



The Holy Spirit # 9

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes From the Presence.” This is our ninth article on the Holy Spirit. Since "9" is the number of the Holy Spirit - 9 gifts of the Spirit, 9 fruits of the spirit, etc, I am going to attempt to bring this series to a close today.

In our last post, we talked about the Holy Spirit being "in" us and exactly how that plays out in every day life. Today we are going to do the same with the idea of the Holy Spirit being "upon" us. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on our world on the day of Pentecost and rested "upon" the people of God once again, we became hosts to the Fire and Dove of life. If you recall, when Jesus came out of His baptism, the Holy Spirit came upon Him in the form of a dove. Jesus spent the rest of His days modelling for us what life could look like with a full internal and external manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The same thing happened on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was poured out "upon" the disciples and it quickly spread to include a promise for anyone who believed. Remember also, that there are a few different synonymous terms used for this manifestation - being filled with, being baptized in, or the Holy Spirit resting upon someone. This is an external manifestation of the Spirit and for the most part, our bodies become the vessel that carries and hosts this divine Presence. Think for a moment of the words: filled, baptized, and resting upon. All of them depict the Holy Spirit acting in conjunction with our physical world.

The internal manifestation of the Holy Spirit is mostly a work of grace that interacts with our human Spirit, intertwining the two together as one. Remember that in the beginning, we were created to live in two worlds simultaneously - the realm of heaven, and the realm of this earth. Our human spirit was created to interface to the spirit world, and our bodies were created to interface into this physical world. We were created to reign from heaven to earth. For this reason, the internal Holy Spirit connection is a connection of intimacy with God in order to know His heart and understand His ways as we co-labor with Him to bring His kingdom from heaven to earth. The external

manifestation of the Holy Spirit is a covering of glory that fills our human earthly vessels (our bodies). We carry this treasure in "earthen vessels" according to 2 Corinthians 4:7. It is described as the filling, baptizing, or resting of the presence of the Holy Spirit and it is with us to help carry out kingdom mandates on this earth. We receive the directions through our spirit to Spirit interface with God, and then carry them out with the help of the Dove resting upon us, making things possible that would be absolutely impossible any other way. As we learn to host this presence, the impossible yields to the will of heaven and manifests in our world.

There is a biblical picture of this scenario given in the story of the flood of Noah. It is found in the book of Genesis 8:8-12. The narrative tells us that after the flood waters began to abate, Noah sent out a dove from the ark three times. The first time, the dove found no landing place and returned to him. The second time, it came back with an olive leaf in its beak. The third time, it found a place to rest and did not return. This is a perfect picture of the release of the Holy Spirit from our lives. There are times that we will try to release the presence of the Holy Spirit and it won't find a place to rest. Think of the statement that Jesus made in Matthew 10:12-14. He told the disciples to go out and preach to the cities and villages, releasing their blessing of peace. He then told them that if the blessing wasn't received, they were to take back the blessing of peace. The goal is always to release the full manifestation of the presence that is on us into situations and on people in need; however, if the presence is rejected, we are to carefully take it back and protect it. Think of the Holy Spirit as a dove resting upon your shoulder. Steward and protect this precious gift with your life. It is the highest honor given to humankind to host the Holy Spirit in this way. Then there are situations where a partial release will be possible; however, the goal is to always find a full release of the Holy Spirit - a landing place that is permanent. Think of the thrill of praying for someone, releasing healing over them, and seeing sickness yield to the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is an example of a full release. Once again, the Holy Spirit is "in" us for us, but "upon" us for others and to carry out the mandates of the kingdom of heaven on this earth.

I try to live constantly aware of the "dove" sitting on my shoulder. I heard someone humorously say one time that most of us scare the dove off before we eat breakfast in the morning. Jesus was so aware of this presence, that He noticed even the slightest shift to the Holy Spirit "bubble" that surrounded Him. He would stop and say, "who touched me." He knew when there was an even slight change in the atmosphere of the presence. My prayer as of late is contained in the lyrics of the song "Holy Spirit" by Brian and Katie Torwalt:

Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by your presence Lord

Let us become more aware of Your Presence
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness

I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit that lives "in" me and also rests "upon" me. There are not words in my vocabulary to describe the wonder that fills my heart when I think of the redemptive plan of God that has made a way for the full manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Comforter to be with us once again.

I am going to end this series with one of my favorite scripture references.

Ephesians 3:14-20 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever, Amen.

Notice in these verses that we are strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man (our human spirit) and we are also to be "filled" up to all the fullness of God. Wow, these thought just bedazzle me.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and He has captured our hearts with wonder!!