

## Acts 1:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Jesus did not *suggest* that the apostles wait for the Promise
- Nor did He *recommend* that they heed His instruction
- Rather, He *commanded* them not to depart from Jerusalem until the Promise had come

You cannot attempt to understand the Power and Work of the Holy Spirit without first coming to know Him as a person  
In order for us to have a deep relationship with another person we must first seek their dislikes, aims, ambitions, etc.

## 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

Every one of us is thankful for the Grace and Love of God extended to us, and we talk about that often

- Let’s talk about this word, communion (*koinonia*)
- **Fellowship – Partnership – Intimacy**

## Matthew 15:6-9 AMP (Classic)

<sup>6</sup> So for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect].

<sup>7</sup> You pretenders (hypocrites)! Admirably *and* truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said: <sup>8</sup> These people *draw near Me with their mouths and* honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off *and* are far away from Me. <sup>9</sup> Uselessly do they worship Me, for they teach as doctrines the commands of men.

The Pharisees had allowed their traditions to take precedent over the word of God

- What a sobering statement
- Tradition – “*an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior.*”
- Tradition, in and of itself is not a bad thing

We must ensure that our understanding of truth is defined by the word of God and not our transient feelings, traditions, or philosophies of men

- The Pharisee’s traditions created a breach in their relationship with the Creator

Jesus declared that it was useless for them to even worship God because they had more faith in the doctrines (*teachings and understandings*) of men

## 2 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup>He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

- Our “*new covenant*” is not just a list of rules and regulations
- Holy Spirit reveals the awesome mystery of who we are in Christ

The reason more people don’t know God’s will

- They don’t have a friendship with the Holy Spirit
- To have a friendship with someone is to get to know them
- Their mind, will and emotions
- We see dozens of scriptures that reference the *mind* of God, the *will* of God, the *emotions* of God

His Mind

## Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

- God must have thoughts
- You can’t have thoughts without a mind
- His thoughts are about you and I and our situations

## Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Remember God knows everything, so He has nothing to learn

- He's incapable of thinking something He's never thought of before
- He knows everything all at once, all of the time
- Nothing has ever occurred to God
- He knows the answer to every problem you face
- He knows every thought you've ever had
- He knows every word you speak before you speak it
- Holy Spirit is God and He lives in you

## Romans 8:27 (NKJV)

<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.

### His Will

We have already established that God has a *General will* and a *Specific will* for your life – **Psalm 105:19 Joseph**

I can hear God *with you*, but I cannot hear God *for you*

## Three Levels of Relationship

John 20:29 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

- Remember Jesus said it is better that I go away so that Holy Spirit could guide us into all truth – **John 16:7, 12-13**

Is it possible that you and I have such an advantage over the original 12 disciples?

- They could only connect with Jesus on the two levels of relationship

They did not have the indwelling of the Spirit when they knew Jesus

## Physical Level

- He or she is good looking
- Sometimes we may ignore that fact that they don't talk or connect on issues or common interests
- The wedding bells ring, the honeymoon ends, and life happens
- Over time they realize they must establish a deeper level of intimacy or be miserable in their marriage

## Soul or Personality Level

### 1 Samuel 18:1 (NKJV)

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

- When Jonathan was killed David lamented of his deep love (*Phileo*) – 2 Samuel 1:26
- Their connection was on the soul or intellect level
- They built a bond beyond the attraction (*physical*) level
- This is a much deeper level of relationship
- This is what a marriage or deep friendship should be built on

## The Spiritual Level

### 1 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)

<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.

- You cannot know the true thoughts or motives of another person unless you are perfectly in tune with his spirit

Paul is saying that no one can know the true “*composition*” (*deep matters of the heart*) of God without coming to know the Spirit of God

### 1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)

<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.

Practically anyone in the USA would “*know*” who the president is

- Most of us do not know him on a personal level

Likewise, we will only possess “*common knowledge*” of God if we do not discover Him by His Spirit

### Galatians 1:11–12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- By the Spirit’s inspiration, Paul wrote the majority of the books in the New Testament
- He never walked with Jesus
- He had to believe without seeing

Is it possible that Paul was able to go to a greater depth in his relationship with Jesus because he never physically walked with the Savior?

## 2 Peter 3:16 (NKJV) speaking of Paul

<sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

- Peter talked to Jesus face to face, and enjoyed years of interaction with Him
- He was present on the mount of transfiguration
- He witnessed the crucifixion

Yet, he said that some of the things Paul wrote were hard to understand

Like Paul, you and I have been given the opportunity to follow Jesus without any possible conflicts of previous misunderstandings developed through physical interaction

- The truth is we can become closer to Him without seeing Him than we would have by seeing Him



Remember that our spirits are redeemed; they are in the exact likeness and image of God

– **Hebrews 12:23; 1 John 4:17**

- Our souls are in the process of being saved – **James 1:21**
- Our bodies will experience physical redemption at the gathering of the saints

If we neglect to enter into communion with the Spirit, we are denying ourselves the opportunity to know the Son before we meet Him face to face

**2 Corinthians 5:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer.

- If we want a deep relationship with God, we must move beyond superficial knowledge of Him
- This is why we must not hold on to traditions (*customary patterns of thoughts*)

We can have a relationship with Holy Spirit where we desire what He desires and feel what He feels

- The deepest level of relationship is available to us
- How can we know Him?
- By reading His word and spending time with Him
- God wants to know us and for us to know Him

## 2 Corinthians 3:16–18 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

## John 15:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

<sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.

We all would love to see the Gifts of the Spirit operate in our lives, but are less concerned with the Fruits of the Spirit

- The Fruit of the Spirit open doors for the Gifts to flow into the lives of others

## **Fruit**

### Galatians 5:22, 23 (NLT)

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

When we allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in our lives He will produce fruit

- If you want to be a person of greater peace or patience or gentleness or kindness, etc. – See **1 Corinthians 13**

### **Galatians 5:25 (NLT)**

<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

### **Love**

#### **Romans 5:5 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- The Holy Spirit's role is to pour out God's Love within us
- Natural love cannot do what supernatural love can
- He enables us to turn our back on the things of this life
- He enables us to forgive and reach out to others

### **Gifts**

The earliest New Testament believers turned the world upside down because of their eagerness to embrace the gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Miracles, transformed lives everywhere
- The Devil is terrified of us embracing this truth
- That's why there is so much controversy in the Body of Christ concerning Spiritual Gifts

The Holy Spirit brings Power, Love, Fruit and Gifts of Grace

The transforming power of the Holy Spirit is enormous. Yet His power only operates to the degree that we allow Him to change us

- Having the power of His Grace available to us and us walking in the Power of His Grace are not synonymous with one another
- We need to submit to His will and yield to His working in our lives through Grace

Many people are confused and ignorant about spiritual gifts

- Ignorant – operate without truly understanding what the Bible teaches on the subject

*“Charisma is the instantaneous enablement of the Holy Spirit in the life of any believer to exercise a gift for the edification of others”*

– Bill Konstantopolous – The Manifestations of the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 7 (NKJV)**

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

<sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: