way, when we start moving away, you will always see – our Christian fellowship people hardly know what we are doing over there. What is happening in their lives? And God says, "You grieve the Holy Spirit by the company you keep." Because He envies intensely. We grieve the Holy Spirit through compromise and as a Nazarite, Samson was (these are examples on how you draw out the meat – the letter and the Spirit) not allowed to touch anything that was dead. Yet, he killed thirty Philistines one time and then, stripped the clothes of the dead bodies for a Philistine girl. He used the jawbone of a dead donkey to kill his enemies. And one day, he killed a lion and later, when he came back, he found that there was honey in the dead lion and he took that lion and he ate it. Did he compromise? We too compromise. When we compromise, we grieve this Spirit who envies intensely. And we are miserable. We are miserable unlike the world because we have the knowledge of the truth. It's like they say, "If you have tasted honey, nothing is that sweet. You will always compare it with honey." You have experienced salvation. You know God is good but when you compromise and you go back to the world, nothing tastes the same again. You are miserable because the Spirit inside makes you miserable. The problem is – once we have chosen wrong company with the world and compromise with the world, we lose the most dangerous thing which the Holy Spirit gives – we lose the discernment which only the Holy Spirit can give. Samson lost his spiritual discernment; not once, not twice, not thrice; four times Delilah told him very clearly, "Tell me the secret of your strength," tied him up and told him, "The Philistines are here." All the time, he agreed. What happened? She was very clear. "I want you. I want to know the secret of your strength and hand you over to the Philistines," but he had no discernment. Why? Because the Spirit has left him. He is left with the gift but the Person has gone. Don't be satisfied with the gift. See that you don't grieve the Person. When the Person is gone, we lose discernment. Learn from Samson what it is not to grieve the Holy Spirit because we lose it. The presence of the Holy Spirit is lost when we forget that God alone is the source of our strength. So, stay close to God in Word and in prayer. That's what the Apostles are saying. Anybody could have said, "Yes, we can wait on the table. After all, we know the Word. We can go and preach tomorrow. No big deal." But they said, "No way. We need to stay close to God in Word and in prayer." Spiritual power or presence is lost when we have worldly relationships. So, stay close to godly relationships. Spiritual power is lost or His presence is lost by disobedience to the Word of God. That alone can sanctify us. So, stay close and obey the Word and allow the Word and the Spirit to sanctify us this coming year. And the greatest danger, spiritual presence is lost when we lose our discernment. That is the greatest danger as the Day approaches. Jesus said in *Matthew 24:36*; He says, "I will come."

**Matthew 24:36**

<sup>36</sup> ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.***

He says, “Nobody knows. And a Day is coming.” In Acts 1:7, He says,

**Acts 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> ***And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.***

Yet, see what Paul says in *1 Thessalonians 5:1-2*,

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> ***But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you*** (about seasons and times. Why?). <sup>2</sup> ***For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.***

What does he say subsequently in the same chapter?

**1 Thessalonians 5:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> ***But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*** <sup>5</sup> ***You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.***

You should have absolutely no worry about the Day of the Lord or His Coming like the thief in the night because you are sons of light. If you lose your discernment, you will have fear. You will have no clue when He is coming. You will have no clue. The Holy Spirit always shows His children when the end is coming, if you are walking in the light and you haven't grieved Him. Listen to Paul in *2 Timothy 4:6*,

**2 Timothy 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> ***For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.***

How did he know? How many times was he arrested? How many times was he taken for trial but how did he know that that was the last trial? “After this, I’m going to be executed?” How did he know? Because he is the son of the light and the Lord is telling him, “Your day is close. It’s here. Paul, it’s here. Your day is close.” You will know.

**2 Peter 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> ***Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*** <sup>14</sup> ***knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.***

He says, “Very shortly.” One says, “Departure; arrival and departure.” Another one says, “I’m putting away this tent.” How much we worry about our tent! Remember, these people are not even bothered. He says, “I’m putting away this tent. My time has come.”

***...just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.***

He says, “That Day should not approach us.” Why? When does it scare us? When do we get unprepared? We get caught unprepared because we lose discernment. We lose our discernment because we have lost our consecration. In whose consecration? He had worldly relationships, worldly choices and then, he makes terrible. He loses his discernment completely and what was the devil after? The devil was after him to make him tell the source of his strength. What is the source of our strength? The Holy Spirit. But how does the Holy Spirit say? He stays with consecrated people who are set apart for Him. What did he finally tell Delilah? “The source of my strength is my hair. From the day I was born, a razor has not touched my hair.” And she got it. She put him to sleep on her lap, called them, what did she do? Get them to shave, what? Seven braids of his hair. His whole hair was braided into how many locks? Seven. Perfect consecration outwardly. Once the consecration is gone, Spirit is gone; next thing, you see—he is blind, in chains, grinding at the Philistine’s mill. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is gone. God says, “If you lose consecration and if you lose the presence of My Holy Spirit, you will end up grinding the mill,

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working for this world.” He says, “That is not your call.” That is not what we are meant to be. 2017, in the next three days, set things right before God and say, “Lord, I need You. Without You, I cannot do anything. Yet, with You, I can do all things.” Even death doesn’t scare me. Nothing scares us. That’s why the Holy Spirit is not theology; He is a Person. That’s why God says, “Don’t grieve Him. Don’t quench Him. Listen to Him. Yield to Him. Let Him lead you. Walk in the Spirit. Be led by the Spirit. Be continuously be filled with the Spirit. Ultimately, live in the Spirit.” Each day, let it grow. So, let 2017 be a year of the Spirit in our lives and take it seriously. Like D. L. Moody made his consecration, when a simple semi-literate young man was preaching in the public square, what did he say? “When the world has not yet seen what can God with a man who is fully surrendered to God.” That’s what the preacher said and that night, he said, “Lord, with Your grace, O God, I will be that man.” That’s what God did through him in the US. He shook the whole land up because he said, “I will be that man who will be absolutely yielded to Your Spirit.” That’s why I tell young people and we don’t change the Gospel even for the young ones. From the beginning of history, God has only used individuals; not crowds. One individual here; one individual there – they were absolutely consecrated and said, “Lord, use my body as a vessel for Your Spirit. Let it flow.” Whether it was a Joseph, whether it was a David, whether it was a Daniel, whether it was the Apostles. Our enemy, not our friend, is the world and the things of the world. If we continue loving the world, we become enemies of God. It’s not neutral. In the spiritual realm, there is no neutral territory. It’s either friend of God or enemy of God. There is no neutral territory. God doesn’t play dice; He doesn’t play games. It’s a war up there in the spiritual realm. So, take it seriously and say, “Lord, this year, for the remaining three days, I want to really empty myself, consecrate. Spirit of God, show me what I need to put right in my life. What more is holding me back from consecration? What is that I love that You hate? What is that I love and am holding on to that You hate?” That’s what God is talking about.

Remember, as I close, Paul will talk about in *Ephesians 5* all about marriage. He says,

### **Ephesians 5:22**

***<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***

### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

***<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***

He suddenly ends up the whole letter by saying, “By the way I was not talking about the marriage, I was talking about Christ and the Church. It’s a mystery. The Church that submits to her husband, Christ Jesus, in all things, will be automatically washed and made blameless, spotless for the Day of His appearance.” That’s what he is saying. He says, “I’m not talking about marriage. I’m talking about the Church and Christ.” But the first thing he asked the Church is, “Submit to your Husband, Christ Jesus, in all things. Don’t hold anything back.” That’s why the Epistles are written by one man more than all the others. Who was that man? Paul. Why? What was his first question once he knew, “Who are You?” “Jesus of Nazareth.” What was his response? “What will You have me do?” He never looked back from that day. Never looked back. “What will You have me do?” God said, “It will be told to you. Now, one instruction – go to the city and wait there.” Three days later, he receives the Holy Spirit and Scripture says, “He went in and started straight away preaching Christ.” He is still looking for men and women who will bend their knee and say, “Lord, here I am! Take me.” And I’m telling you – this country can be turned upside down. We don’t need too many. As Jonathan had said on that day, “God can save with a few or many.” He said, “I see everybody. My father sitting under the tree. Six hundred men sitting under the tree. I cannot sit under the tree when the Philistines are taking the land. God can save with few or with many.” And he asks his armor bearer, “Will you come with me?” And he says, “Yes, lord, I will come with you.” And he went up the cliff, with the sword in his mouth climbing and Scripture says, “God shook the whole place.” Because one man said, “I cannot sit like this when the land is being taken over by the enemy.” And we need to rise and say, “Lord, I can’t do this. I have this hunger. I have this thirst but I cannot do this. I need Your Spirit for that, Lord. but I’m here. Fill me and use me.” Amen? Shall we pray?

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this evening, this last time we are gathering in this place, we just thank You; we just praise You; we just worship You for Your faithfulness. Awesome God. Wonderful God. Thank You for bringing us. How You brought us from the beginning of the year till today. You brought us, Lord. Many were the plans of the wicked one to destroy us but You brought us through it all and You kept us through it all. It was Your doing, Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Thank You, Lord. We just want to*

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*glorify You today, Father. We just want to glorify You, Lord Jesus. We just want to glorify You, Spirit of God. We neglected You so much in our lives but today, Lord, Spirit of God, we want to give You Your rightful place in our lives. Come and be enthroned, Spirit of God. Move in us and move among us. Turn us upside down. Take us away from our comfort zones. Move us into places where You require men and women to stand. In our offices, in our schools, in our colleges – everywhere – let young men and old men; young women and old women – let everyone stand up filled with the Holy Spirit. Simple people. Not those who came from Bible college. Simple people like Peter. “Men of Judea, onlookers, listen to me!” Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As the one who waited on the tables, Stephen stood before the Sanhedrin and said, “Fathers, listen to me.” Simple people who will be able to stand before crowds and tell them, “Listen! This is the God of Israel, the One and only Living One.” Anoint us. Fill us. Let it overflow. Touch everyone today. Meet them at their point of need. People run helter-skelter for help without knowing the Helper has already been sent two thousand years ago. He said, “When the Helper comes, He will teach you all things. He will lead you to the truth,” and the truth will set us free. Help us to yield to the Spirit of God and to the Word of God and set free to serve the Living God. Thank You, Father. You brought us safely into Your house; reach us back home safely, Lord. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.*